Great Lakes Division
The Company of Master Mariners of Canada

September/October 2026



Great Lakes and Marine Industry News Update

(available to CMMC members for the purposes of education and information)

September/October 2026

September 3 was officially recognized as Merchant Navy Day in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. The MNCTP also recognizes the maritime observances of the United States, India, China, and other nations, together with the leadership of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).



MERCHANT NAVY VETERANS DAY 2026, NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONIES, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA , SYDNEY, CAPE BRETON ISLAND, NOVA SCOTIA, OTTAWA, SEPTEMBER 3 & 13, 2026

Fednav bulker loads first grain export in six years at Canadian Arctic port



Port of Churchill – M/V Federal Sorey Port of Churchill Photo

Approximately 30,000 tonnes of Canadian durum wheat supplied by Saskatchewan-based AGT Foods is being loaded on the Fednav bulker Federal Sorey at the Port of Churchill and will be shipped to customers in Europe. The vessel is the first of three grain ships expected at Churchill this season as part of a new customer relationship between Arctic Gateway Group (AGG) and AGT Foods that will continue into future years.

County council nixes planning change for Sarnia Harbour highrise

Planning changes to allow construction of a high rise on Sarnia Bay was rejected Wednesday by Lambton County council.



A sign advertises a high-rise development proposed near the Cargill grain terminal on Sarnia Harbour.
(File photo/The Observer)

An official plan amendment to allow a 14-storey apartment building to rise near the Cargill grain terminal on Sarnia Bay was rejected Wednesday by Lambton County council.

Enstructure completes acquisition of LOGISTEC’s marine services division

On September 2, Enstructure announced the completion of its acquisition of LOGISTEC's marine services division, creating a company that operates 106 terminals across 30 states and provinces with approximately 6,000 employees. The acquisition, first revealed on June 15, 2026, aims to enhance supply chain services in North America.

The combined network spans over 3,000 waterfront acres and handles around 70 million tons of cargo annually.

Enstructure plans to maintain LOGISTEC's head office in Montréal and invest in Canadian operations.

Blue Wolf Capital Partners will remain an investor in the new entity.

This acquisition is significant as it strengthens Enstructure's position in the logistics sector, enhancing service offerings and market access for customers across Canada and the United States.

CANADIAN MARINE
Logistics Group Inc.

Enstructure will maintain LOGISTEC's head office in Montréal and continue to invest in and grow its Canadian operations.



Task Group Formation manoeuvers His Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Robert Hampton Gray and performs Formation Manoeuvers with His Danish Majesty's Ship (HDMS) Thetis and Canadian Coast Guard Ship (CCGS) George R. Pearkes during Operation Nanook-TUUGAALIK on August 21, 2026.

Photo credit: Corporal Mitchell Paquette, Canadian Armed Forces Photo



CSL's MV Yampu discharges inaugural limestone cargo at Birkenhead, South Australia. CSL Photo

Designed by marine transportation firm CSL for Australian construction materials producer Adbri, the cargo ship features a 6,758-kWh battery. It can run on battery power about 40 percent of the time. It is set to cut annual diesel consumption by more than half a million liters compared with the ship it replaces.

CSL and Adbri celebrated the commencement of operations of MV Yampu, the world's first battery-powered self-unloading bulk carrier, representing a major milestone for Australian manufacturing, maritime innovation and lower-emissions supply chains.

Transport Canada is committed to consistently delivering quality services and programs to Canadians and the marine transportation sector.

Transport Canada Marine Safety and Security has launched a new webpage, "How to Become a Seafarer," designed for individuals who are interested in or considering a career in Canada's marine industry.

The webpage provides an overview and outlines the steps required to enter the profession, including information on training, certification, and career pathways. It serves as a valuable resource for students, job seekers, career changers, and anyone looking to learn more about opportunities in the marine sector.

We encourage stakeholders to share this resource with their networks to help raise awareness of marine careers and support the next generation of Canadian seafarers.

