



# LEVELnews

## Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

### Wet Conditions Continue For Most Lake Basins

Generally wet conditions continued in the Great Lakes basin during August. Water supplies to Superior, Michigan–Huron and Ontario lake basins were above average in August while supplies to the Lake Erie basin were near average. Increased outflow from Lake Ontario helped keep levels in the lower St. Lawrence River near average.

- Seven consecutive months of above-average water supplies on Lake Superior were offset by above-average outflows resulting in the lake

level rising by an amount equal to its 1918–2013 period-of-record average rate of 1 cm in August.

- On Lake Michigan–Huron, the above-average inflows from Lake Superior combined with the above-average water supplies resulted in the lake rising 4 cm in August, when on average it falls by that amount.
- Lake Erie fell by 7 cm in August, slightly less than its average decline of 8 cm.
- Above-average water supplies to Lake Ontario offset

the above-average outflows resulting in the lake level declining by its August average value of 15 cm.

- The August monthly mean level at Montreal Harbour was 7 cm below the monthly average, but 36 cm above the August level last year.

### Beginning-of-September Lake Levels

Levels of all the Great Lakes remained above last year's levels at the beginning of

(continued on next page)

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	August 2014 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-September 2014 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918–2013)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918–2013)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	14 cm above	23 cm above	15 cm above	20 cm above
Michigan–Huron	7 cm below	40 cm above	2 cm below	42 cm above
St. Clair	11 cm above	24 cm above	13 cm above	21 cm above
Erie	12 cm above	9 cm above	11 cm above	7 cm above
Ontario	8 cm above	3 cm below	7 cm above	2 cm below

September, with the exception of Lake Ontario. Lake Superior's beginning-of-September level was 15 cm above its 1918–2013 average, 20 cm above last year's level, and the highest it has been this time of year since 1996. Higher beginning-of-September levels have been recorded on Lake Superior in 17 years since 1918. Lake Michigan–Huron's beginning-of-September level was just 2 cm below average, and 42 cm higher than last year, and the highest beginning-of-September level since 1998. Lake Erie was 11 cm above average at the

beginning of September and 7 cm higher than last year at this time. Lake Ontario's level began September 7 cm above average, but 2 cm lower than last year at this time.

### Water Level Forecast

Relative to their beginning-of-September levels and assuming average water supply conditions, lakes Superior and Michigan–Huron are expected to begin their seasonal declines in September, while lakes Erie and Ontario are expected to continue their seasonal declines. For a graphical representation of recent and forecasted water levels on each of the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair and Montreal Harbour, compared to their respective period-of-record monthly averages and extreme levels, please refer to the August 2014 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin found at: [tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html](http://tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html)

### Niagara Board Open House Held

The International Niagara Board of Control held its annual open house meeting on September 3, 2014. The presentation given at the open house can be viewed on the Board's website at: [ijc.org/en/\\_inbc/Activities](http://ijc.org/en/_inbc/Activities)

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### August Precipitation over the Great Lakes\*

Great Lakes Basin	118%	Lake Erie	115%
Lake Superior	92%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	136%	Lake Ontario	107%

### August Outflows from the Great Lakes\*

Lake Superior	141%	Lake Erie	100%
Lake Michigan–Huron	99%	Lake Ontario	111%

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

NOTE: These figures are preliminary.