



RINKWATCH REPORT

2025-2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 03** A Note From The Team
- 04** Rink Location
- 05** Collective Skating Data
- 08** Collective Weather Factors
- 11** Collective Ice Factors
- 14** Skating Season Comparison
- 18** Thank you From The Team

Connect With Us!



A NOTE FROM THE TEAM

Thank you to all RinkWatchers for your consistent dedication and support throughout the year.



The 2025-26 outdoor skating season was an excellent one across much of North America, one of the best we've had in years. By mid-December, most outdoor rink (ODR) regions had nicely cold conditions, the inevitable mid-winter mild spells were short-lived and not too damaging, and many rinks were skateable well into mid- to late March. Western Canada saw a relatively late start to the season by its standards (no October or November skating this past year, unlike recent ones) but once things got going, the skating was pretty solid (pun intended). Areas south of the Great Lakes and New England and Atlantic Canada experienced a lot of mild winters in recent years, but this past year had especially good conditions. For many of us, this was a winter that reminded us of what we've been missing.

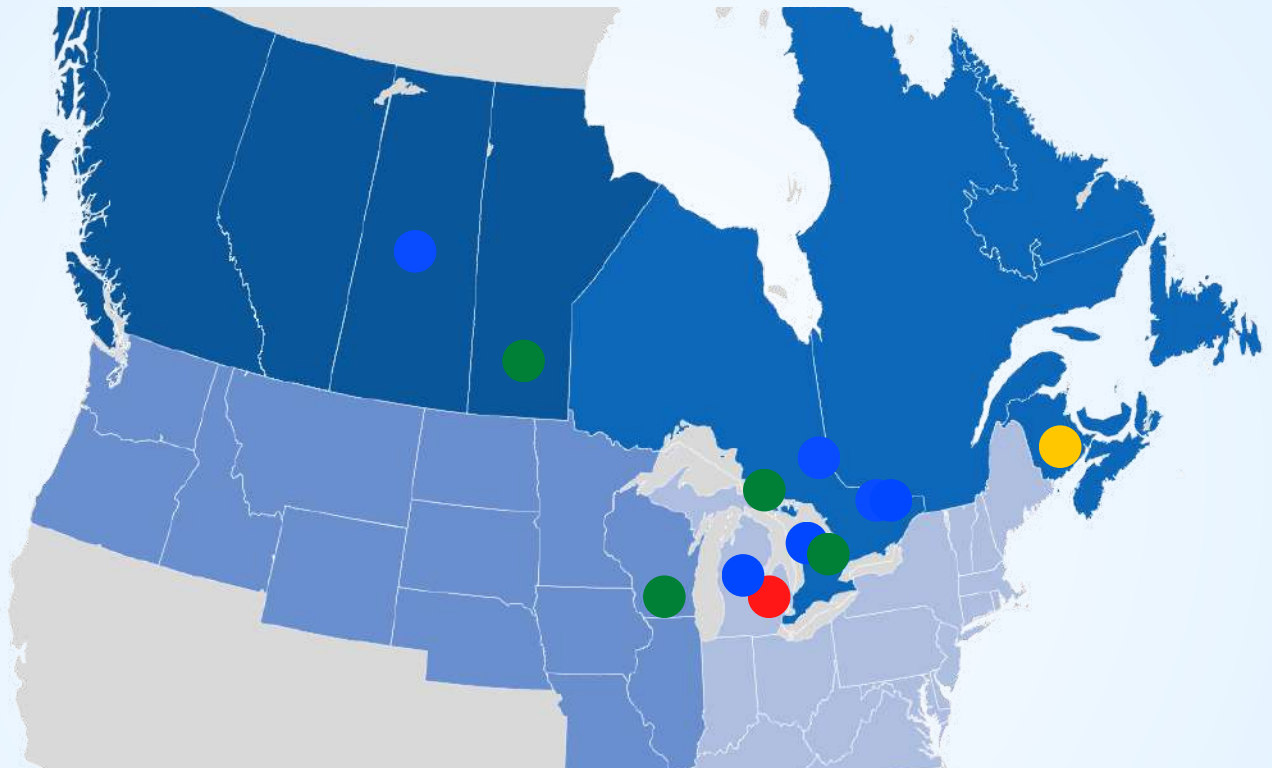
Sincere thanks to all the new ODR makers who registered their rinks on RinkWatch this past winter, and extra special thanks to all of you who return every year. We love you all. Some of our newcomers arrived via the "southernmost rink" contest we ran in January, which saw skateable rinks appear on our map in Tennessee, North Carolina, and other mild-winter states with NHL franchises.

For the RinkWatch project, this past winter was a transition year for us. We received a very welcome donation from the manufacturers of Opteon rink refrigerants, which allowed us to make long-overdue updates and improvements to the RinkWatch website. Because of the updates we were cautious about adding new members to our ODR Sentinel network this year, in case there were glitches in the transition to the new website (there weren't, but it's good to be prudent). We hope to greatly expand our Sentinel network next year.

All of us at RinkWatch wish you and you're a happy and healthy summer. Watch for a new documentary film about ODR makers called "Icemakers", made by Winnipeg-based filmmaker Randy Frykas. Hopefully it will appear soon at a cinema near you or on your favourite streaming service. In the meantime, [here's a teaser](#) filmed for Hockey Night in Canada.

Cheers to the 2025-2026 skating season!

