

LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

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Water levels on Lake Superior increased 8 cm during August. Typically during this month, levels stay the same from the beginning to the end of the month on Lake Superior. Although the lake remains 10 cm below average, it began September at a level 5 cm higher than the same time last year and 44 cm higher than it was at the beginning of September 2007. At that time, Lake Superior was at the lowest level recorded on the lake at the beginning of September during the 1918-2008 period of record, which is used for water levels comparison purposes.

Daily water levels on Lakes Michigan-Huron fell 2 cm during August, but that is only

half of their average decline for the month. Although Lakes Michigan-Huron began September at a level 12 cm below average, compared to this same time last year and to the same time in 2007, water levels were 24 and 43 cm higher, respectively.

Daily water levels on Lakes Erie and Ontario fell 8 and 16 cm, respectively, during August. While Lake Erie fell by its long-term average amount for the month, Lake Ontario fell 2 cm more than average. However, water levels on both lakes continue to be above average for this time of year. As indicated in the water level information table below, while Lake Erie began September 15 cm higher than it was at

the same time last year, Lake Ontario was at the same level as it was one year ago.

Six-Month Forecast

For a complete range of probable water levels over the next six months on each of the Great Lakes and on Lake St. Clair, please refer to the August 2009 edition of the Monthly Water Level Bulletin found at:

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

Although water levels are likely to fall somewhere within the probable ranges provided, what actually happens will depend on the water supply conditions over the next few months. If you would like to track water
(continued on next page)

Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	August 2009 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-September 2009 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2008)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2008)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	15 cm below	3 cm below	10 cm below	5 cm above
Michigan-Huron	13 cm below	22 cm above	12 cm below	24 cm above
St. Clair	5 cm above	15 cm above	9 cm above	18 cm above
Erie	10 cm above	12 cm above	10 cm above	15 cm above
Ontario	15 cm above	3 cm below	13 cm above	Same



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levels on the lakes as they change from day to day, please visit the Water Levels and Related Great Lakes Data page on the Web at: www.on.ec.gc.ca/water/levels/intro.html. Once there, follow the links provided under the "Current and Recent Water Level Data" heading.

Meeting Reminder

As mentioned in last month's edition of LEVELnews, the International St. Lawrence River and International Niagara Boards of Control are holding public information events this month.

The International St. Lawrence River Board of Control will hold a public teleconference on September 15, 2009, from 6:45-8:30 p.m. EDT.

You can participate in the teleconference by calling one

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Editor, Chuck Southam

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August Precipitation over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term August average:

Great Lakes Basin	129%	Lake Erie	105%
Lake Superior	136%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	134%	Lake Ontario	117%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary

of the following toll-free numbers:

1-866-200-5980 (English)

1-866-200-5973 (French)

Please call between 6:45 and 6:55 p.m. Please mention "**St. Lawrence Control Board**" to the operator.

You can also join the teleconference in person at the **Royal Botanical Gardens Centre**, located at 680 Plains Road West, Burlington, Ontario, near the border of Burlington and Hamilton.

You will need to download the meeting materials from the Board's Web site at: www.islrbc.org. Any updates will be posted by September 11 on the Web site.

The International Niagara Board of Control will hold an open house on Wednesday, September 16, 2009. This session is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Burgoyne Room of the St. Catharines Museum at the Welland Canals Centre, 1932 Welland Canals Parkway (formerly Government Road), St. Catharines, Ontario.

August Outflows from the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term August average:

Lake Superior	77%	Lake Erie	104%
Lake Huron	96%	Lake Ontario	111%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary