



LEVELnews

Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Wet Weather Helps Ease Dry Conditions

With record flooding along the northeastern shores of Lake Superior, and much of the basin being impacted by rains from post-tropical storm Sandy, dry conditions have eased across the Great Lakes basin during October.

- Above-average water supplies to Lake Superior, along with below-average outflows from the lake, resulted in the lake's level rising by 2 cm during October instead of falling by a few centimetres as it typically does

during the month. On average, Lake Superior's level has fallen by 3 cm during October over the 1918–2011 period of record used for Great Lakes water level comparison purposes. Lake Superior began November at a level 10 cm higher than its period-of-record low beginning of November level set in 1925.

- Lakes Michigan–Huron's level fell by 7 cm during October, an amount equal to its average decline for the month. Lakes Michigan–Huron

began November 4 cm higher than its period-of-record low beginning-of-November-level set in 1964.

- Lake St. Clair's level rose by 1 cm last month, 4 cm more than its average October decline of 10 cm.
 - Lake Erie's level fell by 4 cm during October, less than half of its average October decline of 9 cm.
 - Lake Ontario's level fell by 8 cm during September, 4 cm
- (continued on next page)**

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	October 2012 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-November 2012 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918–2011)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918–2011)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	38 cm below	8 cm below	33 cm below	2 cm below
Michigan–Huron	70 cm below	34 cm below	70 cm below	38 cm below
St. Clair	38 cm below	41 cm below	23 cm below	29 cm below
Erie	23 cm below	44 cm below	16 cm below	40 cm below
Ontario	27 cm below	32 cm below	24 cm below	33 cm below

less than its average October decline of 12 cm.

- Montreal Harbour's monthly mean level in October was 25 cm higher than the harbour's monthly mean level in September and 16 cm above its period-of-record low level for the month of October set in 2007. The harbour's October level was 81 cm below average and 52 cm lower than last year.

The levels of the Great Lakes are all below their respective 1918–2011 period-of-record-average levels for this time of year, and lower than they were a year ago. There have been only three years with a lower beginning-of-November level

on Lake Superior since 1918. They are 1925, 2006, and 2010. Lake Michigan–Huron's beginning-of-November level has been lower than this year's just once since 1918 (in 1964). The levels at the beginning of November of lakes Erie and Ontario are closer to the middle of their ranges, having been lower 37 and 14 times, respectively, at this time of year.

Lakes, Lake St. Clair and Montreal Harbor, compared to their respective period-of-record monthly averages and extreme levels, please refer to the October 2012 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin at: www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/tidal_e.html

Water Level Forecast

Water levels are expected to fall on each of the lakes except Lake Ontario during November. The level of Lake Ontario is expected to rise slightly. Montreal Harbour's monthly mean level is expected to rise slightly in November compared to its October value. The latest six-month forecast indicates that the level of Lake Superior will likely remain above its period-of-record low monthly levels over the next six months. However, new record low monthly levels are still quite possible on Lakes Michigan–Huron.

For a graphical representation of recent and forecasted water levels on each of the Great

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October Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	143%	Lake Erie	159%
Lake Superior	128%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan–Huron	147%	Lake Ontario	140%

October Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	69%	Lake Erie	88%
Lakes Michigan–Huron	86%	Lake Ontario	90%

*As a percentage of the long-term October Average.

NOTE: These figures are preliminary.