

LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Volume 11, Number 9

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Important News Regarding the Distribution of the Monthly Water Level Bulletin and LEVELnews by Mail

For the past 30 years, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has been preparing and distributing the Monthly Bulletin "Water Levels, Great Lakes and Montreal Harbour." This publication has been mailed to the public free of charge. Over the past 10 years, Environment Canada has prepared LEVELnews each month for distribution with the Bulletin, courtesy of DFO.

If you receive the Monthly Water Level Bulletin and LEVELnews in the mail each month, this month's envelope includes an important notice

regarding the distribution of these two publications.

In order to reduce operating costs, DFO is considering cancelling printing and mailing copies of the Monthly Water Level Bulletin. The last issue that is proposed to be mailed out will be the September 2003 issue that will be sent out in October 2003. The Bulletin will continue to be available on the World Wide Web at: http://chswwww.bur.dfo.ca/danp/wlgraphs_e.html

Therefore, LEVELnews, which is normally included with the Bulletin, would no

longer be mailed to subscribers. LEVELnews will also continue to be available on the Web at: <http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/water/level-news/>

If you have concerns about this cost reduction measure, you are invited to contact DFO by mail at:

Monthly Bulletin of Water Levels
Canadian Hydrographic Service
867 Lakeshore Rd
Burlington, ON L7R 4A6

or by telephoning:
1 877 247-5465.

Before doing so, however, we would like to encourage you
(continued on next page)

Great Lakes Water Level Information

Lake	August 2003 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning of September 2003 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2002)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2002)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	27 cm below	11 cm below	28 cm below	11 cm below
Michigan-Huron	57 cm below	29 cm below	58 cm below	31 cm below
St. Clair	24 cm below	13 cm below	21 cm below	14 cm below
Erie	7 cm below	2 cm above	9 cm below	2 cm above
Ontario	11 cm above	8 cm above	6 cm above	11 cm above



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to view both publications on the Web at the addresses provided earlier. Both publications are available on the Web about two weeks before they arrive by mail. If you don't have access to the Web at home, it may be available at your local public library.

The electronic version of *LEVELnews* is posted on the Web around the 8th or 9th of each month. You can read the *LEVELnews* text directly on your computer's screen or you can open, view and print an Adobe Portable Document Format (or PDF) version. When printed, the PDF version has virtually the same look and feel as the one currently distributed by mail.

Once you've read *LEVELnews*, be sure to review the latest Monthly Water Level Bulletin (the

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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	86%	Lake Erie	74%
Lake Superior	101%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	83%	Lake Ontario	82%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary

Bulletin is actually available on the Web a few days earlier than *LEVELnews*, as it is usually posted by the 3rd or 4th of the month).

If you find the Web versions of the publications meet your needs, please let DFO know. By voluntarily moving to the Web, you will help reduce costs and eliminate waste, thus helping the environment, regardless of DFO's final decision regarding the end of distribution for the Monthly Bulletin and *LEVELnews* by mail.

Blackout Response

In response to the mid-August energy emergency, international Great Lakes water management at Niagara and on the St. Lawrence River acted to increase hydroelectric power production.

On the Niagara, the flow over Niagara Falls was reduced at various times to allow greater flow to maximize power generation at Queenston, ON

and Lewiston, NY. This redistribution of flow around the Falls did not affect the total flow out of Lake Erie and as such had no effect on water levels on the lake.

The outflow from Lake Ontario was increased temporarily by passing more water through the hydroelectric dam at Cornwall/Massena on the St. Lawrence River. This over-discharge used 1.5 cm of the water previously stored on Lake Ontario by the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control.

August Outflows from the Great Lakes As a percentage of the long-term August average:

Lake Superior	89%	Lake Erie	96%
Lake Huron	82%	Lake Ontario	103%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary