



## ***Water Levels Decline on All Lakes*** **Fall Storm Season Begins**

Monthly average water levels on all of the Great Lakes declined from August to September. The levels of all lakes are expected to continue to decline throughout the fall and winter.

The dry conditions over the Lake Superior basin that led to the lake's early peak in levels this year continued during September. As a result, the monthly average water level of Lake Superior

declined by 3 cm from August to September. Lake Superior began October about 34 cm below its long-term average which is 2 cm above of the lake's Chart Datum.

The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron declined by a near-average amount from August to September, falling about 4 cm. At the beginning of October, Lakes Michigan-Huron were 47 cm below their long-term average, 17 cm below levels recorded

one year ago and 5 cm above Chart Datum. Lakes Michigan-Huron remain about 33 cm above their period-of-record low level recorded in 1964.

Both Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are likely to fall below their respective Chart Datum levels during October. Boaters on these lakes and throughout the entire system should exercise caution especially during **(continued on next page)**

### **Stormy Season Begins**

Fall often brings storms packing high winds to the Great Lakes region. When strong winds continue to blow over a lake in one direction for a number of hours, they produce a surface tilt referred to as 'wind set-up'. At the eastern end of Lake Erie, for example, this wind set-up can cause the water level to rise over two metres on a temporary basis in less than a day. While the continuing below-average water level conditions on Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and St. Clair will help reduce the risk of serious flood and erosion damage to shore property due to storms on the upper lakes, the risks are slightly higher on Lakes Erie and Ontario where near-average levels prevail.

No matter what the risk of shore property damage is, readers are reminded to exercise caution when near the water's edge during a storm. Over the years, many people standing too close to the water's edge during a storm event have been seriously injured, even killed, when swept into the lake by a storm-generated wave.



periods of strong winds when localized water levels can rise or fall significantly in a very short period of time.

Water levels on Lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario all declined by more than average from August to September, falling 10, 13 and 25 cm, respectively. Lake St. Clair began October about 18 cm below its long-term average level, just slightly lower than it was at the same time last year. Lake Erie began October 8 cm below average, but was up 4 cm from last year's level. As indicated, Lake Ontario levels declined significantly from August to September. As a result, the lake began October just 2 cm above average.

### Last Edition for

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## September Precipitation Over Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Great Lakes Basin	105%	Lake Erie	148%
Lake Superior	64%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	118%	Lake Ontario	105%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary

### Seasonal Subscribers

For those of you who are on our mailing list for the Water Level Bulletin and LEVELnews for the six months from spring to fall only, this is the last edition you will receive this year. You will automatically start receiving both publications again in May 2001. If you would like to check water level conditions between now and then, please feel free to call us at one of the telephone numbers provided in the *For More Information* box, or contact the Canadian Hydrographic Service at the telephone number shown on the Bulletin. If you prefer, you can access water level and related information through the *OUR GREAT LAKES* site at:

<http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/glimr/intro-e.html>

### No Longer Need Water

### Level Information Year-round?

If you are on the year-round subscription mailing list, but have found that you only read the Water Level Bulletin and LEVELnews from spring to fall, please consider switching to a seasonal subscription. Moving to the seasonal mailing list will help us reduce costs and eliminate waste. If you would like to switch, just let us know.

## September Outflows From Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Lake Superior	81%	Lake Erie	95%
Lake Huron	84%	Lake Ontario	106%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary