

# LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Volume 15, Number 8

August 9, 2007

## ***Dry Weather Continues to Impact Lake Levels***

The pattern of below-average water supplies continued in July throughout most of the Great Lakes Basin and this contributed to a decline in the levels of all lakes except Superior. While some areas north of lakes Superior and Huron and east of Lake Ontario received significant amounts of rainfall during the month, most other areas were drier than average – particularly in the states of Michigan and Minnesota.

Lake Superior's water level rose by 4 cm during the month, matching the average increase. Below-average outflows from the lake offset the effects of low supplies to it.

The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron declined by 2 cm during the month, while on average their level increased by 1 cm in July. These three lakes continue to be more than 50 cm below average.

Lakes St. Clair and Erie both experienced declines in levels during July that were significantly greater than average. Lake St. Clair declined 9 cm, while its average decline is 1 cm, and Lake Erie's level decreased by 10 cm, while its average decline is 4 cm. Lake Ontario's level also declined by 10 cm, which is 1 cm more than its average amount for July.

The levels of all the Great Lakes are below their respective averages for this time of year and they are all lower than one year ago. Lake Superior is 31 cm lower than it was one year ago. As well, it is only 2 cm above the record low beginning-of-August level of 1926. With average supply conditions, the level of Lake Superior is expected to remain about the same during August, and the other lakes are expected to continue to decline from their spring peak levels. It is very likely that Lake Superior's water level will be below its record low level of 1926 by September.

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

Lake	July 2007 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-August 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	52 cm below	31 cm below	52 cm below	31 cm below
Michigan-Huron	54 cm below	8 cm below	55 cm below	13 cm below
St. Clair	27 cm below	10 cm below	26 cm below	14 cm below
Erie	16 cm below	13 cm below	17 cm below	20 cm below
Ontario	13 cm below	12 cm below	14 cm below	22 cm below

## Niagara Open House

The International Niagara Board of Control will hold an open house on Wednesday, September 12, 2007. This open house is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Stone Inn, 5425 Robinson Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The purpose of this open house is to inform the public of the Board's current activities and to hear public comments and suggestions regarding the Board's work. In addition, information will be presented on the operation of the Lake Erie – Niagara River Ice Boom and Great Lakes water level conditions. The evening's format has been chosen to encourage an open dialogue with, and amongst, those in attendance. Posters, maps and other informative material will be on display.

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## July Precipitation over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term July average:

Great Lakes Basin	91 %	Lake Erie	76 %
Lake Superior	93 %	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	92 %	Lake Ontario	98 %

**NOTE:** These figures are preliminary

## Be Up to Date when You Set Out

Whether you are a recreational boater or a ship's captain, knowledge about marine weather and water level conditions is important to you.

### Marine Weather

You can find the information you need on current and forecasted weather, wind and wave conditions for the Great Lakes on Environment Canada's weather Web site at: [www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca](http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca).

### Water Levels

Real-time water levels on the Great Lakes, their connecting channels and the upper St. Lawrence River are available by telephone from a network of gauging stations operated by the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS).

Please visit the CHS Web site at: [www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/voice\\_e.html](http://www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/voice_e.html) for a list of voice-announcing water level gauging stations and their telephone numbers.

## July Outflows from the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term July average:

Lake Superior	68 %	Lake Erie	86 %
Lake Huron	86 %	Lake Ontario	94 %

**NOTE:** These figures are preliminary