

# LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Volume 18 Number 7

July 9, 2010

## Above-Average Precipitation Found Basin-wide During June

Precipitation was above average throughout the Great Lakes region during June 2010. This resulted in above-average water supplies to the basins of each of the Great Lakes during the past month. In the cases of lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and Ontario, this was in sharp contrast to the previous months of below-average supplies. The supplies to the basins of lakes Michigan-Huron and Ontario were particularly high.

The levels for each of the Great Lakes rose by more than usual during June in response to the above-average supply conditions. Water levels increased by 10 cm each on lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and St. Clair.

On average, these lakes have risen 8, 5 and 4 cm, respectively, during the month of June over the 1918-2009 period-of record used for water levels comparison purposes. Lake Erie's level rose by 5 cm last month, 4 cm more than its average June rise of 1 cm. Lake Ontario's level rose by 22 cm this June, while on average it declines by 1 cm in June. The unusually large rise on Lake Ontario was due to a combination of high total water supplies and lower-than-average June outflows from the lake.

Even with these increases, the levels of all of the Great Lakes remain below their respective long-term (1918-2009) averages for this time of year

and lower than they were one year ago. However, the levels of lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, St. Clair and Erie each moved several centimetres closer to average during June, while the level of Lake Ontario climbed 23 cm closer to average during the month. The improvement in water level conditions on Lake Ontario relative to average has enabled the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control to continue its effort to help deal with the low water level conditions in the lower St. Lawrence River. The Board has periodically set Lake Ontario's outflow above those specified by the lake's

**(continued on next page)**

### Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	June 2010 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-July 2010 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2009)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2009)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	32 cm below	17 cm below	31 cm below	16 cm below
Michigan-Huron	37 cm below	23 cm below	33 cm below	22 cm below
St. Clair	9 cm below	17 cm below	7 cm below	16 cm below
Erie	2 cm below	14 cm below	3 cm below	17 cm below
Ontario	20 cm below	31 cm below	8 cm below	19 cm below



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current regulation plan when practicable.

### Water Level Forecast

If average water supply conditions occur during July, the levels of lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are expected to rise by a few centimetres during the month. Levels on lakes St. Clair and Erie have likely reached their peaks for the year and are expected to fall slightly during July. Lake Ontario is expected to rise by a few more centimetres and reach its peak in July before beginning to fall. With average water supply conditions, the July monthly mean level at Montréal Harbour is expected to be higher than it was in June and to be a few centimetres

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above chart datum, the reference elevation used on navigation charts.

However, the way in which water levels actually change depends on the water supply conditions that each lake experiences. Check the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water level bulletin at the beginning of each month for an update on water level conditions and the latest six-month forecast. The monthly water level bulletin is available on the Web at:

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

### Upcoming Events

Both the International Niagara and the St. Lawrence River Boards of Control are planning public information events during September. The International Niagara Board of Control will hold an open house on the evening of Wednesday, September 15, 2010. The International St. Lawrence River Board of Control is holding a public teleconference on the evening of Tuesday, September 21, 2010. If you would like to attend, look for

detailed information on their time and place in next month's edition of LEVELnews.

### June Precipitation over the Great Lakes \*

Great Lakes Basin	165%	Lake Erie	141%
Lake Superior	135%	Including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	179%	Lake Ontario	204%

### June Outflows from the Great Lakes \*

Lake Superior	71%	Lake Erie	99%
Lake Huron	94%	Lake Ontario	86%

\* As a percentage of the long-term June average.

NOTE: These figures are preliminary