Locations of Sentinel Rinks



Red = 30 days or less | Yellow = 31-60 days | Blue = 61-90 days | Green = 90+ days

Petersfield, MB

Canton, MI

East Lansing, MI

Welsford, NB

Holland Centre, ON

Mono, ON

Navan, ON

Ottawa, ON

Richards Landing, ON

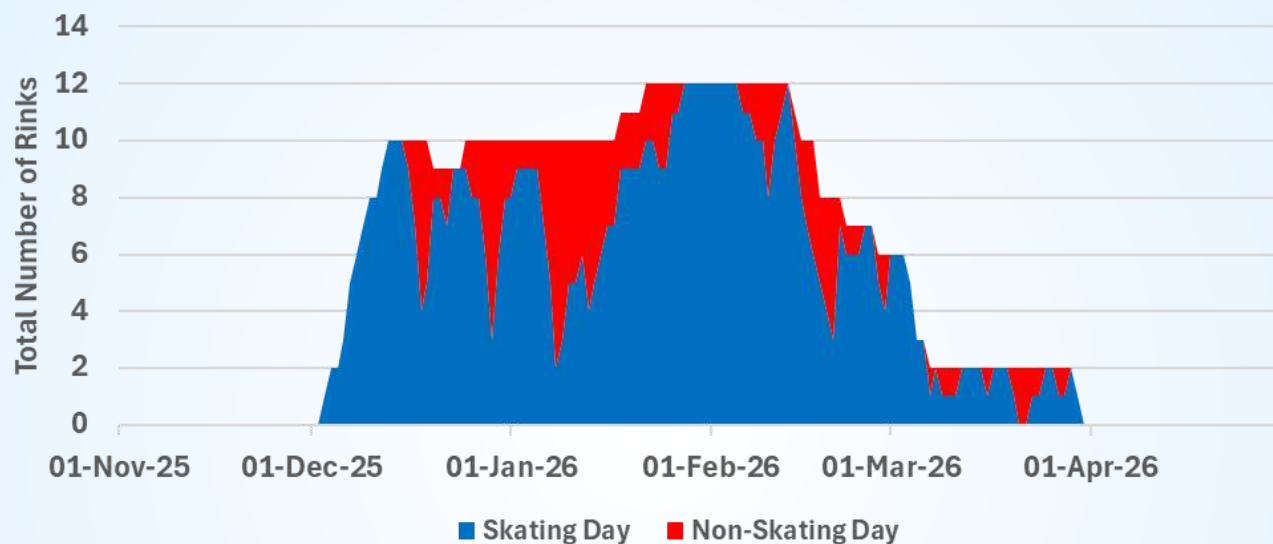
Sturgeon Falls, ON

Saskatoon, SK

Verona, WI

SKATING SEASON DATA

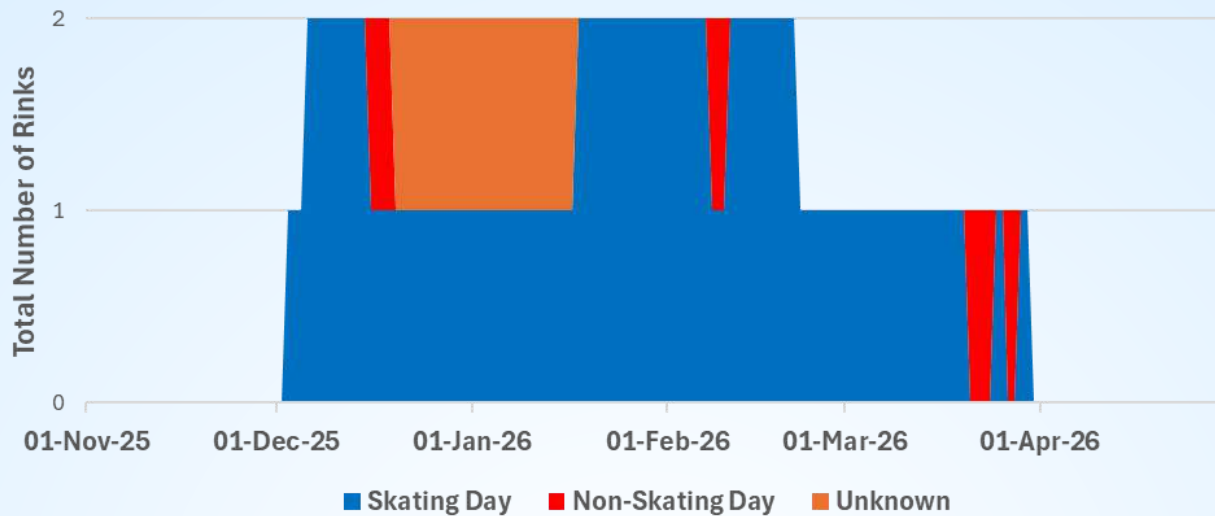
FIGURE 1: SKATING SEASON DATA - ALL RINKS



Figures 1-5 compare the number of skating days and non-skating days for all sentinel rinks and for sentinel rinks in specific regions in the winter of 2025-2026. The dates listed on the horizontal axis begin with the earliest reported skating day from our sentinel network (December 3, 2025) through to the final reported skating day (March 30, 2026). The number of sentinel rinks operating is seen on the vertical axis. The blue area of the chart reflects the total number of rinks reporting skateable conditions on a given date, the orange area reflects unrecorded conditions, and the red area reflects the number of rinks reporting unskateable conditions on that same date.

