



LEVELnews

Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Lake Levels Above Average and Upcoming Public Events

The average monthly water level of all of the Great Lakes returned to above-average level in July, the first time since 1998 except for September 2014. Continued wet conditions in July on lakes Erie and Ontario contributed to their above-average levels, after Ontario was at or below average between October 2014 and June 2015 and Erie dipped below average last March and April. Lakes Superior and Michigan–Huron received below average water supplies in July; however, their monthly

levels remained above average, as they have since March 2014 (Superior) and September 2014 (Michigan–Huron).

- The monthly mean water level of Lake Superior was 18 cm above its period-of-record (1918–2014) average in July, 2 cm higher than July 2014, and the highest July level since 1997.
- Lake Michigan–Huron’s mean level in July was 16 cm above average, 27 cm above last year’s level and the highest mean level recorded in July since 1998.

- Lake Erie’s mean monthly level was 43 cm above average, 34 cm above the July level of the previous year, and the highest monthly mean level recorded in July since 1997.

- Lake Ontario was 21 cm above its July average level, 12 cm higher than last year, and the highest July level since 2000.

- Above-average outflows from Lake Ontario contributed to the St. Lawrence River levels near Montreal rising to near seasonal average in July.

(continued on next page)

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	July 2015 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-August 2015 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918–2014)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918–2014)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	18 cm above	2 cm above	17 cm above	2 cm above
Michigan–Huron	16 cm above	27 cm above	16 cm above	26 cm above
St. Clair	38 cm above	30 cm above	36 cm above	25 cm above
Erie	43 cm above	34 cm above	41 cm above	32 cm above
Ontario	21 cm above	12 cm above	21 cm above	14 cm above

Lake Superior rose only 2 cm in July, less than its average (1918–2014) July rise of 4 cm. Lake Michigan–Huron’s levels remained stable in July, when the average rise is 1 cm. The continued wet July conditions in the lower lakes resulted in Lake Erie’s levels declining only 2 cm, when on average they decline 4 cm. Lake Ontario declined only 3 cm compared to its average fall of 8 cm.

Beginning-of-August Lake Levels

At the beginning of August, levels of all the lakes were above average and above last year’s levels. Lake

Superior and Lake Huron’s beginning-of-August levels showed similar comparisons to those seen in the last few months. Lake Erie was 41 cm above average at the beginning of August and 32 cm higher than this time last year. Higher beginning-of-August levels have been recorded on Lake Erie in only 8 years since 1918, and levels have not been this high since 1997. Lake Ontario’s level at the beginning of August was 21 cm above average and 14 cm higher than this time last year. Beginning-of-August levels have been higher on Lake Ontario in only 16 years since 1918, and levels have not been this high since 1986.

Upcoming Public Events

The *International Niagara Board of Control* invites you to attend its annual public meeting at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, 14 Anderson Lane, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, on **September 10, 2015, from 6:30-8:30 pm EDT**. Information on Niagara River

and Lake Erie levels and flows will be provided. Additional information, including instructions for attending by webinar or teleconference, can be found at: [ijc.org/en / inbc/Activities](http://ijc.org/en/inbc/Activities) or by calling **905-336-4714**.

The *International St. Lawrence River Board of Control* invites you to discuss water regulation of the St. Lawrence River on **September 15, 2015, from 7:00-8:30 pm EDT** by webinar or teleconference. Further details can be found at: [ijc.org/en /islrbc/ Events](http://ijc.org/en/islrbc/Events) or by calling **905-336-6007**.

Water Level Forecast

For a graphical representation of recent and forecasted water levels on the Great Lakes refer to the Canadian Hydrographic Service’s monthly water levels bulletin at: [tides-marees.gc.ca/ C&A/bulletin-eng.html](http://tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Derrick Beach (Editor)
Boundary Water Issues
National Hydrological Services
Meteorological Service Canada
Environment Canada
Burlington ON L7S 1A1
Tel.: 905-336-4714
Fax: 905-319-6939
Email: LEVELnews-infoNIVEAU@ec.gc.ca

Rob Caldwell
Great Lakes–St. Lawrence
Regulation Office
Meteorological Service Canada
Environment Canada
111 Water Street East
Cornwall ON K6H 6S2
Tel.: 613-938-5864

For information regarding reproduction rights, please contact Public Works and Government Services Canada at 613-996-6886 or at droitdauteur.copyright@tpsgc-pwasc.ca
Photos: © Environment Canada – 2011
© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of the Environment, 2015

ISSN 1925-5713

Aussi disponible en français

July Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	81%	Lake Erie	96%
Lake Superior	87%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	74%	Lake Ontario	71%

July Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	136%	Lake Erie	116%
Lake Michigan–Huron	101%	Lake Ontario	111%

*As a percentage of the long-term July average.
NOTE: These figures are preliminary.