Visit the webpage: How to Become a Seafarer

Thank you,

National CMAC Secretariat



To be completed by year's end, the first phase of the Odyssey Terminal (shown in this rendering) involves a 20,000-ton fertilizer storage building.

V6 Agronomy Inc.

A project developed by agricultural company V6 Agronomy Inc, that's underway at the Port of Johnstown in Ontario targets Canada's phosphate and fertilizer needs along a key import corridor. To be completed by year's end, the first phase of the terminal involves the construction of a 20,000-ton fertilizer storage building and the second phase calls for adding 50,000 tons of storage capacity to accommodate the loading of rail cars in winter. The third phase involves building a potash export facility to be used by various fertilizer constituents.



Ontario Trap Rock's $12.8M electrified conveyor to move aggregate under Highway 17 to Lake Huron dock

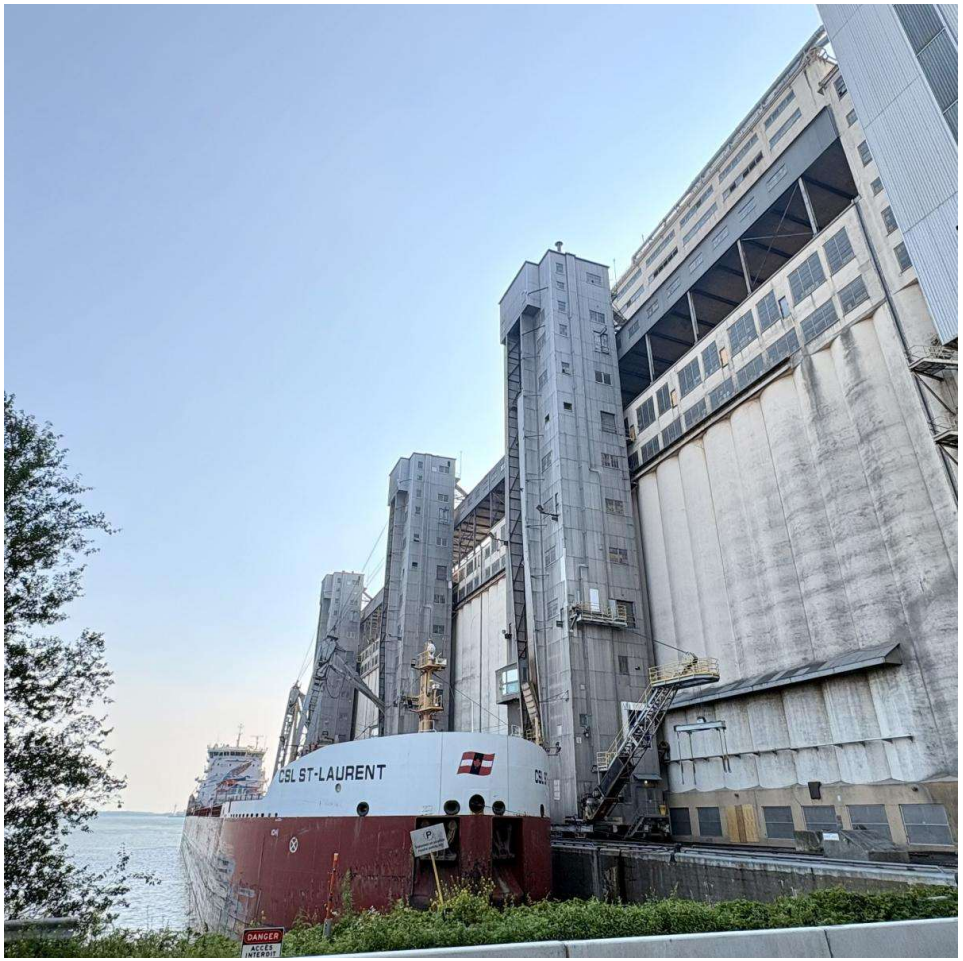
An electric-powered ship-loading system under construction in Bruce Mines in northern Ontario will reduce a major quarry's greenhouse gas emissions, reduce heavy truck traffic, give a significant business boost and create more job opportunities.

A two-kilometre-long conveyor system to move aggregate from Ontario Trap Rock's 1,000-acre quarry, under Highway 17, and to its dock on Lake Huron's North Channel, is expected to be completed this fall.



Canada’s Simon Pelletier re-elected as President of the International Maritime Pilots’ Association

Unanimously re-elected today for a fourth term of four years as President of the International Maritime Pilots’ Association (IMPA), Captain Simon Pelletier underlined the vital role played by maritime pilots in navigation safety and the need to address challenges faced by pilotage in various parts of the world. His extensive comments were made at the opening ceremony of the 27th Congress of IMPA, which represents more than 8,200 maritime pilots from 53 countries.



Bunge: Modernizing a historic terminal to build tomorrow’s performance

Behind its historic infrastructure, Bunge’s grain terminal at the Port of Montreal is constantly evolving. For several years, the company has been investing in modernizing its equipment, optimizing its operations and improving its practices to enhance efficiency, reliability and performance.

These efforts recently earned Bunge a Port of Montreal Award of Excellence. More than recognizing a single project, the award highlights a continuous improvement strategy that now enables the terminal to handle more cargo while maintaining safe, seamless and reliable operations.



Aerial view of proposed port lands from an earlier 2019 iteration of the project involving a city partnership with then-Essar Steel (Supplied photo)

Sault Ste. Marie commits $15 million toward Great Lakes commercial port

City Council has agreed to put up $15 million to advance its port proposal, all hinging on Ottawa's and Queen's Park's willingness to ante up the lion's share of major capital funding for the estimated $250-million project.

The City and its strategic port partner, HOPA (Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority) have filed a funding application to the federal Trade Diversfication Corridors Fund, a $5-billion infrastructure funding pool designed to boost Canada's non-U.S. exports.



Buffalo’s bid to become a regular stop on Great Lakes cruise itineraries is moving from planning to construction, with work on a new Outer Harbor cruise terminal expected to begin in August following a key state development board approval.

16-square-kilometre expansion area for Goderich salt mine

Compass Minerals has received provincial approval for a major new salt development area beneath Lake Huron as the company adjusts its long-term mine plan around unexpected geological conditions.

An Order in Council approved August 13, 2026 authorizes Ontario's Minister of Energy and Mines to issue Compass Minerals Canada Corp. a 21-year lease for mining rights on Crown land west of Goderich.

The new area covers about 1,592 hectares, or nearly 16 square kilometres, beneath Lake Huron roughly 6.2 kilometres west of the community.

It sits beside the western boundary of one of Compass Minerals' existing mining leases.





LCA President Jim Weakley Inducted in Great Lakes Marine Hall of Fame

September 16, 2026

Jim Weakley has served as LCA President for almost 25 years leading the U.S.-flagged fleet on the Great Lakes through advocacy, Congressional engagement, and public awareness. His notable accomplishments include the construction of the new Soo Lock in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, arguably the largest and most impactful infrastructure project ever on the Great Lakes. Jim was instrumental in solving the "Dredging Crisis" increasing and sustaining nearly 10 times more funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers while designating the Great Lakes as a recognized navigation system.

James Weakley has been inducted into the Great Lakes Marine Hall of Fame. [Andrea Guerriero]

Ontario backs reopening of dormant Michipicoten Harbour on Lake Superior

Ontario is providing C$1m ($707,000) to reactivate Michipicoten Harbour on Lake Superior, bringing marine cargo operations back to a facility that has been unused since shipping ceased in the late 1990s.

Superior Aggregates Corporation will use the funding for structural repairs, infrastructure upgrades and new equipment required to reopen the harbour for commercial shipping.

The project will give the company access to Central and Eastern Canadian markets through the Great Lakes and St Lawrence Seaway.

A shared-use model is also planned, allowing forestry, mining and other regional producers to move cargo through the harbour.

The funding is being provided through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation.