SKATING SEASON DATA

FIGURE 2: WESTERN CANADA

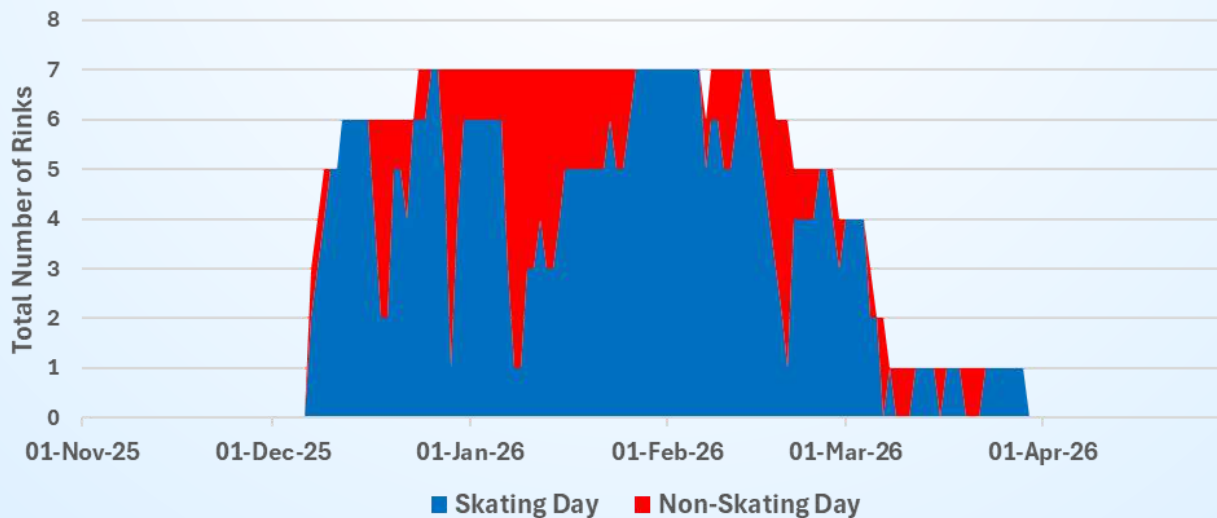


Locations Include: Saskatoon, SK, Petersfield, MB

First Skating Day Reported: December 3, 2025

Last Skating Day Reported: March 30, 2026

FIGURE 3: EASTERN CANADA



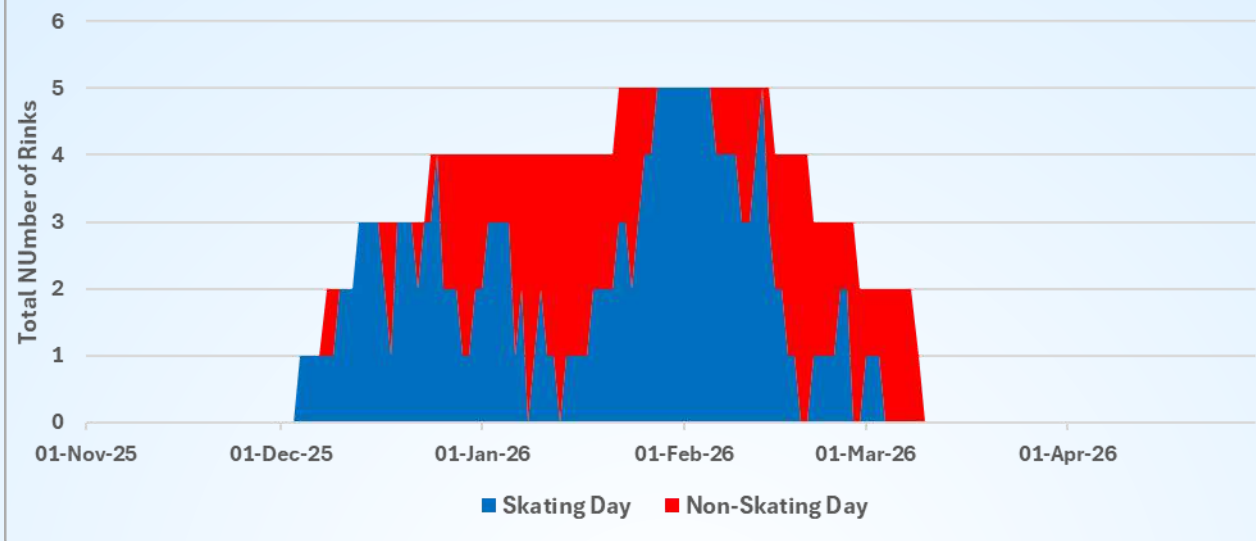
Locations Include: Richards Landing, ON, Mono, ON, Navan, ON, Ottawa, ON, Holland Centre, ON, Sturgeon Falls, ON, Welsford, NB

First Skating Day Reported: December 7, 2025

Last Skating Day Reported: March 29, 2026

SKATING SEASON DATA

FIGURE 4: WESTERN USA



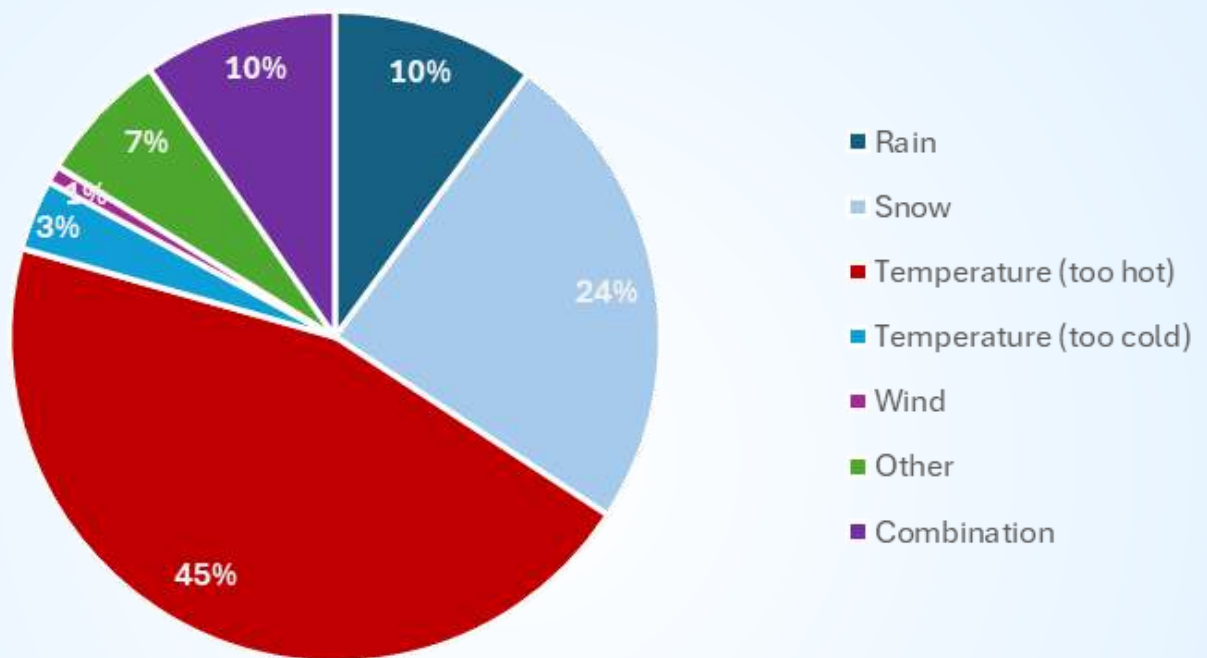
Locations Include: Canton, MI, East Lansing, MI, Verona, WI

