

LEVEL *news*

Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels



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Great Lakes Remain Virtually Ice-Free **Five-city Teleconference Planned**

Except for some ice cover in protected bays and shallow inlets, the Great Lakes remained ice-free at the beginning of March. The open-water conditions being experienced have allowed the evaporation of water from the lakes to continue and produced some lake-effect snowstorms in traditional snowbelt areas. This year's ice season on International Section of the St. Lawrence River is the shortest one experienced since record keeping began in 1960. If ice-free conditions continue on Lake Erie, removal of the Lake Erie - Niagara River Ice Boom is expected to take place sometime during March.

The monthly mean water levels of Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron declined more than usual from January to February falling 9 and 4 cm, respectively. These lakes remain below average and below their respective chart datum levels, but 15 to 20 cm higher than they were at the same time last year. At

the beginning of March, Lake Superior was 15 cm below average. Lakes Michigan-Huron began the month 37 cm below average.

Responding to rainfall and associated runoff, monthly mean water levels on Lakes St. Clair and Erie increased instead of declining from January to February and Lake Ontario levels increased more than they usually do. Monthly mean water levels on Lake St. Clair, Erie and Ontario rose 8, 12 and 12 cm, respectively, from January to February. Lake St. Clair began March about 6 cm below average. Lake Erie began the month just 1 cm below average, whereas Lake Ontario was 13 cm above average. At the beginning of March, Lakes St. Clair, Erie

and Ontario were 3, 10 and 14 cm higher than they were one year ago, respectively.

Montréal Harbour's monthly mean water level was 6.05 m in February, 101 cm below its period-of-record average level for the month, but 50 cm above its chart datum level.

The water level of Lake Superior is expected to remain stable or decline slightly during March. Water levels on the rest of the Great Lakes are expected to increase slightly. Please refer to the current Monthly Water Levels Bulletin for the most recent six-month water level forecast on each lake.

You're invited to attend a multi-city teleconference

The International St. Lawrence River Board of Control invites you to participate in a multi-city teleconference on the evening of **March 21, 2002**. The purpose is to increase public input about local conditions and impacts of concern related to water levels and flows in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. You may participate in the teleconference from one of five local meeting sites. **(Item continued on next page: Meeting Sites)**

Meeting Sites

(continued from page 1)

Montréal, Quebec

Centre Communautaire
Sarto-Desnoyers,
1335 avenue Bord-du-lac,
Dorval, Quebec

Cornwall, Ontario

Best Western Parkway Inn,
1515 Vincent Massey Drive

Toronto, Ontario

Black Creek Pioneer Village,
1000 Murray Ross Parkway
(South side of Steeles Ave.)

Alexandria Bay, New York

Riveredge Resort Hotel,
17 Holland Street

Rochester, New York

Rochester Institute of
Technology,
College of Engineering,
Gleason Building (09),
Xerox Auditorium,
Room 09-2580,
Jefferson Road at
East River Road,
Henrietta, NY

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Ralph Moulton, Manager
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Water
Level Information Office
P.O. Box 5050
Burlington, ON L7R 4A6
Tel. (905) 336-4580
FAX: (905) 336-8901
E-mail: water.levels@ec.gc.ca
<http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/glimr/>

Peter Yee
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence
Regulation Office
111 Water Street East
Cornwall, ON K6H 6S2
Tel. (613) 938-5725
E-mail: peter_yee@pch.gc.ca

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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	128%	Lake Erie	137%
Lake Superior	133%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	140%	Lake Ontario	75%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary

Meeting Format

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

A Board member or representative will facilitate each local meeting and provide information on current conditions and the water levels outlook. Public participants will determine the information to be conveyed on the conference call.

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The teleconference will link the five local meetings. The teleconference chair will request one specific comment from each site, rotating among and returning to sites in order to elicit as much information as possible about local conditions and impacts of concern.

8:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Participants will be asked to evaluate the teleconference. Board members or staff will remain available for wrap-up.

RSVP

In order to facilitate logistical arrangements, please RSVP to one of the secretaries below. Please indicate which local meeting you plan to attend. Those who have RSVP'd will be notified in advance if the location changes. Updates will also be posted at www.islrbc.org.

Reg Golding, Secretary,
Canadian Section
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
Tel.: (613) 990-5617
GoldingR@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

John Kangas, Secretary,
United States Section
1111 North Canal Street
Chicago, Illinois 60606-7205
Tel.: (312) 353-4333
john.w.kangas@usace.army.mil

February Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term February average:

Lake Superior	98%	Lake Erie	106%
Lake Huron	101%	Lake Ontario	92%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary