



LEVELnews

Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Levels Remain Above Average For Most Lakes

Lakes Superior and Michigan–Huron continued to receive above-average amounts of precipitation and all the lakes except Ontario remained above average in November. Dry conditions on Lake Ontario resulted in below-average levels for the second consecutive month.

- The monthly mean water level of Lake Superior was 21 cm above its period-of-record (1918–2013) average in November, which is 27 cm higher than November 2013, and the highest November level since 1996.

- Lake Michigan–Huron’s mean level in November was 17 cm above average, the highest mean level recorded in November since 1997, and up 53 cm from last year.
- Lake Erie’s mean monthly level was 16 cm above average and 18 cm above last November’s.
- Lake Ontario’s monthly mean level was 7 cm below average and 14 cm lower than a year ago.
- Dry conditions resulted in a Montreal Harbour monthly mean level 14 cm below

average, despite above-average Lake Ontario outflows.

For the tenth consecutive month, and 18 of the last 19 months, water supplies on Lake Superior were above average. The above-average supplies on Lake Superior were offset somewhat by above-average outflows, and the lake’s level fell by its average amount (1918–2013) of 5 cm in November. Lake Michigan–Huron’s seasonal decline continues to be delayed due to above-average inflows from Lake Superior, combined with

(continued on next page)

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	November 2014 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-December 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	21 cm above	27 cm above	22 cm above	28 cm above
Michigan–Huron	17 cm above	53 cm above	20 cm above	54 cm above
St. Clair	20 cm above	31 cm above	31 cm above	40 cm above
Erie	16 cm above	18 cm above	19 cm above	22 cm above
Ontario	7 cm below	14 cm below	9 cm below	12 cm below

above-average water supplies. As a result, the lake stayed at about the same level in November, when on average it falls by 5 cm. Drier conditions in Lake Erie resulted in its level falling by 8 cm compared to its average 5 cm monthly decline. On Lake Ontario, below-average water supplies coupled with above-average outflows resulted in the lake declining by 9 cm in November, 6 cm more than the average decline of 3 cm.

Beginning-of-December Lake Levels

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

levels at the beginning of December, with the exception of Lake Ontario. Lake Superior's beginning-of-December level was 22 cm above average, 28 cm above last year's level and the highest it has been this time of year since 1986. Higher beginning-of-December values have been recorded on Lake Superior 5 times since 1918. Lake Michigan-Huron's beginning-of-December level was 20 cm above average, 54 cm higher than last year and the highest beginning-of-December level since 1997. Higher beginning-of-December values have been recorded on Lake Michigan-Huron 33 times since 1918. Lake Erie was 19 cm above average at the beginning of December, and 22 cm higher than last year. Higher levels have been recorded on Lake Erie at the start of December 27 times since 1918. Lake Ontario's level began December 9 cm below average, and 12 cm lower than last year. Lower beginning-of-December levels have been recorded

on Lake Ontario 30 times since 1918.

Water Level Forecast

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 November 2014 edition of the Canadian Hydrographic Service's monthly water levels bulletin found at:

tides.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Derrick Beach (Editor)
Boundary Water Issues
National Hydrological Services
Meteorological Service Canada
Environment Canada
Burlington ON L7S 1A1
Tel.: 905-336-4714
Fax: 905-336-8901
Email: LEVELnews-infoNIVEAU@ec.gc.ca

Rob Caldwell
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence
Regulation Office
Meteorological Service Canada
Environment Canada
111 Water Street East
Cornwall ON K6H 6S2
Tel.: 613-938-5864

For information regarding reproduction rights, please contact Public Works and Government Services Canada at 613-996-6886 or at

droitdauteur.copyright@tpsgc-pwgsc.ca

Photos: © Environment Canada – 2011
© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of the Environment, 2014

ISSN 1925-5713

Aussi disponible en français

November Precipitation over the Great Lakes*

Great Lakes Basin	95%	Lake Erie	74%
Lake Superior	107%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan-Huron	101%	Lake Ontario	70%

November Outflows from the Great Lakes*

Lake Superior	136%	Lake Erie	110%
Lake Michigan-Huron	106%	Lake Ontario	106%

*As a percentage of the long-term November average.

NOTE: These figures are preliminary.