



LEVELnews

Great Lakes — St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Seasonal Level Decline Delayed In Upper Lakes

With the exception of Lake Ontario, water levels of all the Great Lakes remained above average in October. Generally wet conditions continued and water supplies to each of the lake's basins were near or above average in October. As a result, water levels have yet to begin their seasonal decline on lakes Superior and Michigan–Huron. On Lake Ontario, above-average outflows in October offset the near-average water supply conditions resulting in an above-average water level decline, leaving the level below average by month's

end. Levels at Montreal Harbour were at or above average in October.

- The monthly mean water level of Lake Superior was 21 cm above its period-of-record (1918–2013) average in October, which is 26 cm higher than October 2013, and the highest October level since 1996.

- Lake Michigan–Huron's mean level in October was 11 cm above average, the highest mean level recorded since 1998, and up 53 cm from last year.

- Lake Erie's mean monthly level was 19 cm above average and 18 cm above last October's.

- Lake Ontario's monthly mean level was 2 cm below average and 5 cm lower than a year ago.

- Montreal Harbour's monthly mean level was 9 cm above average, due to above-average Lake Ontario outflows and well-above-average flow from the Ottawa River.

For the ninth consecutive month, and 17 of the last

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Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	October 2014 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of- November 2014 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918–2013)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918–2013)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	21 cm above	26 cm above	22 cm above	29 cm above
Michigan–Huron	11 cm above	53 cm above	15 cm above	55 cm above
St. Clair	20 cm above	33 cm above	28 cm above	41 cm above
Erie	19 cm above	18 cm above	22 cm above	23 cm above
Ontario	2 cm below	5 cm below	3 cm below	10 cm below

18 months, water supplies on Lake Superior were above average. The above-average supplies on Lake Superior were offset somewhat by above-average outflows, but the lake's level still rose 1 cm in October, when on average the level falls by 3 cm (1918–2013). Lake Michigan–Huron continued to rise with above-average inflows from Lake Superior combined with above-average water supplies resulting in the lake level rising by 2 cm, when on average it falls by 7 cm. Lake Erie fell by 4 cm compared to its average

9 cm monthly decline. On Lake Ontario, near-average water supplies were offset by above-average outflows, resulting in the lake declining by 13 cm in October, slightly more than the average decline of 12 cm.

Beginning-of-November Lake Levels

Levels of all the Great Lakes remained above last year's levels at the beginning of November, with the exception of Lake Ontario, which is currently 10 cm below where it was last year at this time. Lake Superior's beginning-of-November level was 22 cm above average, 29 cm above last year's level and the highest it has been this time of year since 1996. Higher beginning-of-November values have been recorded on Lake Superior in 9 years since 1918. Lake Michigan–Huron's beginning-of-November level was 15 cm above average, 55 cm higher than last year and the highest beginning-of-November level since 1997. Higher beginning-of-

November values have been recorded on Lake Michigan–Huron 35 times since 1918. Lake Erie was 22 cm above average at the beginning of November, and 23 cm higher than last year. Lake Ontario's level began November 3 cm below average, and 10 cm lower than last year.

Water Level Forecast

For a graphical representation of recent and forecasted water levels on each of the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair and Montreal Harbour, compared to their respective period-of-record monthly averages and extreme levels, please refer to the October 2014 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin found at:

tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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October Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	133%	Lake Erie	91%
Lake Superior	139%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	151%	Lake Ontario	99%

October Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	139%	Lake Erie	107%
Lake Michigan–Huron	104%	Lake Ontario	108%

*As a percentage of the long-term October average.

NOTE: These figures are preliminary.