

# LEVEL *news*

Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels



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## Change in Year Marked by Mild Temperatures

Very mild temperatures were recorded in the Great Lakes basin during the last few days of the December and the first few days of January. Mild temperatures and rainfall associated with a major storm system that tracked across Ontario on December 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> melted much of the snow that fell on the southern portion of the basin one week earlier. Water levels on Lake St. Clair rose sharply in response to runoff resulting from the rain and snow melt.

All of the Great Lakes except Lake Ontario are above levels recorded at the same time last year. Lakes

Superior, Michigan-Huron and St. Clair began 2005 below their long-term averages. Lakes Erie and Ontario began the New Year slightly above average.

Water levels on lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are expected to fall a few centimetres during January. Lake Erie levels are expected to remain fairly constant over the next month while Lake Ontario levels will likely increase.

### Great Lakes Ice

Despite the period of mild temperatures experienced throughout the Great Lakes

region over year's end, ice in varying concentrations and stages of development can still be found on each of the lakes. A change to more seasonal temperatures should lead to an increase in lake ice.

If you would like to track ice cover conditions on the Great Lakes as they change throughout this winter and spring, please visit Environment Canada's Canadian Ice Service website at: <http://ice-glaces.ec.gc.ca/>. Be sure to click on the "Ice Codes" button at the top of the page to learn more about the "Egg Code" and Colour Codes used on the ice charts.

## Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	December 2004 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning of January 2005 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2003)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2003)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	4 cm below	19 cm above	2 cm below	20 cm above
Michigan-Huron	29 cm below	18 cm above	28 cm below	16 cm above
St. Clair	6 cm below	18 cm above	5 cm below	22 cm above
Erie	3 cm above	12 cm above	5 cm above	8 cm above
Ontario	3 cm above	18 cm below	6 cm above	19 cm below



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## Public Meetings Planned for June and July

The Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study Board is in the final months of its five-year mandate. The Study Board will report its findings to the International Joint Commission (IJC) in October 2005 at the IJC's semi-annual meeting in Ottawa.

A series of public meetings are scheduled during June and July 2005 leading up to the October report of findings to the IJC. The meeting dates and locations are provided here to give interested readers advanced notice of these events. For additional information, or to register your attendance at one or more of the public meetings, please contact:

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

Great Lakes Basin	135%	Lake Erie	142%
Lake Superior	120%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	136%	Lake Ontario	143%

**NOTE: These figures are preliminary**

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Date	Time	Location	Event
June 16	7 p.m.	St. Regis, Cornwall Island	Public Meeting
June 22	7 p.m.	Massena, NY	Public Meeting
June 22	7 p.m.	Jordan, ON	Public Meeting
June 23	7 p.m.	Clayton, NY	Public Meeting
June 23	7 p.m.	Toronto, ON	Public Meeting
July 13	7 p.m.	Sackets Harbor, NY	Public Meeting
July 13	7 p.m.	Belleville, ON	Public Meeting
July 14	7 p.m.	Oswego, NY	Public Meeting
July 14	7 p.m.	Gananoque, ON	Public Meeting
July 20	7 p.m.	Sodus Bay, NY	Public Meeting
July 20	7 p.m.	Cornwall, ON	Public Meeting
July 21	7 p.m.	Greece, NY	Public Meeting
July 21	7 p.m.	Dorval, QC	Public Meeting
July 22	7 p.m.	Olcott, NY	Public Meeting
July 22	7 p.m.	Trois-Rivières, QC	Public Meeting

## December Outflows from the Great Lakes As a percentage of the long-term December average:

Lake Superior	110%	Lake Erie	104%
Lake Huron	91%	Lake Ontario	107%

**NOTE: These figures are preliminary**