Historic Ice-on/Ice-Off Dates

Big Detroit Lake

Year	Breakup
1893	12-May
1894	27-Apr
1895	9-Apr
1896	26-Apr
1897	18-Apr
1898	5-Apr
1899	28-Apr
1900	17-Apr
1901	21-Apr
1902	28-Mar
1903	25-Apr
1904	5-May
1905	8-Apr
1906	20-Apr
1907	7-May
1908	19-Apr
1909	5-May

Year	Breakup	Freezeup	Days Ice Free	Days Ice on
1910	23-Mar	5-Nov	227	NA
1911	18-Apr	1-Nov	197	164
1912 *	13-Apr	28-Oct	198	165
1913	19-Apr	28-Oct	192	172
1914	22-Apr	15-Nov	207	176
1915	17-Apr	14-Nov	211	153
1916 *	24-Apr	4-Nov	194	163
1917	26-Apr	29-Oct	186	172
1918	15-Apr	22-Nov	221	168
1919	12-Apr	25-Oct	196	141
1920 *	25-Apr	11-Nov	200	184
1921	13-Apr	10-Nov	211	152
1922	25-Apr	23-Nov	212	166
1923	29-Apr	30-Nov	215	157
1924 *	9-Apr	17-Nov	222	132
1925	11-Apr	27-Oct	199	144
1926	21-Apr	10-Nov	203	176
1927	19-Apr	12-Nov	207	160
1928 *	27-Apr	25-Nov	212	168
1929	29-Apr	20-Nov	205	154
1930	13-Apr	25-Nov	226	144
1931	8-Apr	24-Nov	230	134
1932 *	18-Apr	12-Nov	208	147
1933	20-Apr	12-Nov	206	158
1934	20-Apr	23-Nov	217	159
1935	23-Apr	4-Nov	195	151
1936 *	5-May	17-Nov	196	184
1937	18-Apr	17-Nov	213	151
1938	11-Apr	16-Nov	219	145
1939	24-Apr	13-Dec	233	159
1940 *	29-Apr	13-Nov	198	139
1941	13-Apr	22-Nov	223	150
1942	14-Apr	22-Nov	222	143
1943	21-Apr	13-Nov	206	150
1944 *	23-Apr	2-Dec	223	163
1945	31-Mar	9-Nov	223	118
1946	3-Apr	16-Nov	227	145
1947	30-Apr	11-Nov	195	165
1948 *	21-Apr	22-Nov	215	163
1949	20-Apr	21-Nov	215	148
1950	17-May	10-Nov	177	177
1951	30-Apr	2-Nov	186	171
1952 *	23-Apr	27-Nov	218	174
1953	23-Apr	30-Nov	221	146
1954	23-Apr	30-Nov	221	144
1955	16-Apr	14-Nov	212	137
1956 *	9-May	22-Nov	197	178
1957	20-Apr	23-Nov	217	148
1958	12-Apr	13-Nov	215	140
1959	12-Apr	13-Nov	215	150
1960 *	26-Apr	1-Dec	219	166
1961	21-Apr	18-Nov	211	140
1962	28-Apr	6-Dec	222	161
1963	12-Apr	1-Dec	233	127
1964 *	26-Apr	25-Nov	213	148
1965	29-Apr	23-Nov	208	154
1966	2-May	25-Nov	207	160
1967	15-Apr	26-Nov	225	141
1968 *	13-Apr	6-Dec	237	140
1969	21-Apr	19-Nov	212	135
1970	29-Apr	23-Nov	208	161
1971	21-Apr	22-Nov	215	149
1972 *	1-May	21-Nov	204	162
1973	6-Apr	29-Nov	237	135
1974	27-Apr	25-Nov	212	149
1975	4-May	26-Nov	206	160
1976 *	14-Apr	14-Nov	214	141
1977	18-Apr	22-Nov	218	154
1978	1-May	21-Nov	204	160
1979	9-May	20-Nov	195	169
1980 *	21-Apr	24-Nov	217	154
1981	6-Apr	5-Dec	243	132
1982	24-Apr	23-Nov	213	140

**** Indicates leap years***

Year	Breakup	Freezeup	Days Ice Free	Days Ice on
1983	15-Apr	26-Nov	225	143
1984 *	14-Apr	22-Nov	222	141
1985	20-Apr	16-Nov	210	148
1986	12-Apr	14-Nov	216	147
1987	10-Apr	25-Nov	229	147
1988 *	15-Apr	22-Nov	221	143
1989	25-Apr	18-Nov	207	153
1990	23-Apr	26-Nov	217	156
1991	17-Apr	3-Nov	200	142
1992 *	9-Apr	26-Nov	231	159
1993	19-Apr	8-Nov	203	143
1994	18-Apr	29-Nov	225	161
1995	23-Apr	11-Nov	202	145
1996 *	5-May	12-Nov	191	177
1997	28-Apr	15-Nov	201	166
1998	10-Apr	7-Dec	241	146
1999	13-Apr	16-Dec	247	127
2000 *	3-Apr	20-Nov	231	110
2001	28-Apr	7-Dec	223	158
2002	16-Apr	25-Nov	224	130
2003	14-Apr	25-Nov	226	139
2004 *	15-Apr	13-Dec	242	141
2005	13-Apr	29-Nov	231	121
2006	13-Apr	30-Nov	232	134
2007	22-Apr	27-Nov	220	142
2008 *	1-May	21-Nov	204	155
2009	23-Apr	4-Dec	225	153
2010	2-Apr	24-Nov	236	120
2011	26-Apr	20-Nov	209	152
2012 *	23-Mar	22-Nov	247	123
2013	13-May	22-Nov	195	168
2014	26-Apr	15-Nov	203	154
2015	12-Apr	27-Nov	225	123
2016 *	29-Mar	8-Dec	254	119
2017	7-Apr	6-Dec	243	146
2018	1-May	13-Nov	196	163
2019	25-Apr	11-Nov	200	
2020 *				
2021				
2022				
2023				
2024 *				
2025				
2026				
2027				
2028 *				
2029				

	Days Ice Free	Days Ice on
Minimum Days	177	110
Maximum Days	254	184
Average before 1990	212	153
Average 1990-1999	216	152
Average 2000-2009	226	138
Average 2010-2019	221	141

What consitutes ice-on? It is hard to know what standards were used in the "old days". Since 1993, I have employed the following standard for determine what is the lake freeze-up date: when the entire lake is skimmed over by ice (regardless of thickness) and remains so for the rest of the winter. In this observation I ignore minor areas that may open up because of warm conditions or winds. This is more or less the standards that is used by observers in other parts of the country.

Ice-off dates are a little more complicated because the melting process tends to be more gradual. Again I rely on the standard that is suggested by ice observers elsewhere- when the lake is "substantially" ice-free (90% or more) It is considered melted. Hence there still may be some floating ice or some wind-driven piles of ice along some shorelines.

Dick Hecock

**** Indicates leap years***