



LEVELnews

Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Dry Conditions Prevail in July

Lake Superior saw wet water supply conditions during July, but the much higher than average outflow resulted in the combined effect of its level rising slightly less than the monthly average, regardless of the wet conditions. The dry trend continued for all the other lakes with their levels falling at greater rates than average through July. Despite this, and due to the wet conditions experienced previously, the beginning-of-August levels for Lakes Superior and Michigan–Huron continue to be above

those of last year.

- The monthly mean water level of Lake Superior was 18 cm above its period-of-record (1918–2015) average in July and 1 cm higher than July 2015.
- Lake Michigan–Huron’s mean level in July was 27 cm above average and 11 cm higher than last year’s July level.
- Lake Erie’s mean monthly level was 22 cm above average but 20 cm lower than July 2015.

- Lake Ontario was 5 cm below its July average and 26 cm lower than the same time last year.
- Montreal Harbour levels fell further below average during July with outflow from Lake Ontario and the Ottawa River continuing to decline due to hot, dry conditions.

The wet conditions in Lake Superior were offset by the above average outflow causing the lake to rise 4 cm over the month of July, slightly less than

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	July 2016 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning-of-August 2016 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918–2015)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918–2015)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	18 cm above	1 cm above	17 cm above	1 cm above
Michigan–Huron	27 cm above	11 cm above	27 cm above	11 cm above
St. Clair	30 cm above	7 cm below	35 cm above	same
Erie	22 cm above	20 cm below	23 cm above	18 cm below
Ontario	5 cm below	26 cm below	8 cm below	29 cm below

its average (1918–2015) rise of 5 cm. Dry conditions in Lake Michigan–Huron resulted in its level falling 1 cm in July, when on average it remains stable. The dry conditions also impacted Lake Erie’s level which fell 6 cm in July when on average it falls 5 cm. Lake Ontario fell 11 cm in July, which was more than the average 8 cm decline for the month due to the dry conditions.

Beginning-of-August Lake Levels

At the beginning of August, all of the lakes were at least 50 cm above their chart datum level (for more

information on chart datum see the [July 2016 edition of LEVELnews](#)). Lake Superior’s beginning-of-August level was 17 cm above average (1918–2015), 1 cm above last year’s and the highest it has been since 1996. Lake Michigan–Huron’s beginning-of-August level was 27 cm above average, 11 cm higher than last year and the highest it has been since 1997. Lake Erie was 23 cm above average at the beginning of August, but 18 cm lower than the same time last year. Lake Ontario’s level at the start of August was 8 cm below average and 29 cm below this time last year, but has been this low as recently as 2012.

Summer Level Outlook

Relative to their beginning-of-month levels, and assuming average water supply conditions, Lake Superior is expected to remain stable in August, while the other lakes are expected to continue their late summer seasonal

decline. For a graphical representation of recent and forecasted water levels on the Great Lakes, refer to the [Canadian Hydrographic Service’s monthly water levels bulletin](#) at: tides-marees.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html.

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July Precipitation over the Great Lakes*			
Great Lakes Basin	91%	Lake Erie	76%
Lake Superior	99%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lake Michigan–Huron	99%	Lake Ontario	62%
July Outflows from the Great Lakes*			
Lake Superior	127%	Lake Erie	109%
Lake Michigan–Huron	107%	Lake Ontario	100%

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