

# LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Volume 16, Number 3

March 5, 2008

## ***Water Level Changes Mirror Supply Conditions***

Water supplies to each of the Great Lakes except Lake Superior were above average during February. As a result, water levels increased on each of the lakes except Lake Superior during the month. The level of Lake Superior fell a bit more than average during February, while levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron experienced a small, but welcome, increase. Water levels on lakes Erie and Ontario increased much more than average during the month.

Daily water levels on Lake Superior fell 7 cm during February, 2 cm more than the lake's average February decline of 5 cm. As indicated in the water level information table provided below, the lake

began March approximately 27 cm below its long-term average beginning-of-March level. Nevertheless, it was still 20 cm higher than it was at the same time last year.

The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron rose by 3 cm during February instead of falling by 1 cm, as it has on average during the month. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron was 53 cm below average at the beginning of March and 13 cm lower than it was one year ago.

Water supplies to both lakes Erie and Ontario were well above average during February due to precipitation and runoff received early in the month. As a result, daily water levels on these two lakes increased

much more than average during February: 21 and 16 cm, respectively, instead of increasing by just 2 or 3 cm as they have on average during the month. Water levels on lakes Erie and Ontario began March above average, but lower than they were at the same time last year.

### **Six-Month Forecast**

With average water supply conditions, the level of Lake Superior is expected to fall slightly during March, while the levels of the other Great Lakes are expected to increase.

For a complete range of probable water levels on each of the lakes over the next six **(continued on next page)**

### **Great Lakes Water Level Information**

Lake	February 2008 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-March 2008 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2006)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2006)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	25 cm below	20 cm above	27 cm below	20 cm above
Michigan-Huron	55 cm below	15 cm below	53 cm below	13 cm below
St. Clair	6 cm above	1 cm below	2 cm below	10 cm above
Erie	12 cm above	13 cm below	15 cm above	4 cm below
Ontario	16 cm above	22 cm below	18 cm above	8 cm below



Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada

Canada

months, please refer to the February 2008 edition of the Monthly Water Level Bulletin, found at:

[http://www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/tidal\\_e.html](http://www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/tidal_e.html)

## **International Joint Commission schedules release of proposed new Order and Plan**

On February 15, 2008 the International Joint Commission issued a news release stating that a proposed new Order of Approval and Plan to regulate water levels and flows of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River through the Moses-Saunders Dam at Cornwall, Ontario, and Massena, New York, will be announced on March 31, 2008. This will happen jointly in Washington, Ottawa and on the Web.

At that time, the Commission will release a complete package

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Ralph Moulton, Manager  
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Water Level  
Information Office  
P.O. Box 5050  
Burlington, ON L7R 4A6  
Tel. (905) 336-4580  
FAX: (905) 336-8901  
E-mail: [water.levels@ec.gc.ca](mailto:water.levels@ec.gc.ca)  
<http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/greatlakes/>

David Fay  
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence  
Regulation Office  
111 Water Street East  
Cornwall, ON K6H 6S2  
Tel. (613) 938-5725

LEVELnews/Info-NIVEAU is a publication of Boundary Waters Issues Unit, Environment Canada-Ontario. Contents may be reproduced without permission, but credit would be appreciated. Comments and inquiries are welcome.

Editor, Chuck Southam

Aussi disponible en français

## **February Precipitation over the Great Lakes** As a percentage of the long-term February average:

Great Lakes Basin	153%	Lake Erie	240%
Lake Superior	61%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	156%	Lake Ontario	183%

**NOTE:** These figures are preliminary

of materials on the proposed new Order and Plan and a full calendar of information sessions and public hearings. Before making a decision, the Commission will consider public comment and seek the concurrence of the two federal governments.

For information please contact:

### **Canadian Section Office (Ottawa)**

Greg McGillis  
Public Affairs Advisor  
613-947-1420  
[mcgillisg@ottawa.ijc.org](mailto:mcgillisg@ottawa.ijc.org)

### **U. S. Section Office (Washington)**

Frank Bevacqua  
Public Information Officer  
202-736-9024  
[bevacquaf@washington.ijc.org](mailto:bevacquaf@washington.ijc.org)

## **February Outflows from the Great Lakes**

As a percentage of the long-term February average:

Lake Superior	88%	Lake Erie	101%
Lake Huron	85%	Lake Ontario	104%

**NOTE:** These figures are preliminary