First Skating Day Reported: December 4, 2025

Last Skating Day Reported: March 3, 2026

SKATING SEASON DATA

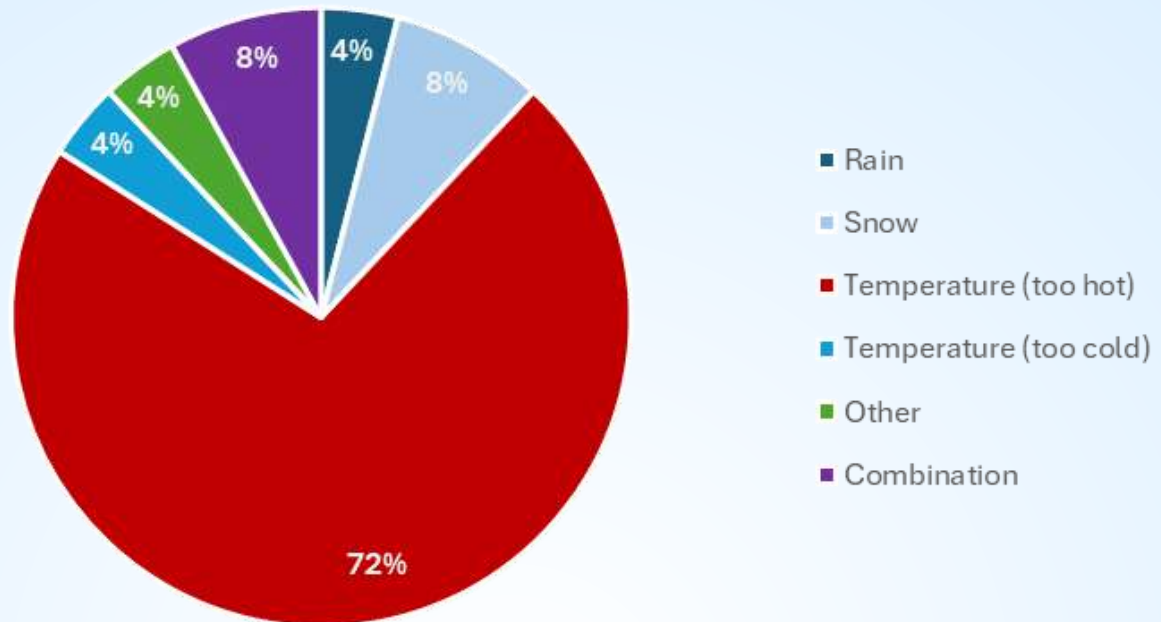
FIGURE 5: WEATHER FACTORS - ALL RINKS



Figures 5 through 8 summarize the reasons given by Sentinels for days during the winter when their rink was not skatable or was less-than-optimal.

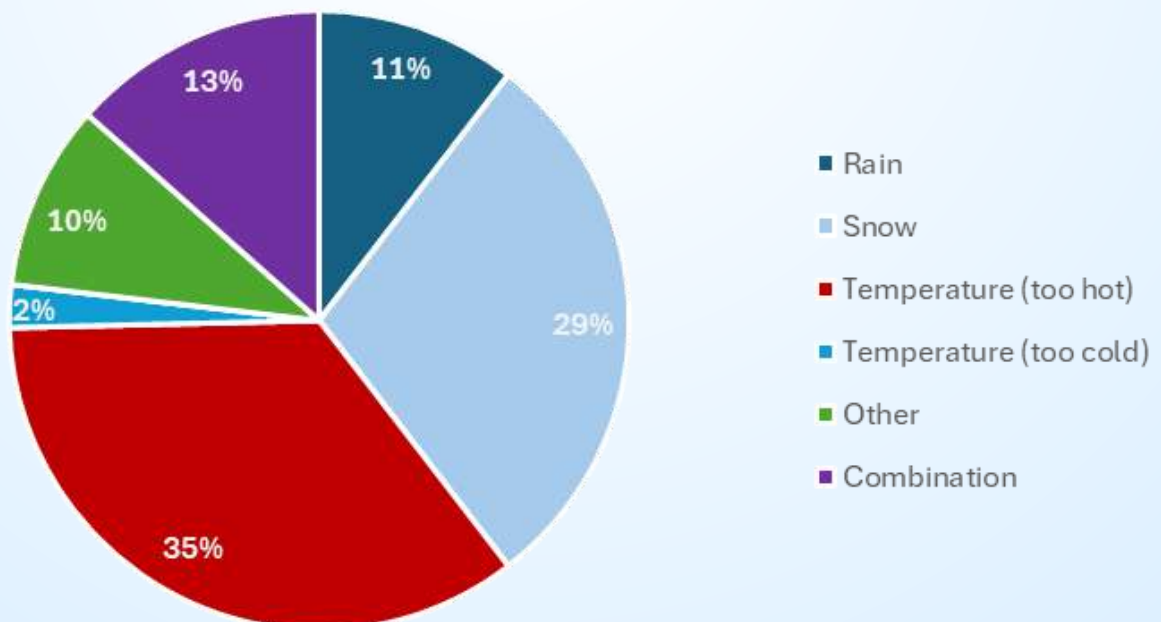
SKATING SEASON DATA

FIGURE 6: WEATHER FACTORS - WESTERN CANADA



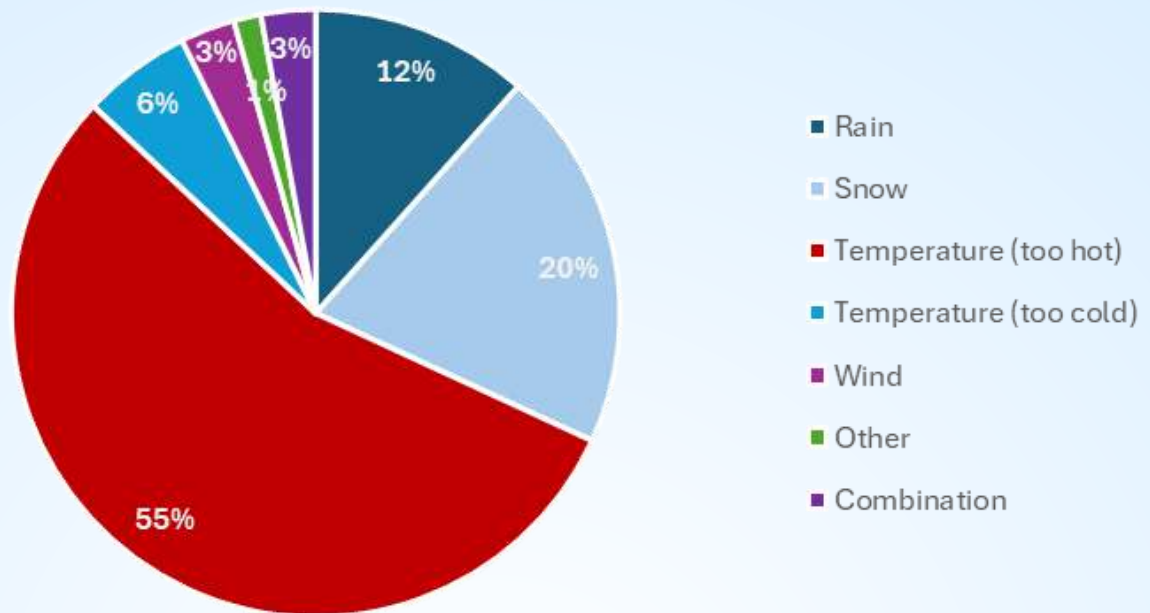
Locations Include: Saskatoon, SK, Petersfield, MB

FIGURE 7: WEATHER FACTORS - EASTERN CANADA



Locations Include: Richards Landing, ON, Mono, ON, Navan, ON, Ottawa, ON, Holland Centre, ON, Sturgeon Falls, ON, Welsford, NB

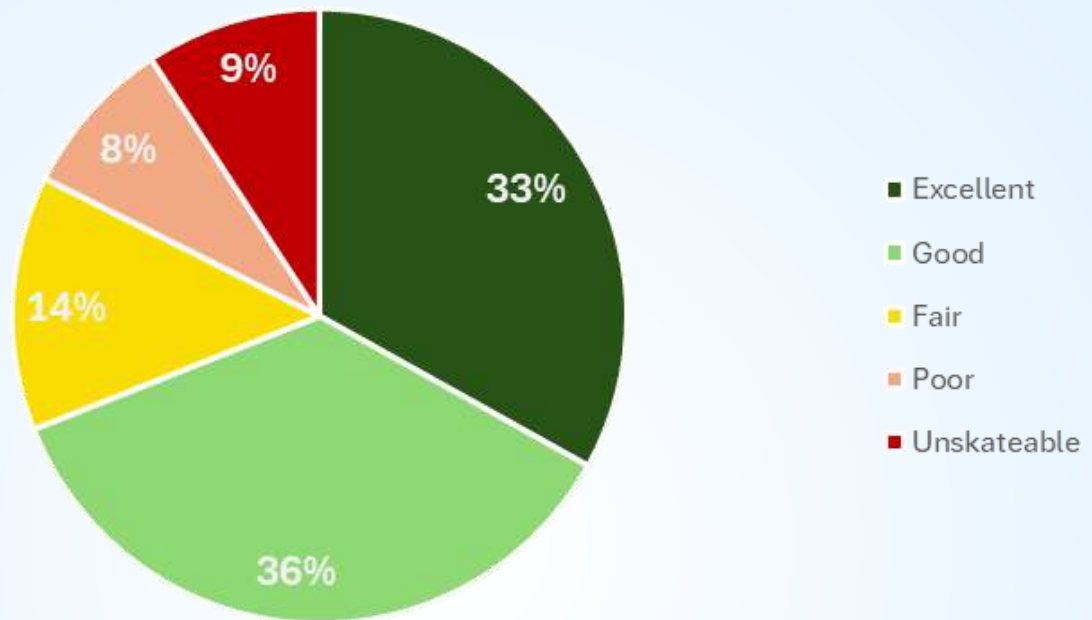
FIGURE 8: WEATHER FACTORS - WESTERN USA



Locations Include: Canton, MI, East Lansing, MI, Verona, WI

SKATING SEASON DATA

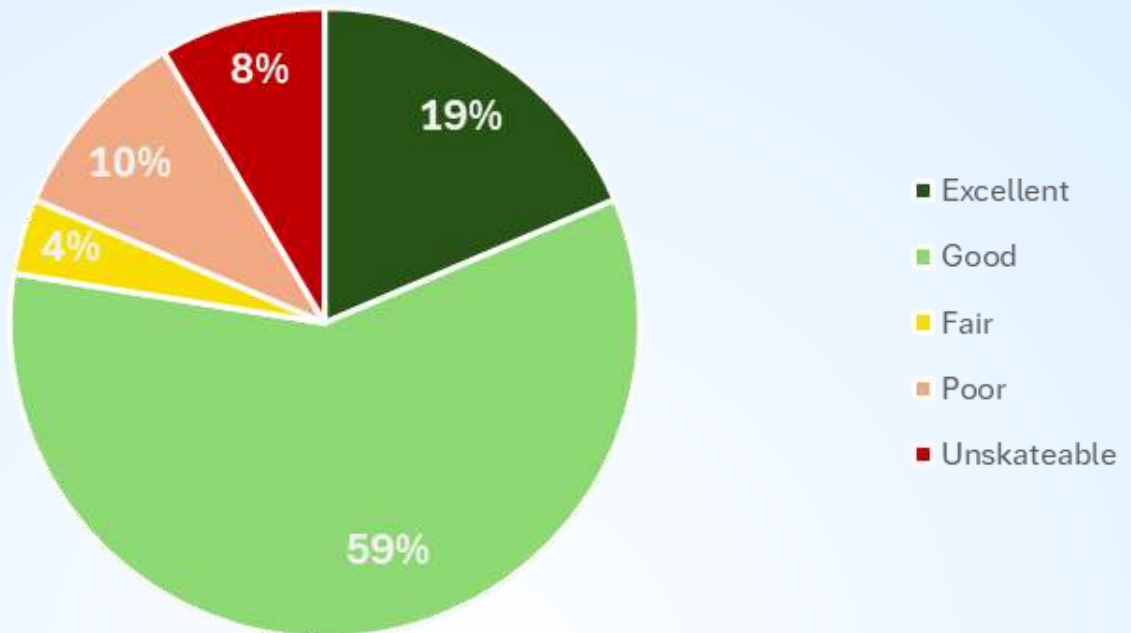
FIGURE 9: ICE CONDITIONS - ALL RINKS



Figures 9 through 12 summarize the relative skating conditions reported by sentinels during the season.

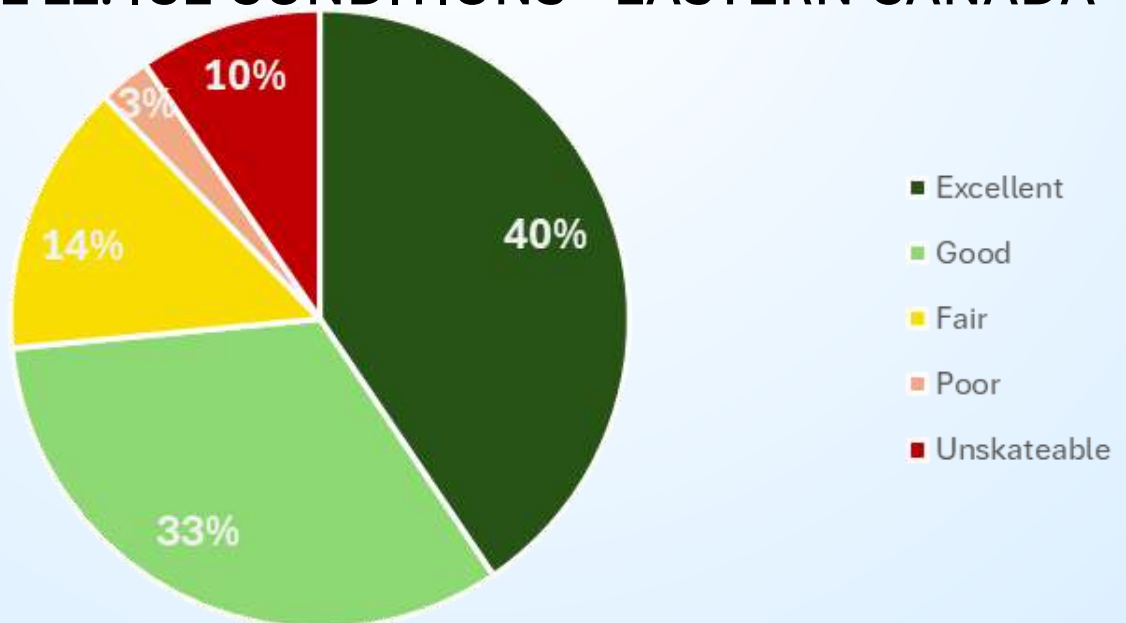
SKATING SEASON DATA

FIGURE 10: ICE CONDITIONS - WESTERN CANADA



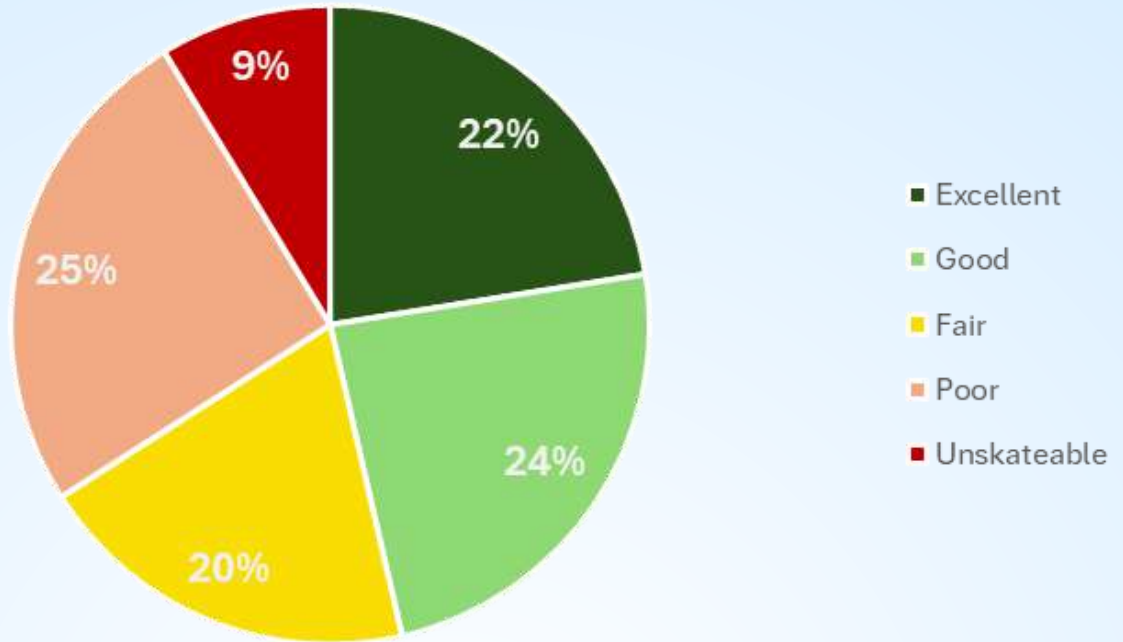
Locations Include: Saskatoon, SK, Petersfield, MB

FIGURE 11: ICE CONDITIONS - EASTERN CANADA



Locations Include: Richards Landing, ON, Mono, ON, Navan, ON, Ottawa, ON, Holland Centre, ON, Sturgeon Falls, ON, Welsford, NB

FIGURE 12: ICE CONDITIONS - WESTERN USA



Locations Include: Canton, MI, East Lansing, MI, Verona, WI

FIGURE 13: SKATING SEASON COMPARISON

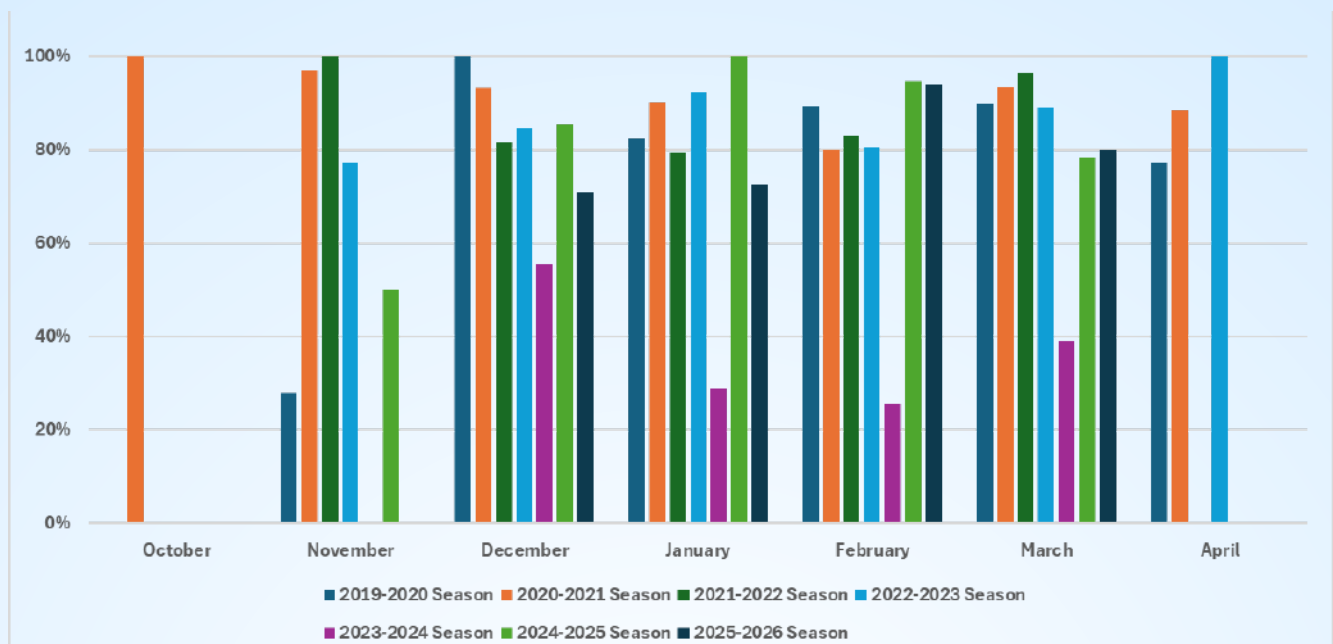
ALL RINKS



Figures 13-16 compare the percentage of skatable days per month between the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 skating seasons. Please note, the data displayed for the months between October and April only reflect the days included in the skating season in each respective month.

