



Canadian Ice Service - Service Canadien des Glaces

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17 December 2009

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

The table below indicates the reported temperatures and the departure from normal temperature at various locations for the second half of November:

Locations	Reported Temperatures	Normal Temperatures	Departure from Normal
Windsor	6.6°C	3.0°C	3.6°C
St Catherine	6.2°C	3.1°C	3.1°C
Kingston	5.2°C	1.3°C	3.9°C
Montreal	3.9°C	-0.5°C	4.4°C

The table below indicates the reported temperatures and the departure from normal temperature at various locations since the beginning of December:

Locations	Reported Temperatures	Normal Temperatures	Departure from Normal
Windsor	-0.6°C	-0.1°C	-0.5°C
St Catherine	1.1°C	0.3°C	0.8°C
Kingston	0.0°C	-2.1°C	2.1°C
Montreal	-2.5 °C	-4.5°C	2.0°C

On December 17th, water temperatures were 0.5°C above normal over eastern Lake Erie and in the Western Basin. In Lake Ontario water temperatures were near normal. Water temperatures along the Seaway were ranging from 0.9°C below normal at St Lambert Lock to 0.8°C above normal at St Louis Bridge and port Colborne.

Below is a comparison of the water temperatures at a number of reporting sites with the average calculated over the last 10 years:



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Station	Date	Temperature	Normal
St. Lambert Lock	17 Dec	0.5°C	1.4°C
St. Louis Bridge	17 Dec	3.0°C	2.2°C
Cornwall	17 Dec	3.0°C	3.2°C
Iroquois Lock	17 Dec	3.3°C	3.3°C
Kingston	17 Dec	4.4°C	4.2°C
Port Colborne	16 Dec	3.9°C	3.1°C

Along the Seaway below normal temperatures will prevail in the next week but temperatures will climb to above normal values for the last week of the year. In Lake Erie near normal temperatures will prevail for the third week of December but slightly colder than normal temperatures are expected for the last week of the month. For the first half of January temperatures will be near normal for all areas. For the rest of the winter, generally near to slightly above normal temperatures are forecast.

The following table lists the average dates of occurrence of the first permanent ice and complete freeze-over with the forecast trend for 2009-2010.

Station	First permanent ice	Complete Freeze Over	Forecast
St. Lambert Lock	7 Dec	18 Dec	1- 2 weeks later
Upper Beauharnois	14 Dec	24 Dec	1 week later
Cornwall	29 Dec	N/A	2 to 4 days later
Iroquois Lock	26 Dec	02 Jan	1 week later

Ice will form in Montreal near the third weekend of December and will spread westward to reach Cornwall just after New Year's Day. Ice will further develop up the river and will reach Lake Ontario during the first or early in the second week of January. Ice will become mostly consolidated over the entire length of the river during the third week of January. In Lake Ontario patchy new lake ice will begin to form in the coastal area of the north-eastern section late in December. Over Lake Erie, ice has already started to develop in the western Basin and at the end of the year the basin will be partially covered with thin lake ice.

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