Ship Junkies - Lakes, Locks & Rivers (LL&R)

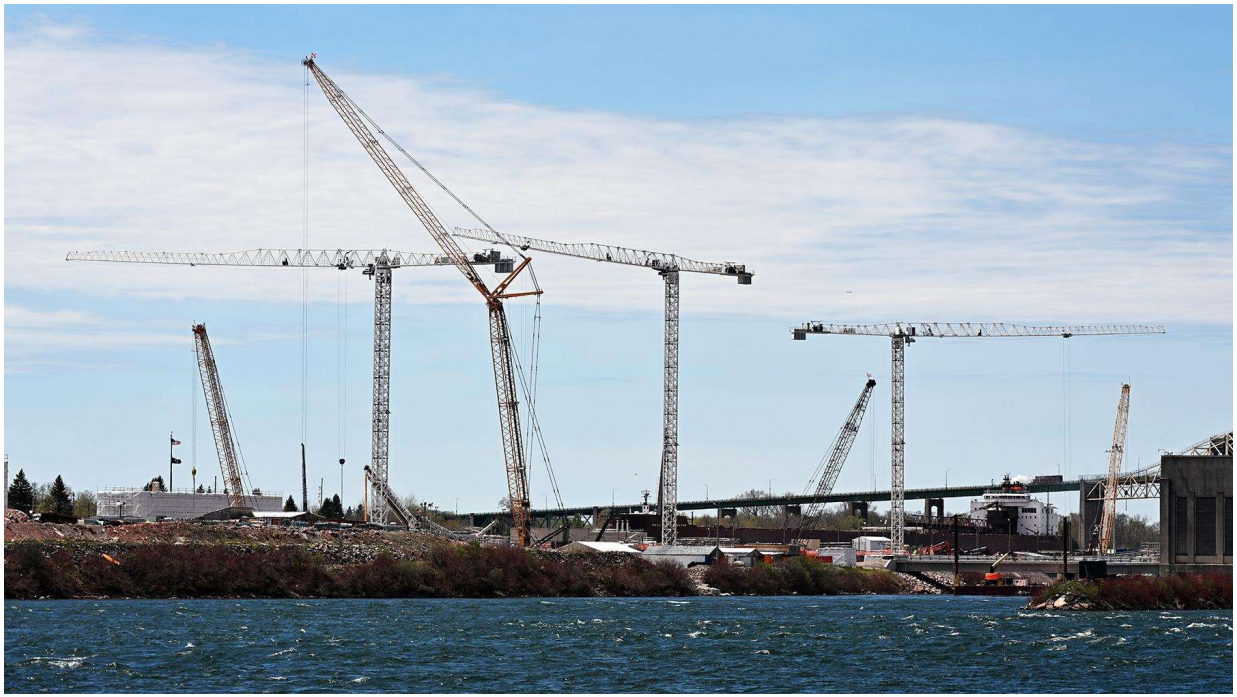




New Lock at the Soo Project Reaches 50% Completion in Phase 3

October 4, 2026

SAULT STE. MARIE, MI – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, announced a major milestone in the construction of the New Lock at the Soo, with Phase 3 of the project reaching 50 per cent complete. The Corps of Engineers awarded the base contract July 1, 2022, to Kokosing Alberici Traylor (KAT) LLC, of Westerville, Ohio. The new lock, a $3.219-billion investment in Great Lakes infrastructure, increases resiliency at the Soo Locks facility by constructing a second Poe-sized lock.



Tall cranes are part of the New Lock at the Soo Project. [Roger LeLievre



Tug Harriet M arriving at the Port of Thunder Bay. [Michael Hull]

Harriet M Joins Thunder Bay Tug Services October 10, 2026

A new tug joined Thunder Bay Tug Services Ltd. on October 8, 2026. The tug was acquired from Moran Towing Corporation of Philadelphia, PA. Built in 1978 Harriet M measures approximately 28 metres in length and is powered by 3,005 horsepower. She will assist commercial vessels navigating the harbor and support ship movements throughout the Port of Thunder Bay.





