

July 13, 2011

## Control Board returns to regulation plan

The International St. Lawrence River Board of Control (Board) recently reviewed conditions in the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River system. The Board has decided for the next several weeks to release outflows specified by the regulation plan. However, the Board has agreed to limit the outflow to the capacity of the hydropower facilities, which will be 8300 m<sup>3</sup>/s (293,000 cfs) from July 10 to 22 due to required maintenance. The Board may also adjust outflows for downstream conditions and to meet critical navigation and other needs..

During much of June, and into July, outflows were greater than those specified by the regulation plan in order to remove all the water that was previously retained on Lake Ontario to prevent flooding in the Montreal area. The June monthly mean level of Lake Ontario was 75.33 m (247.15 ft.), 4 cm (1½ inches) below the upper limit specified in the International Joint Commission's Orders of Approval. As of July 11, the daily level of Lake Ontario is 75.17 m (246.62 ft) a decline of 21 cm (8½ inches) since the June 6 daily peak for this year. The supply of water received by Lake Ontario in June continued to be above average, although it was much less than in May. Lake Ontario is 15 cm (6 in) above its long-term average for this time of year and 21 cm (8½ in) above its level a year ago. Lake Ontario levels are expected to continue to follow the seasonal summer decline. Water levels on Lake St. Lawrence have been below average during the last month, and are currently 11 cm (4½ in) below average for this time of year. Levels of the St. Lawrence River near Montreal have fallen since May. The level at the Port of Montreal on July 11 was 6.51 m (21.36 ft) which is 7 cm (3 in) above the long term average for this time of the year.

The Board, in conjunction with its staff, is monitoring the situation carefully and is prepared to take further action as required.

Water levels on both Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River can vary considerably from year to year. The Board urges everyone to be prepared to live within the range of levels specified in the Orders of Approval. For Lake Ontario, the upper limit for monthly mean levels is 75.37 m (247.3 ft) and the lower limit (from April to December) is 74.15 m (243.3 ft), a range of 1.22 m (4 ft). Levels on the river tend to vary more widely.

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*The International St. Lawrence River Board of Control was established by the International Joint Commission in its 1952 order of approval. The Board's main duty is to ensure that outflows from Lake Ontario meet the requirements of the IJC order; it also develops regulation plans and conducts special studies requested by the IJC. For more information, visit [http://ijc.org/conseil\\_board/islrbc/en/main\\_accueil.htm](http://ijc.org/conseil_board/islrbc/en/main_accueil.htm). To receive a weekly e-mail about water levels and flows in the Lake Ontario–St. Lawrence River system, please send a blank e-mail message to [stlaw-L-subscribe@cciw.ca](mailto:stlaw-L-subscribe@cciw.ca), with the word 'subscribe' in the title and body of your message.*