

LEVEL *news*



Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Levels

Volume 14, Number 12

December 6, 2006

Low Water Supply Conditions Persist on Lake Superior

The water supply to the Lake Superior basin was again below average in November. This was the 10th consecutive month of below-average supplies to that lake. In contrast, the supplies to the basins of lakes Michigan-Huron, Erie and Ontario were all above average for the month.

Even with the dry conditions in the Lake Superior basin, its level only declined by one centimetre more than usual during the month, due to the much lower-than-average outflow from the lake. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron did not decline as much as usual in November. The much greater-than-average supply to

the Lake Erie basin more than offset the less-than-average inflow it received from the upper lakes. This resulted in the total supply to the Lake Erie basin being above average and caused the lake level to rise by one centimetre, rather than decline by four centimetres as it has on average during November. The level for Lake Ontario remained about the same in November, whereas on average it falls by three centimetres in November.

As indicated in the water level information table provided below, the levels of lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and St. Clair remain below their respective long-term (1918-

2005) averages for this time of year. The last time Lake Superior was this low at this time of year was in 1925. The levels of lakes Erie and Ontario are above average for the beginning of December. Only Lake Superior's level is lower than it was a year ago.

It should also be noted that the daily water levels on all lakes except Lake Superior increased a couple of centimetres during the first few days of December in response to the rain that fell throughout the Great Lakes basin during the last few days of November. Although small, these increases did help improve conditions a bit on Lakes **(continued on next page)**

Great Lakes Water Level Information				
Lake	November 2006 Monthly Mean Level		Beginning of December 2006 Level	
	Compared to Monthly Average (1918-2005)	Compared to One Year Ago	Compared to Beginning-of-Month Average (1918-2005)	Compared to One Year Ago
Superior	44 cm below	31 cm below	44 cm below	32 cm below
Michigan-Huron	47 cm below	1 cm above	42 cm below	4 cm above
St. Clair	6 cm below	20 cm above	2 cm below	20 cm above
Erie	12 cm above	22 cm above	15 cm above	24 cm above
Ontario	25 cm above	21 cm above	27 cm above	20 cm above

Michigan-Huron when compared to December's opening values (provided in the water level information table). Water levels are, however, still expected to continue to decline during December and over the next few months.

Weatheradio Canada

Did you know that Environment Canada has a radio network? Weatheradio Canada is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting weather and environmental information 24 hours a day in both official languages directly from Environment Canada's storm prediction centres.

From its inception in 1977, the network has expanded to 180 sites across the country, transmitting continuous weather information on seven dedicated frequencies on the

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/greatlakes/>

David Fay
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence
Regulation Office
111 Water Street East
Cornwall, ON K6H 6S2
Tel. (613) 938-5725

LEVELnews/Info-NIVEAU is a publication of Boundary Waters Issues Unit, Environment Canada-Ontario. Contents may be reproduced without permission, but credit would be appreciated. Comments and inquiries are welcome.

Editor, Chuck Southam

Aussi disponible en français

November Precipitation over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term November average:

Great Lakes Basin	78%	Lake Erie	104%
Lake Superior	49%	(including Lake St. Clair)	
Lakes Michigan-Huron	84%	Lake Ontario	84%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary

VHF public service band. Now, fully 92% of Canadians can access a Weatheradio signal, and recent technological advances have made it possible for listeners to program radio receivers to deliver only certain types of warnings for their specific locations.

For complete information on Weatheradio Canada, please visit Environment Canada's weather Web site at http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/canada_e.html and click on the link regarding the radio network, located immediately below the map of Canada.

Season's Greetings

Everyone involved in the preparation and distribution of LEVELnews would like to wish you a happy holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year.

November Outflows from the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term November average:

Lake Superior	70%	Lake Erie	102%
Lake Huron	85%	Lake Ontario	120%

NOTE: These figures are preliminary