Cuyahoga, a 620-foot lake freighter owned by Lower Lakes Towing, unloads grain at the Owen Sound grain elevators in this 2017 file photo

Source: Owen Sound & Region News - Greg Cowan

Owner of iconic Owen Sound grain elevators to cease operations

The president of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union local that represents workers at the 1499 1st St. W. marine terminal confirmed that Parrish & Heimbecker, operating locally as Great Lakes Elevators, will permanently close its operations at the Owen Sound Harbour site in December .

P&H has owned the Owen Sound grain elevators for over 80 years.
The Winnipeg-based company, with roots in Hanover, operates the site through its subsidiary, Great Lakes Elevator Co. Ltd. It can store 93,000 metric tonnes of dry product.

SEAWAY MONTHLY TRAFFIC RESULTS
September 2026

Traffic (in thousands of tonnes)	SLSMC - Combined Traffic			
	Year to Date		Change from 2025	
	2025	2026	Tonnes	%
Total Cargo	24 099	24 941	842	3.49%
All Grain	7 557	7 330	-227	-3.0%
Iron Ore	3 706	3 579	-127	-3.43%
Coal	979	915	-63	-6.47%
Dry Bulk	7 552	9 082	1530	20.26%
Liquid Bulk	2 768	2 655	-113	-4.08%
General Cargo	1 496	1 334	-162	-10.84%

Vessel Transits	2025	2026	Transits	%
Total Transits	2 581	2 719	138	5.35%

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation

Great Lakes History

September/October 2026



September 1987

An arson fire gutted the bridge and top deck of the laid-up former CSL package freighter FORT YORK at Sarnia, ON. There had been another suspicious fire 3 weeks earlier that had been extinguished.



(DUL 1) DULUTH, Minn., June 5--Fiery Ship--Smoke billows from the charred superstructure of the Cartiercliffe Hall, heavily damaged by a fire an explosion Tuesday morning off Copper Harbor, Mich. (AP LASERPHOTO)

1979

CARTIERCLIFFE HALL, formerly a.) RUHR ORE, was towed by the tug WILFRED M. COHEN to Collingwood, ON, for repairs from a June 5 fire and arrived at Collingwood Shipyards Ltd. in September 1979. She was later renamed c.) WINNIPEG in 1988 and d.) Algontario in 1994

September 1986

Canadian Shipbuilding & Engineering Ltd. at Collingwood, ON, closed the yard after 103 years of shipbuilding. "Collship" was famous for its spectacular side launches. 214 ships were built at Collingwood.



