

# LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Volume 9, Number 10

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## ***Water Levels Decline on All Lakes Despite Rainfall***

### **IJC Names Study Team**

Periods of moderate to heavy rainfall were experienced over many areas of the Great Lakes basin during the month of September. Although daily levels on Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and St. Clair responded to the rainfall, monthly mean water levels on all of the Great Lakes declined from August to September. Water levels are expected to continue to decline throughout the fall and winter.

The level of Lake Superior declined by a near-average amount from August to September, falling about 2 cm. Lake Superior began October about 24 cm below its long-term average, but 9 cm above its level at the same time last year.

The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron declined by about half its average amount from August to September, falling about 2 cm. At the beginning of October, Lakes Michigan-Huron were 50 cm below their long-term average, 3 cm below levels recorded one year ago and just 1 cm above Chart Datum.

Water levels on Lakes St. Clair and Erie declined by near-average amounts from August to September, falling 6 cm and 11 cm, respectively. Lake Ontario's level fell slightly more than average declining 19 cm. At the beginning of October, Lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario were 30, 30 and 12 cm below average. All

three lakes began October several centimetres lower than they were at the same time last year.

Montréal Harbour's monthly mean water level was 5.34 m in September. This was 1.01 m below the 1967-2000 average value for the month of September and it is a new record low for the month.

### **Three Public Meetings Planned**

For the fall of 2001, members of the Public Interest Advisory Group, in conjunction with the International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study Board and other organizations, have organized the following three public **(continued on next page)**

### **Study Team Named**

The International Joint Commission (IJC) has appointed a six-member Upper Great Lakes Plan of Study Team to prepare a plan for reviewing the regulation of the flow of water out of Lake Superior. The Plan of Study Team was appointed after the IJC received public comment on a draft directive for the effort at a series of meetings this past summer.

The Plan of Study Team will prepare a draft Plan of Study by October 18, 2001. Following public consultation on the draft, the team intends to provide a final Plan of Study to the IJC by January 11, 2002. The actual review of regulation is contingent upon funds being appropriated in the United States and Canada for the studies identified in the Plan of Study.



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meetings in the Lake Ontario  
- St. Lawrence River area.

- **October 11th, 2001**  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Apollo Middle School  
750 Maiden Lane  
Rochester, NY  
USA
- **October 18th, 2001**  
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
Delta Centre-Ville  
777 University Street  
Montréal, QC  
Canada
- **November 8th, 2001**  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Royal Botanical Gardens  
680 Plains Road West  
Burlington, ON  
Canada

For more information, please  
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#### September Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Great Lakes Basin	116%	Lake Erie	125%
Lake Superior	88%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	129%	Lake Ontario	115%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary

#### Last Edition for 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 2002. If you  
would like to check water  
level conditions between now  
and then, please feel free to  
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numbers provided in the  
*For More Information* box,  
or contact the Canadian  
Hydrographic Service at the  
telephone number shown on  
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you can access water level  
and related information  
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LAKES* site at:

[www.on.ec.gc.ca/glimr/](http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/glimr/)

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seasonal mailing list will help  
us reduce costs and eliminate  
waste. If you would like to  
switch, just let us know.

#### September Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Lake Superior	94%	Lake Erie	87%
Lake Huron	87%	Lake Ontario	91%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary