



Long Point Region Conservation Authority

MEDIA RELEASE

October 8, 2019

Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Outlook – Lake Erie

LPRCA adjusts Lake Erie Flood Watch to a Flood Outlook

Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) is issuing a **Flood Outlook** for all areas along the Lake Erie shoreline to bring attention to Lake Erie's high static water levels and the possibility of flooding during the fall and winter months.

The National Hydrological Services Great Lakes Water Levels Information Memorandum from October 3, 2019 reports that:

- Lake Erie's September monthly mean water levels were 69 cm above average, a new record high for the month.
- Lake Erie fell 12 cm last month, more than its average September decline of 9 cm.
- At the beginning of October, Lake Erie's level was 69 cm above average, 20 cm higher than last year and 7 cm below the record high beginning-of-October level set in 1986.

In the Long Point Region watershed, Lake Erie's current static water level (calm) is 174.78 m. While water supplies in the Great Lakes were higher than average over the last three months, they were lower than levels measured in the previous three-month period. Assuming average water supply conditions, Lake Erie's water level is expected to continue dropping in October.

With above-average water levels and the possibility of strong southwest winds typical of the fall and winter months, there is an increased risk of both wave-driven erosion along the shoreline and flooding from lake surges and wave uprush.

Community flood coordinators and the public are advised to monitor weather conditions, especially strong Southwest winds. People are urged to use caution and stay away from the Lake Erie shoreline during times of strong wave action and elevated water levels.

LPRCA staff will continue to monitor Lake Erie conditions and will provide updates as necessary.

This **Flood Outlook** is in effect until **Further Notice**.

Contact Matt Churly at 519-842-4242 ext. 226 for more information.

Water Safety Statement – Flood Outlook

Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, ice jams, a rise in Lake Erie, lakeshore flooding or erosion.



Comment

Matt Churly, Water Resources EIT

“While water levels in Lake Erie are dropping and this Flood Outlook is stepping down a level from May’s Flood Watch notice, water levels remain above average and flooding is a risk. Fall and winter weather can include strong southwestern winds that could lead to lake surges and wave uprush causing floods, as well as waves causing erosion along the shoreline.

LPRCA will continue to monitor Lake Erie and will provide updates as necessary. As always, LPRCA encourages the public to be careful around the Lake Erie shoreline, especially when the water is high and there is strong wave action.”

Attachments

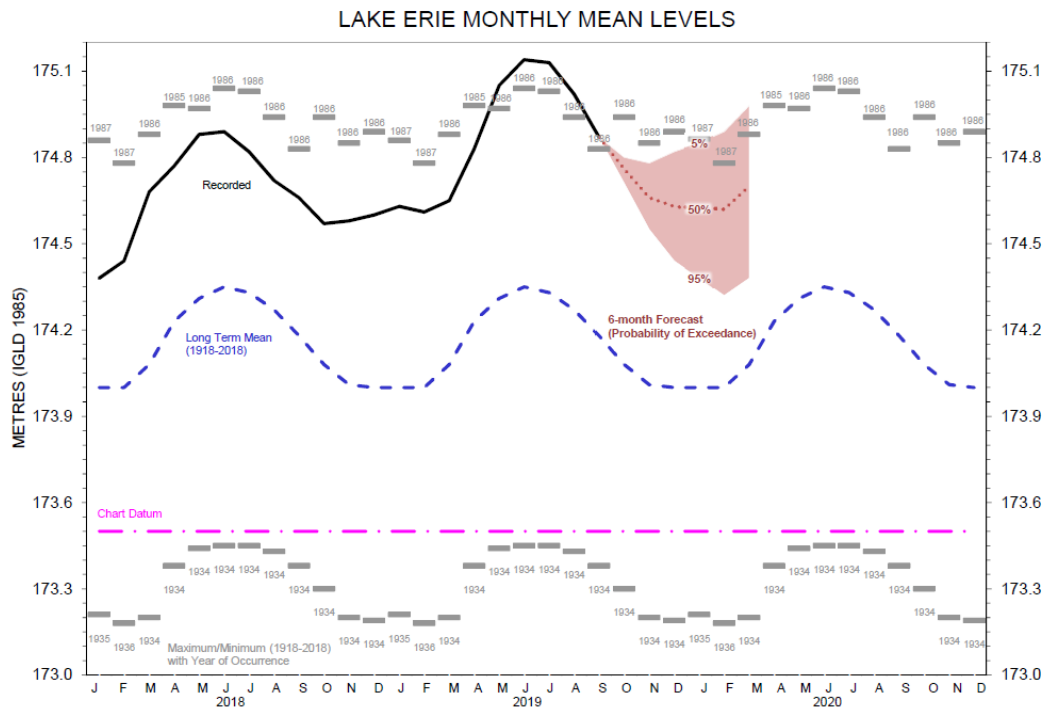


Figure 1: Lake Erie Recorded and Forecast Levels

Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Regulation Office

National Hydrological Services – East

<https://waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html>

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www.lprca.on.ca

About the Long Point Region Conservation Authority

Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario and is responsible for managing the Long Point Region watershed, a region that covers 2,782 square kilometres. Since 1948, the LPRCA and its predecessors have been empowered through provincial legislation to manage the watershed's natural resources in partnership with our member municipalities and the Province of Ontario. The LPRCA's priorities arise from the needs of watershed residents and the local environment, and provided services range from flood warning and erosion control to tree planting, land use planning, and forest management. The LPRCA also operates a number of conservation areas that provide outdoor education and recreation opportunities. The LPRCA is committed to balancing the social, economic and environmental needs of all communities in the Long Point Region watershed. To learn more, visit www.lprca.on.ca.

Contact

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