

LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Volume 17, Number 3

March 5, 2009

Lake Levels Rise on all Lakes except Lake Superior

Daily water levels increased on each of the Great Lakes except Lake Superior during February. Although levels fell on Lake Superior, it declined by just 1 cm, which is 6 cm less than its long-term average decline for the month.

Daily levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron rose 7 cm during February in response to above-average precipitation that its basin received during the month. On-average, levels on these lakes decline 1 cm during the month. As a result, levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron began March 8 cm closer to its long-term average than it was at the beginning of February. As indicated in the water level information table provided below, water levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron are

still below average, but much higher than they were at the same time last year.

Daily levels also rose on Lakes Erie and Ontario during February. Levels on lakes Erie and Ontario rose 19 and 8 cm, respectively, during the month. Daily levels on typically rise on both these lakes during February, but only by about 3 cm on-average.

Six-Month Forecast

For a complete range of probable water levels on each of the lakes over the next six months, please refer to the February 2009 edition of the Monthly Water Level Bulletin found at:

http://www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/tidal_e.html.

Please be Cautious

Although the shore ice that extends along much of the Great Lakes shoreline can be an awe-inspiring site, LEVELnews readers are reminded that walking out on this ice can pose a significant danger. Although the ice may look solid, and in fact may be fairly thick, large voids and eroded pockets may exist – particularly near the water's edge. Large areas may collapse under your weight or due to wave activity, causing you to fall into freezing cold water with a limited chance of rescue. Please resist the temptation to venture too far out on the icy shores of the Great Lakes.

Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	February 2009 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning of March 2009 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2007)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2007)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	18 cm below	7 cm above	15 cm below	11 cm above
Michigan-Huron	29 cm below	25 cm above	23 cm below	28 cm above
St. Clair	16 cm above	10 cm above	20 cm above	22 cm above
Erie	8 cm above	3 cm below	17 cm above	3 cm above
Ontario	23 cm above	7 cm above	24 cm above	6 cm above



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St. Lawrence Board Teleconference

The International St. Lawrence River Board of Control (the Board) invites you to participate in a public teleconference on March 17, 2009, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. EDT, to discuss the regulation of outflows and water levels in the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River System. You can participate either by phone or in person.

By phone, please call one of these toll-free numbers between 6:45 and 6:55 p.m.:

English: 1-866-200-5980
French: 1-866-200-5973

Please mention "St. Lawrence Control Board" to the operator.

You can join us for the teleconference in person at the local meeting site:

Room 118, Rich Hall,
State University of New York
Oswego, NY

R MORE INFORMATION:

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Editor, Chuck Southam

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February Precipitation over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term February average:

Great Lakes Basin	123%	Lake Erie	142%
Lake Superior	79%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	154%	Lake Ontario	77%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary

You will need to download the meeting materials from the Board's Web site:
www.islrbc.org. Any updates will also be posted by March 13 on the Web site.

Please note that there will be a brief discussion period from 6:45 to 7:00 p.m. at the Oswego site to determine local concerns. The Board presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be heard by those at the meeting site, as well as those listening in by phone. Following the presentation, comments and questions will be taken from callers and attendees.

Questions or comments about the teleconference should be directed to the Board Secretaries:

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***The Board looks forward to
your participation.***

February Outflows from the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term February average:

Lake Superior	82%	Lake Erie	108%
Lake Huron	94%	Lake Ontario	111%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary