University of Waterloo Weather Station Summary – April 2008

The warmest April since 1991 with below average precipitation

April was over 2 degrees warmer than average making it the warmest April we have seen in the 10 year history of the UW weather station. Going back even further, I could find one year (1991) that was tied with this year and had to go back even further (1968) before I found one that was warmer.

After a very cold March that left lots of snow on the ground at the beginning of April, the switch really turned on the 17th with 9 of the next 10 days reaching a high above 20 degrees.

When the temperature went above 20 on April 17th at 4:00 pm we could declare Kimi Noguchi the winner of this year's UW weather station contest, I also liked his reason for choosing that date: "Based on my statistical knowledge, among all the available choices, I chose this date and time". Congratulations also go out to Stephen Drew and Carrie Warner, the second and third place winners.

April was the first below average month for precipitation since October of last year. We only had 53.8 mm compared to the average of 76.9 mm and only 10 mm fell during the last half on the month.

Even with this dry month, the wet start of the year means that we are still above average for 2008 with 320.3 mm so far, compared to the 264.4 mm we would expect.

As the conditions don't seem to be there for any snow in the short or long term forecast let's call an end to the 2007-2008 snowfall season. Thus we ended up with 257.5 cm breaking the previous record snowfall season of 245.3 cm in 1923-1924.

Environment Canada prediction of temperature for the month: Below average
Actual Temperature: Above average

Summary for April 2008:
Maximum Temperature 24.0 °C
Minimum Temperature -6.6 °C
Average Daily High Temperature 14.1 °C (Long term average 11.2 °C)
Average Daily Low Temperature 2.1 °C (Long term average 0.4 °C)
Total Precipitation 53.8 mm (Long term average 76.9 mm)

(Long term averages based on 1970-2000 data for the Waterloo Wellington Airport)