

Lake Erie - Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River

Daily Briefing* – 18 May 2019

***** Lake Ontario continues to rise as high inflows and reduced outflows continue. The latest forecast (produced Thursday, 16 May) suggests a 50% chance that within two weeks levels will reach or exceed the highs of 2017.**

***** Lake Erie water levels and outflows into Lake Ontario remain at record-highs**

***** St. Lawrence River levels around Montreal remain near or above record-highs for this time of year.**

***** Ottawa River flows are continuing to slowly decline, outflows from Lake Ontario are being increased as they do.**

***** Flooding continues in the lower St. Lawrence River, including some areas around Lake St. Louis and Montreal; flooding and other high water impacts continue to be reported around Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the upper St. Lawrence during periods of active weather.**

- **Lake Erie's level** was 175.06 m (574.34 ft) yesterday. This is 75 cm (29.5 in.) above average, and 12 cm (4.7 in.) above the record-high for this time of year (the 3rd quarter-month of May, set in 1986).
- **Lake Ontario's level** was 75.74 m (248.49 ft) yesterday. This is 71 cm (28.0 in.) above average, 12 cm (4.7 in.) below the level recorded on this same date in 2017 and 14 cm (5.5 in.) below the highest level recorded on May 25th, 2017.
- **Lake Ontario's outflow** was increased to 7600 m³/s (268,400 cfs) yesterday afternoon. Further increases will continue as rapidly as conditions allow and according to Plan 2014's maximum "F-limit", which balances high levels upstream on Lake Ontario and the upper St. Lawrence, with those downstream on Lake St. Louis and the lower St. Lawrence.
- **Lake St. Lawrence's level** was 73.78 m (242.06 ft) yesterday, which is 11 cm (4.3 in.) above average.
- **Lake St. Louis' level** was an average of 22.48 m (73.75 ft) yesterday and will continue to be maintained near 22.48 m (73.75 ft) by adjusting outflows according to the Plan 2014 F-limit.

* This product is primarily for internal use by water managers and responsible authorities along the shorelines of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. This information is available to draw from and to support your own communications locally, but please note that this product is not for direct public distribution. See also pg. 21.

Recent Conditions (Yesterday)[†]

Water Levels[‡]

Location	Daily Mean Water Level (m) 17-May-19	Compared to: (Historical quarter-monthly statistics ^{**})				Most recent year that WLs were:	
		Average	Last Year	Record High (Year)	Record Low (Year)		
Lake Erie	175.06 m	+75 cm	+16 cm	+12 cm (1986)	+162 cm (1934)	RECORD	2018
Lake Ontario	75.74 m	+71 cm	+45 cm	-11 cm (2017)	+160 cm (1935)	2017	2018
Lake St. Lawrence	73.78 m	+11 cm	+31 cm	-26 cm (1973)	+80 cm (1987)	2015	2018
Lake St. Louis @ Pte Claire	22.48 m	+91 cm	+39 cm	-21 cm (1974)	+196 cm (1964)	2017	2018
Montreal @ Jetty #1	8.71 m	+161 cm	+91 cm	-41 cm (1974)	+337 cm (2010)	1974	2018

^{**}Stats periods of record: Lake Erie/Lake Ontario: 1918-2018; St. Lawrence River: 1960-2018; Montreal: 1967-2018

Outflows

Location	Daily Mean Flow (m ³ /s) 17-May-19	Compared to: (Historical quarter-monthly statistics ^{**})			
		Average	Last Year	Record High (Year)	Record Low (Year)
Lake Erie	8190	+1860	+590	+320 (1974)	+3570 (1934)
Lake Ontario	7490	+90	-1100	-2530 (1993)	+2560 (1965)
Ottawa River @ Carillon	8080	+5160	+3580	+260 (1974)	+7100 (2010)
Lake St. Louis @ LaSalle	12500	+3060	+1300	-900 (1974)	+6200 (1964)

^{**}Stats periods of record: Lake Erie/Lake Ontario: 1900-2018; Ottawa River: 1963-2018; Lake St. Louis: 1960-2018.

[†] All data in this document is considered “provisional”. Historical statistics and comparisons to previous years are for reference purposes only, based on quarter-monthly data and do not reflect fluctuations seen in daily data.

[‡] Water levels are referenced to International Great Lakes (Vertical) Datum 1985 (IGLD85). Note that local communities and government agencies may use other datums such as NAVD88, CGVD28 or CGG2013 – particularly when determining flood risk. Measured and forecast water levels in this report can also be subject to a high degree of uncertainty and, importantly, do not account for local variations due to wind and wave effects. For info on local conditions, please refer to the responsible authorities in your area, a short list is provided on pg. 20.

Notes on Intended Audiences and Uses

This product is primarily for internal use by water managers and responsible authorities along the shorelines of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. It provides a summary of current and expected water level conditions and operations related to the regulation of Lake Ontario outflows through the St. Lawrence River. This information is available to draw from and to support your own communications locally, but please note that this product is not for direct public distribution. Public information is available online through the ILOSLRB [website](#) and on [Facebook](#):

- Current Conditions: www.ijc.org/en/loslrb/watershed/current-conditions
- Forecasts: www.ijc.org/en/loslrb/watershed/forecasts

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***** Emergency response is typically provided through your local municipality *****

Ontario

- MNRF Flood Forecasting & Warning: www.ontario.ca/law-and-safety/flood-forecasting-and-warning-program
- Ottawa River Regulation & Planning Board: www.ottawariver.ca/
- Conservation Authorities:

Lake Erie	Lake Ontario/Upper St. Lawrence River
Niagara Peninsula: www.npca.ca	Niagara Peninsula: www.npca.ca
Grand River: www.grandriver.ca	Hamilton: www.conservationhamilton.ca
Long Point: www.lprca.on.ca	Halton: www.conservationhalton.ca
Kettle Creek: www.kettlecreekconservation.on.ca	Credit Valley: www.creditvalleyca.ca
Catfish Creek: www.catfishcreek.ca	Toronto and Region: www.trca.ca
Lower Thames: www.catfishcreek.ca	Central Lake Ontario: www.cloca.ca
Essex Region: www.essexregionconservation.ca	Ganaraska Region: www.grca.on.ca
	Lower Trent: www.ltc.on.ca
	Quinte: www.quinteconservation.ca
	Cataraqui Region: www.crca.ca
	South Nation: www.nation.on.ca
	Raisin Region: www.rrca.on.ca

Quebec

- Sécurité publique: <https://geoegl.msp.gouv.qc.ca/adnv2/>
- Commission de planification de la régularisation de la rivière des Outaouais: www.rivieredesoutaouais.ca/
- Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques: <https://www.cehq.gouv.qc.ca/prevision/previsions.asp?secteur=Archipel>

New York State

- National Weather Service: <https://www.weather.gov/buf/>
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/>
- US Army Corps of Engineers:
 - o Detroit District: <https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Information>
 - o Buffalo District: <https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Lake-Ontario-High-Water/>