



OUTLOOK FOR THE FORMATION OF ICE IN THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY & LAKE ERIE ISSUED BY CANADIAN ICE SERVICE

prepared for
The Saint-Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation

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Mean air temperatures in the first two weeks of December were 2.1°C above normal in Windsor, 4.8°C above normal in Kingston, 4.3°C above normal in Trenton and 5.7°C above normal in Montreal. Reported mean temperatures for the same period ranged from plus 2.8°C at Kingston, to plus 2.1°C at Windsor, to plus 1.9°C in Trenton and to plus 1.3°C at Montreal.

Water temperatures are normal in both Lake Ontario and Lake Erie except slightly above normal in Eastern Lake Erie. On the Seaway water temperatures are 3.0°C above normal at St. Lambert, 2.9°C above normal at St. Louis Bridge, 2.6°C above normal at Cornwall, 2.7°C above normal at Iroquois and 2.4°C above normal at Kingston. At the Welland Canal, water temperatures are 2.7°C above normal at Port Colborne and Port Weller. Below is a comparison of the water temperatures at a number of reporting sites with the average calculated over the last 10 years.

Station	Date	Temperature	Normal
St. Lambert Lock	16 Dec	4.2°C	1.2°C
St. Louis Bridge	16 Dec	5.2°C	2.3°C
Cornwall	16 Dec	5.7°C	3.1°C
Iroquois Lock	16 Dec	6.0°C	3.3°C
Kingston	16 Dec	6.5°C	4.1°C
Port Colborne	16 Dec	5.4°C	2.7°C
Port Weller	16 Dec	5.6 °C	2.9°C

Below normal air temperatures are forecast for the next few days over Montreal and the Seaway but air temperatures will be back to above normal early next week. Air temperatures will generally be above normal over Lake Ontario and the Seaway in the second half of December. Normal temperatures are expected for the first half of January.

Above normal water temperatures in the Seaway, in Lake Ontario and in Lake Erie will reach normal values by year end.

The following table lists the average dates of occurrence of the first permanent ice and complete freeze-over with the forecast trend for 2011/12.

Station	First permanent ice	Complete Freeze Over	Forecast
St. Lambert Lock	07 Dec	18 Dec	11-13 days later
Upper Beauharnois	14 Dec	24 Dec	11- 13 days later
Cornwall	29 Dec	N/A	8-10 days later
Iroquois Lock	26 Dec	02 Jan	7-9 days later
Welland Canal			7-9 days later

In Montreal, the first permanent ice will form in the third week of December and gradually spread westward to reach Cornwall in the first week of January 2012.

Ice formation on the Welland Canal will be delayed a week compared to normal.

In Lake Erie, patchy ice areas will develop in the Western Basin in the first week of January and spread over the entire Basin before mid-month.

THIS IS THE LAST ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY AND LAKE ERIE FORECAST.

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