

LEVEL *news*

Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels



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Lake Superior Begins November Above Average

Periods of heavy rainfall helped Lake Superior's beginning-of-month water level climb above average for the first time since May 1998.

One month ago it appeared that water levels on Lake Superior had peaked for the year around mid-September and were on their way down. However, during October there were five 1- or 2-day periods of heavy rainfall that temporarily interrupted the declining trend and caused daily levels to increase from 2 to 5 cm each time. In the end, daily water levels on the lake increased 7 cm during the month and at the beginning of November

Lake Superior's water level was 1 cm **above** average. Water levels on Lake Superior are expected to begin to decline again during November.

Study Board submits its Year Three Report

The International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study Board has submitted its Year Three Report to the International Joint Commission and released it to the public along with the Year Two and Three Report of the Public Interest Advisory Group. The Study Board report addresses issues related to environmental factors, recreational boating

and tourism, coastal erosion and flooding, commercial navigation, water uses, and power generation. It also includes information on the progress of the Study and data collected since December 2000. The Year Three Report and all other reports of the Study are available on the Study website at: www.losl.org.

Wind Effects

Autumn often brings storms packing high winds to the Great Lakes region. When strong, sustained winds prevail in one direction over a lake, water levels can rise (set-up) or fall (set-down) **(continued on next page)**

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	October 2004 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning of November 2004 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2003)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2003)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	6 cm below	21 cm above	1 cm above	26 cm above
Michigan-Huron	33 cm below	28 cm above	29 cm below	30 cm above
St. Clair	11 cm below	20 cm above	9 cm below	20 cm above
Erie	2 cm above	15 cm above	2 cm above	14 cm above
Ontario	9 cm above	7 cm above	same	6 cm below



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significantly in a short period of time.

The impact of high winds on Lake Erie water levels can be seen in the attached plots showing the hourly water heights (in metres above Chart Datum) recorded last month at Port Colborne and Bar Point. During October, two significant wind events caused water levels to increase rapidly at Port Colborne, which is located at the eastern end of the lake. At the same times, water levels fell sharply at Bar Point located at the western end of the lake.

Hourly data at each of the Great Lakes water level gauging stations operated by the Canadian Hydrographic Service can be found at their website:

http://chswwww.bur.dfo.ca/danp/tidal_e.html

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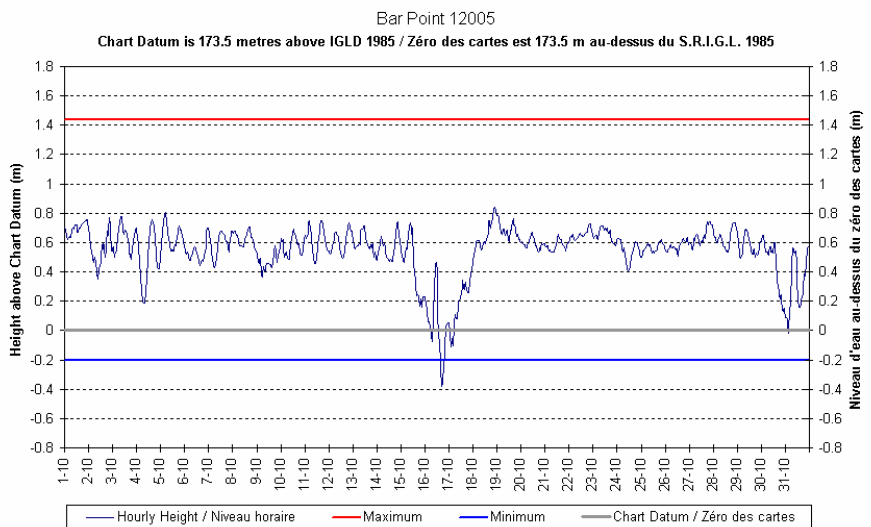
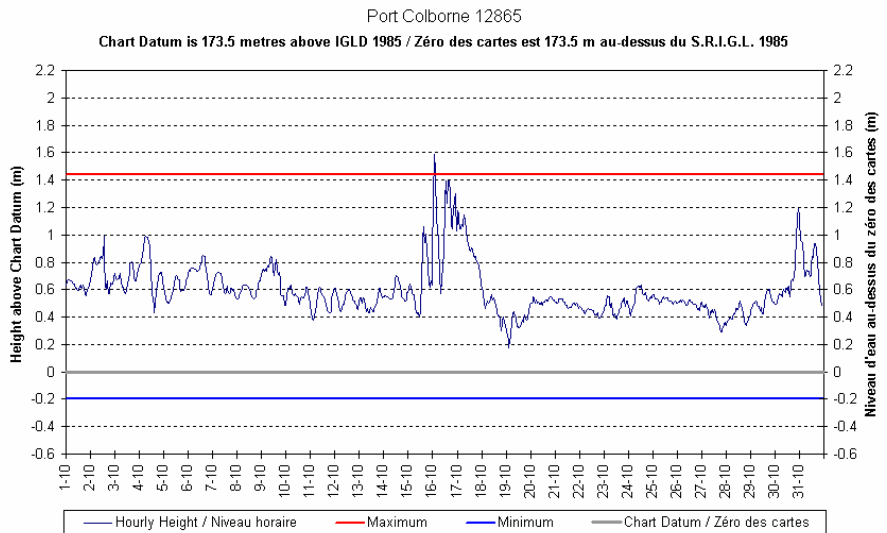
Editor, Chuck Southam

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October Precipitation over the Great Lakes
As a percentage of the long-term October average:

Great Lakes Basin	122%	Lake Erie	87%
Lake Superior	140%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	134%	Lake Ontario	73%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary



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

Lake Superior	104%	Lake Erie	99%
Lake Huron	90%	Lake Ontario	116%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary