



# LEVELnews

## Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

### Water Level Changes Reflect Wetter Conditions

A series of winter storms resulted in generally wetter than normal conditions throughout the Great Lakes basin in February. Near-average water supplies to Lake Superior combined with below-average outflows from the lake in February resulted in the lake's level falling slightly less than average during the month. The above-average water supplies to the other lakes resulted in each of them rising more than they typically do during the month of February.

- Lake Superior's level fell by 4 cm during February, 1 cm less than its average February decline of 5 cm.
- Lake Michigan–Huron's level increased 3 cm during February instead of remaining unchanged as it has on-average over the 1918–2011 period of record. On a monthly basis, there was a notable rise in level for Lake Michigan–Huron from January to February. February's monthly mean level was 4 cm higher than January's, and 2 cm

higher than the lake's February record low set in 1964.

- Lake Erie's level rose by 10 cm during February, 8 cm more than its average February increase of 2 cm.
- Lake Ontario's rose by 10 cm during February, 7 cm more than its average February increase of 3 cm.
- Montreal Harbour's monthly mean level in February was 35 cm **(continued on next page)**

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	February 2013 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-March 2013 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	31 cm below	2 cm above	30 cm below	2 cm above
Michigan–Huron	68 cm below	35 cm below	66 cm below	32 cm below
St. Clair	24 cm below	45 cm below	13 cm below	34 cm below
Erie	12 cm below	51 cm below	10 cm below	47 cm below
Ontario	8 cm below	47 cm below	6 cm below	42 cm below

higher than the harbour's monthly mean level in January. The Harbour's February level was 59 cm below average and 23 cm lower than it was during February of last year.

**Water Level Forecast**

Relative to their beginning-of-March levels and assuming average water supply conditions, the levels of each of the lakes, except Lake Superior, are expected to rise during March. The level of Lake Superior is expected to fall slightly as it typically does at this time of year. Montreal Harbour's monthly mean level in March is expected to rise compared to its February level.

For a graphical representation of recent and forecasted water levels on each of the Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair compared to their respective period-of-record monthly averages and extreme levels, please refer to the February 2013 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin at: [www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin\\_e.html](http://www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin_e.html)

**St. Lawrence Board Public Teleconference**

The International St. Lawrence River Board of Control will hold a public teleconference on **Tuesday, March 26, 2013, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. EDT**, to discuss the regulation of outflows and water levels in the Lake Ontario–St. Lawrence River system. Participation in the meeting can be in person, by phone or by Webinar.

For information on how to participate in the teleconference and to download the meeting materials, please visit the Activities page on the Board's website at [www.ijc.org/boards/islrbc/](http://www.ijc.org/boards/islrbc/)

or contact either of the Board's Secretaries:  
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ISSN 1925-5713

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**February Precipitation over the Great Lakes\***

<b>Great Lakes Basin</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>Lake Erie</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Lake Superior</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>(including Lake St. Clair)</b>	
<b>Lakes Michigan–Huron</b>	<b>107%</b>	<b>Lake Ontario</b>	<b>114%</b>

**February Outflows from the Great Lakes\***

<b>Lake Superior</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>Lake Erie</b>	<b>98%</b>
<b>Lakes Michigan–Huron</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>Lake Ontario</b>	<b>97%</b>

\*As a percentage of the long-term February average.  
**NOTE:** These figures are preliminary.