

University of Waterloo Weather Station Summary – March 2008

A cold March with lots of snow, but only average precipitation

The overall temperature for March was 2.75 degrees below average, this makes it the most below average month since February of 2007 and the second coldest March in the last 20 years (the coldest being 2005). There were only 2 days where the high temperature was significantly above average and 7 days with highs significantly below average.

We had 71 cm of snow in March, not surprisingly this is quite a bit more than the average of 24.1 cm. Over half of the snow for the month came during the big storm on March 8th and 9th.

However, with the colder than average temperatures, there wasn't a lot of rain (less than 10 mm compared to the average of 45.1 mm) so in the end we had 60.0 mm of precipitation which is within the average range of 51.0 mm to 81.3 mm.

Keep in mind that precipitation is the total of the liquid precipitation (rain) and the solid precipitation (snow, freezing rain, sleet, etc.). The solid precipitation is still measured in mm; this number is referred to as the snow water equivalent. This is the number of mm of water that would result if the amount of solid precipitation that fell were melted into liquid water.

Another consequence of the colder temperatures and above average snowfall is that there is a lot more than the 1 cm of snow on the ground that is the average amount at the end of March.

After the very dry 2007, the start of 2008 has been very wet with 266.7 mm so far this year compared to the average of 187.6 mm.

And for those who keep asking me if the snow is over for the season, all I can say is that on average we have about 8 cm of snow in April.

Environment Canada prediction of temperature for the month: Average
Actual Temperature: Average

Summary for March 2008:

Maximum Temperature 10.0 °C

Minimum Temperature -23.4 °C

Average Daily High Temperature 0.7 °C (Long term average 3.3 °C)

Average Daily Low Temperature -8.8 °C (Long term average -5.8 °C)

Total Precipitation 60.0 mm (Long term average 70.6 mm)

(Long term averages based on 1971-2000 data for the Waterloo Wellington Airport)