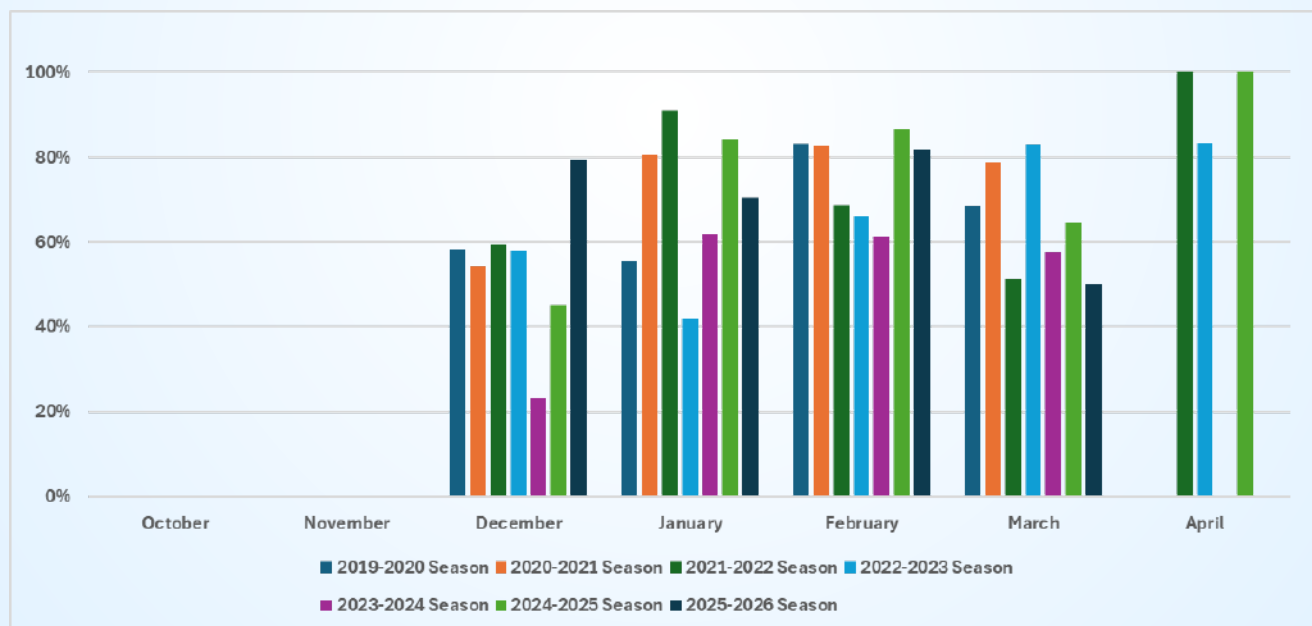
SKATING SEASON COMPARISON

FIGURE 14: WESTERN CANADA



Locations Include: Saskatoon, SK, Petersfield, MB

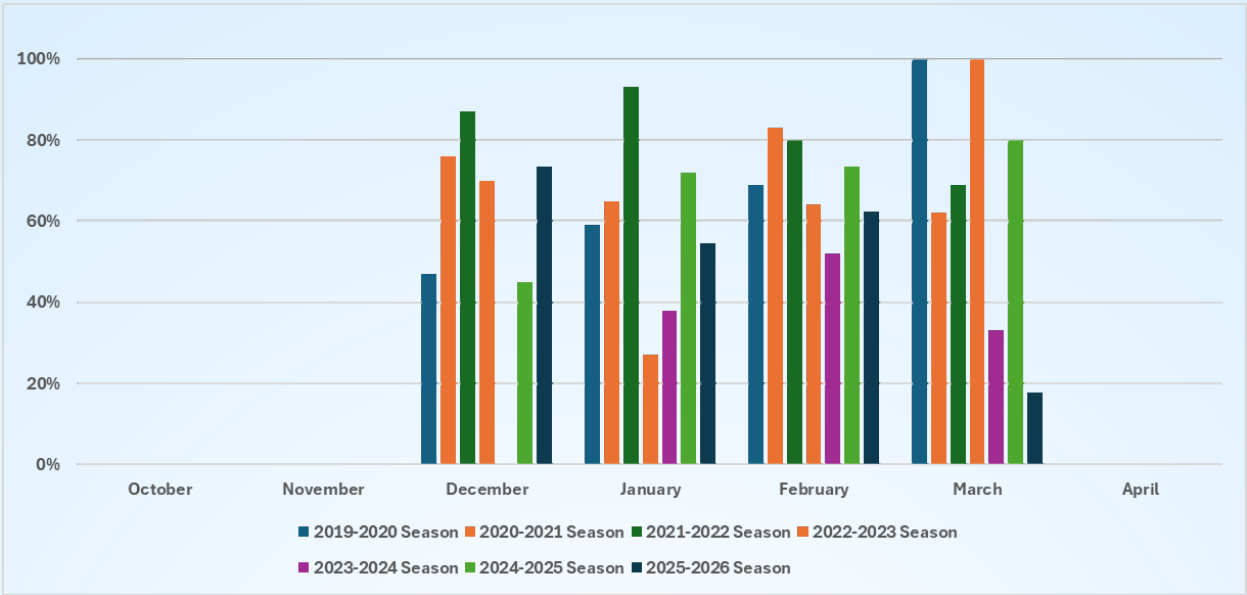
FIGURE 15: EASTERN CANADA



Locations Include: Richards Landing, ON, Mono, ON, Navan, ON, Ottawa, ON, Holland Centre, ON, Sturgeon Falls, ON, Welsford, NB

SKATING SEASON COMPARISON

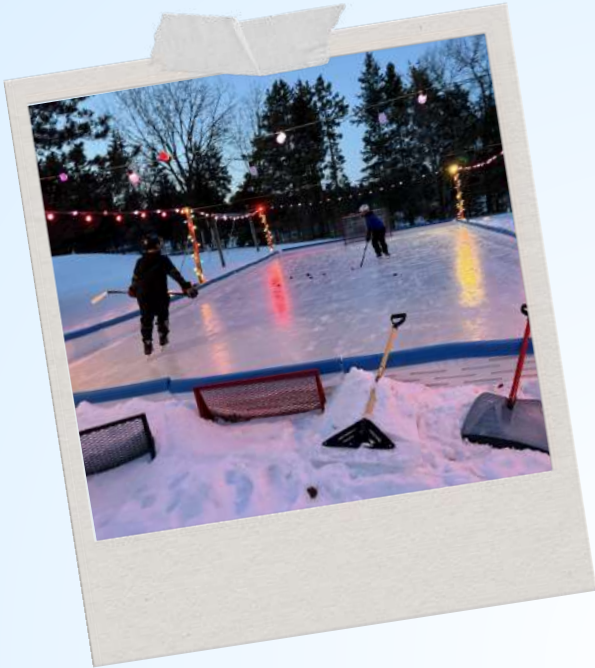
FIGURE 16: WESTERN USA

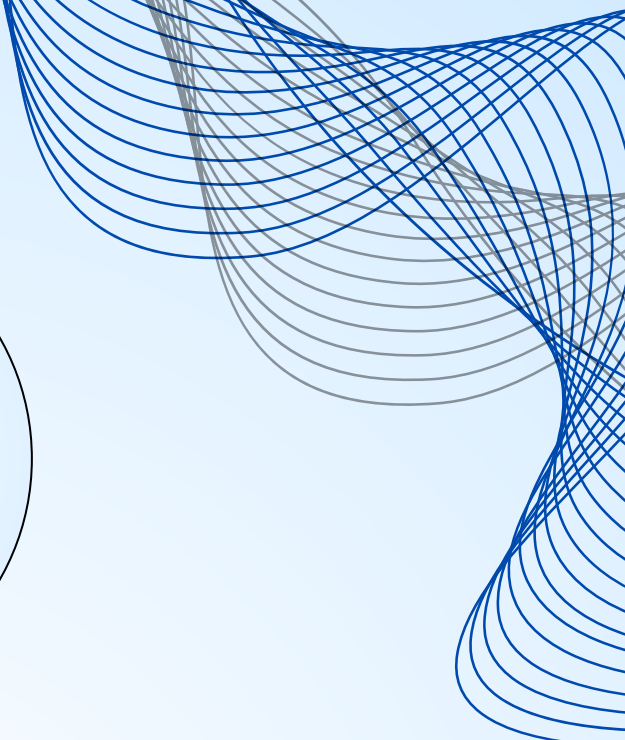


Locations Include: Canton, MI, East Lansing, MI, Verona, WI

**SKATING SEASON
COMPARISON**

RINKS IN ACTION





**THANK
YOU**

The 2025-26 RinkWatch Sentinel Program honour list of volunteers:

Adam Chaisson, Aric Dodd, Carole Hunt-Ford, Jason Vlahos, Kaija Hupila, Kevin Riley, Michel Godbout, Pat Blake, Roberta Bond, Shelley Jackson, Steve Paynter, and Welsford Community Association

Additionally, we'd like to thank Jason Vlahos, Michel Godbout, Sue McLean, Roberta Bond, Carole Hunt-Ford, and Kaija Hupila for sharing their incredible photos with us. Check out the Shelley Jackson Design Facebook page [here](#) to learn more about her work.