

# LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Volume 15, Number 12

December 6, 2007

## An Eye on Lakes Michigan-Huron Levels

After receiving above-average water supplies during October, low supply conditions returned to Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron during November. Conditions were extremely dry on Lakes Michigan-Huron, with preliminary numbers indicating that these lakes received near-record low total supplies for November. As a result, daily water levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron fell 13 cm during November, 8 cm more than their long-term average decline for the month.

Although it is too early to say just how large the 2007-08 seasonal declines will be on each of the lakes, it is probably safe to say that anyone affected by, or interested in,

water levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron is watching this year's seasonal decline very closely. As of the beginning of December, daily water levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron have declined 39 cm since they peaked for the year earlier than average in June. This decline is already some 10 cm more than the long-term average seasonal decline for these lakes and levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron are expected to continue their seasonal decline over the next few months.

As indicated in the water level information table, the level of Lakes Michigan-Huron began December 66 cm below average for this time of year. Water levels on Lakes

Michigan-Huron are currently just 8 cm higher than their 1964 period-of-record low for the beginning of December and are the lowest they have been at this time of year since then. The latest six-month forecast indicates that if low water supply conditions are received during December, levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron could begin 2008 as low as they were in 1965. New record monthly lows could follow if low water supply conditions persist.

For a complete range of probable water levels on each lake over the next six months, please refer to the November 2007 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)

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	November 2007 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-December 2007 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	30 cm below	14 cm above	29 cm below	14 cm above
Michigan-Huron	63 cm below	17 cm below	66 cm below	25 cm below
St. Clair	35 cm below	29 cm below	36 cm below	37 cm below
Erie	18 cm below	30 cm below	18 cm below	34 cm below
Ontario	23 cm below	48 cm below	25 cm below	52 cm below

## Lake-Effect Snow

Increased evaporation from the Great Lakes during the early winter not only causes declines in water levels, it can also lead to significant lake-effect snowfalls in traditional snowbelt areas throughout the region. Arctic air from the northwest is very cold and dry when it enters the Great Lakes basin, but is warmed and picks up moisture travelling over the comparatively warmer lakes. When it reaches land, the moisture condenses as snow, creating heavy snowfalls on the lee side of the lakes.

## Weatheradio Canada

Weatheradio Canada is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting weather and environmental information 24 hours a day in both official languages, directly from Environment Canada's storm prediction centres. For detailed information, please

### 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

## November Precipitation over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term November average:

Great Lakes Basin	81%	Lake Erie	123%
Lake Superior	73%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	62%	Lake Ontario	118%

**NOTE:** These figures are preliminary

visit the Weatheradio Canada Web site at: [www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/msb/weatheradio/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/msb/weatheradio/index_e.cfm)

## Ice Season

With the cold weather upon us and surface water temperatures dropping, can ice be far behind?

Environment Canada monitors ice conditions in five regions: the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the East Coast and the Arctic. If you would like to track ice conditions, please visit the Canadian Ice Service Web site at: [www.ice-glaces.ec.gc.ca/](http://www.ice-glaces.ec.gc.ca/)

At the Ice Service Web site, you will find a daily ice hazard bulletin and ice charts showing ice concentrations and stages of development. Be sure to click on the "Ice Codes" button at the top of the page to learn more about the Egg Code and the Colour Codes used on the ice charts. The Egg Code may look complicated, but once you become familiar with its organization you will be able to

gain a great deal of useful information about ice conditions in a short period of time.

## Season's Greetings

Everyone involved in the preparation and distribution of LEVELnews would like to wish you a happy holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year.

## November Outflows from the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term November average:

Lake Superior	70%	Lake Erie	91%
Lake Huron	84%	Lake Ontario	94%

**NOTE:** These figures are preliminary