

Great Lakes Division

The Company of Master Mariners of Canada

October 2025



Great Lakes and Marine Industry News Update

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

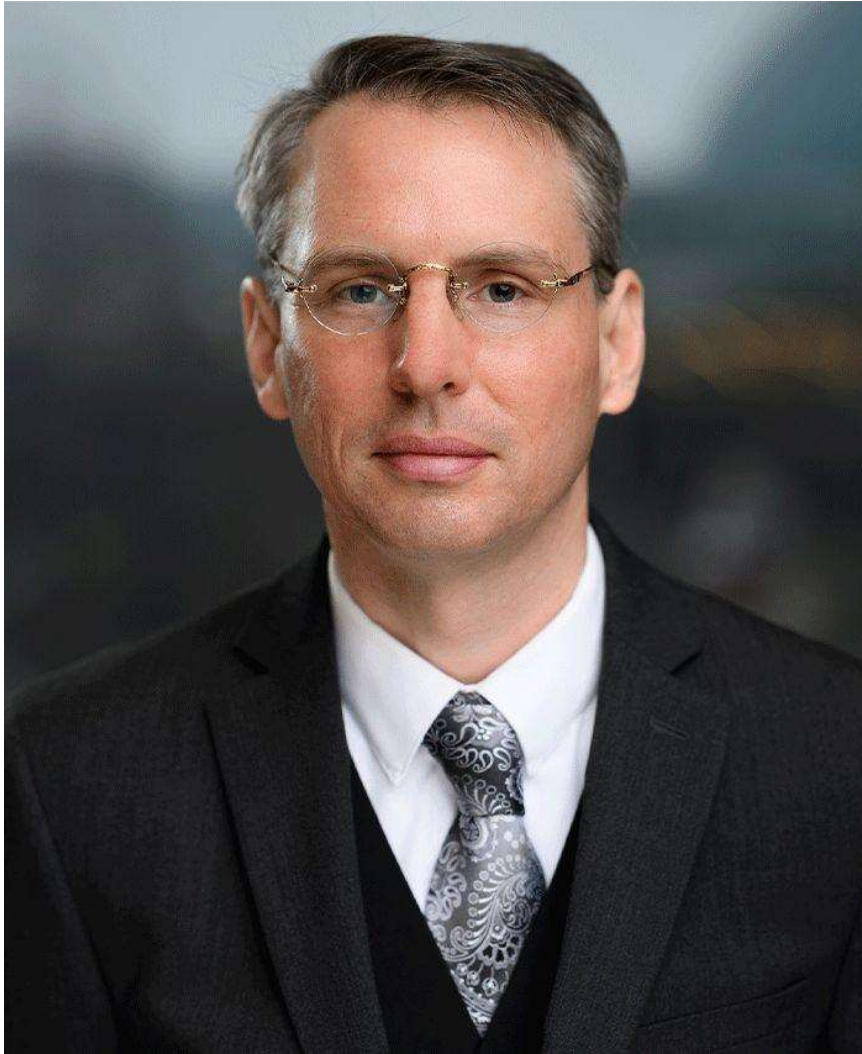
October 2025



Steven Garrett MacKinnon is a Canadian politician who has been the member of Parliament for Gatineau since 2015.