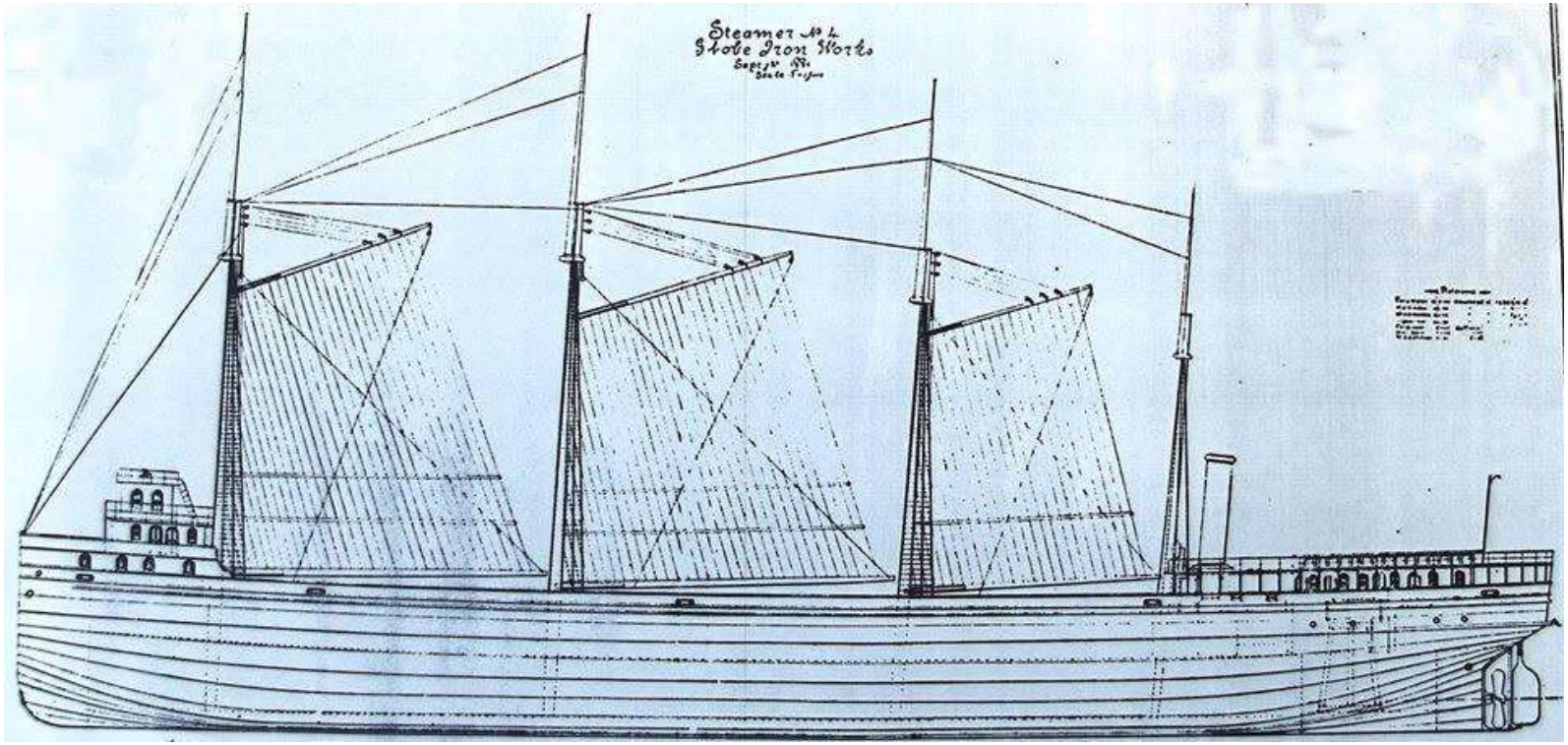
September 1928 MANASOO, in only her first season of service after being rebuilt for overnight passenger and freight service, foundered in Georgian Bay after the cargo shifted and the vessel overturned in heavy weather. There were 18 casualties, plus 46 head of cattle, and only five survived.

Facebook Photo



Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society - GLSPS

The SS Onoko, launched in September 1882, was the first iron hulled freighter on the Lakes. She served as a prototype of the traditional "straight decker" design with the pilot hose forward and the boiler room, machinery, and main cabins aft. At the time of her launching, she was the largest ship on the Great Lakes.





Norisle at Tobermory, ON, 6-66. Skip Meier

September 1946

The S. S. NORISLE went into service as the first Canadian passenger ship commissioned since the NORONIC in 1913 to serve the Tobermory to Manitoulin Island ferry route.

September 16, 1982

Parrish & Heimbecker Ltd. purchased all nine of the Soo River's fleet for a reported CAD $2.5 million, and all nine returned to service, although only four were running at the end of the season.



Photo: Gene Onchulenko - 11 November 1986

September 1969

CCGS GRIFFON (Hull #664) was launched by Davie Shipbuilding Ltd. at Lauzon, QC, for the Canadian Coast Guard.



Griffon icebreaking above the Soo Locks. March 26, 2022. Mike Mishler.



The J.W. Westcott II mailboat is about to meet the downbound E.M. Ford in the Detroit River while Norfolk and Western's car ferry Windsor makes another trip from Detroit to Windsor in the background.

September 1965 photo by Don Richards.

Thank you for viewing our Monthly 2026 monthly Industry Update.

Hope you enjoy and find the news information useful as part of our mandate of marine education!

Master Mariners of Canada – Great Lakes Division