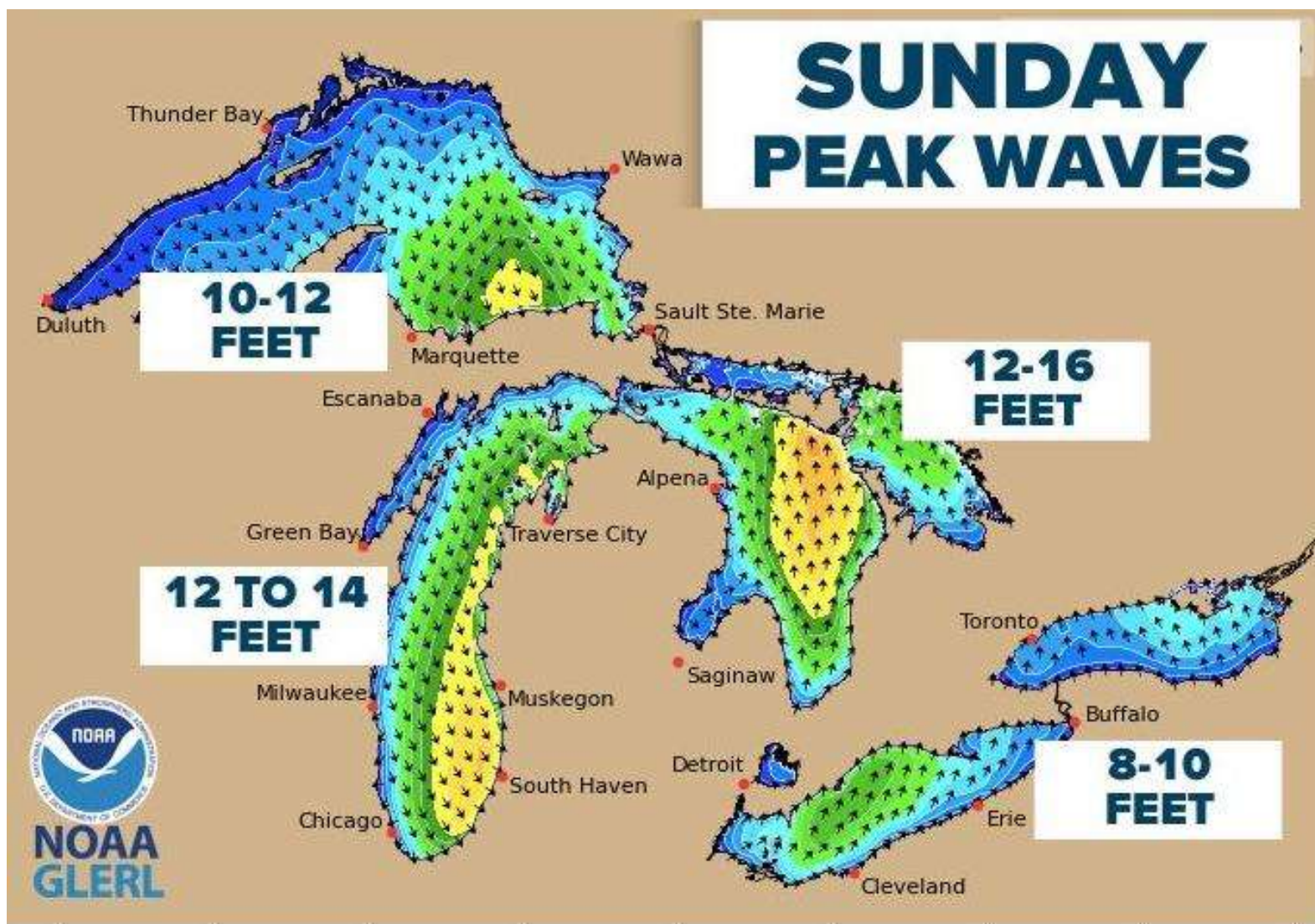
A member of the Liberal Party, MacKinnon is the Government House Leader and Minister of Transport.

New Minister of Transport



The Chamber of Marine Commerce (CMC) board of directors has selected Joshua H. Juel to serve as the CMC's next President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Juel brings to the role more than twenty years of experience in regulatory affairs and operations involving the marine industry in both Canada and the U.S.





First of the
Fall 2025
gales on
the Great
Lakes

October
19, 2025

City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority announce new partnership,,

September 2025.

The City of Sault Ste. Marie and the Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA Ports) are announcing a partnership to develop a transformative infrastructure initiative: the development of a multimodal port and trade corridor that will connect Northern Ontario to Southern Ontario and export destinations beyond. Anchored by a newly developed port in Sault Ste. Marie, the Sault to the South Trade Corridor is a strategic national initiative that will strengthen Canada's internal trade and export networks, unlock new economic opportunities, and build industrial capacity in key sectors, including mining, forestry, steel, advanced manufacturing, and agriculture. Ian Hamilton, President & CEO of HOPA Ports, is quoted.



Docks in Port of Sault Ste. Marie (above) and Port of Hamilton (below)





The agreement, signed by Brent Lamming of the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Ian Hamilton, president and CEO of HOPA Ports.

Supplied image



VP Operations Véronique Bérubé (left) proudly represented the Chamber of Marine Commerce(Great Lakes Division Corporate Member) at the Imagine Marine Conference on October 7 – 8, 2025 in Ottawa as the industry convened to discuss "Solutions & Actions: Building Our Future Marine Workforce" Canadian Marine Careers Foundation Julia Field (right), Executive Director and her team provided the forum to address marine labour skill shortages in the Canadian marine industry.

CMMC participated as a supportive funding partner with representatives (President/Secretary/Great Lakes Division Master) attending. Summary report provided in Business portion of tonight's meeting.



— SAVE THE DATE —

Imagine Marine CONFERENCE

Solutions and Actions: Building Our Future Marine Workforce



OCTOBER
7th & 8th 2025



ROGERS (FORMERLY SHAW)
CENTRE - OTTAWA, ON

PRESENTED BY



CANADIAN
MARINE
CAREERS
FOUNDATION

The Imagine Marine Conference was held on October 7 & 8, 2025, in Ottawa, Ontario, uniting leaders from the public and private sector to address workforce and skills challenges in the marine transportation sector. Following a successful first year that brought together 160 industry stakeholders from across the country, Imagine Marine Conference 2025 will build on this momentum under the theme Solutions & Actions: Building Our Future Marine Workforce. Imagine Marine CMCF



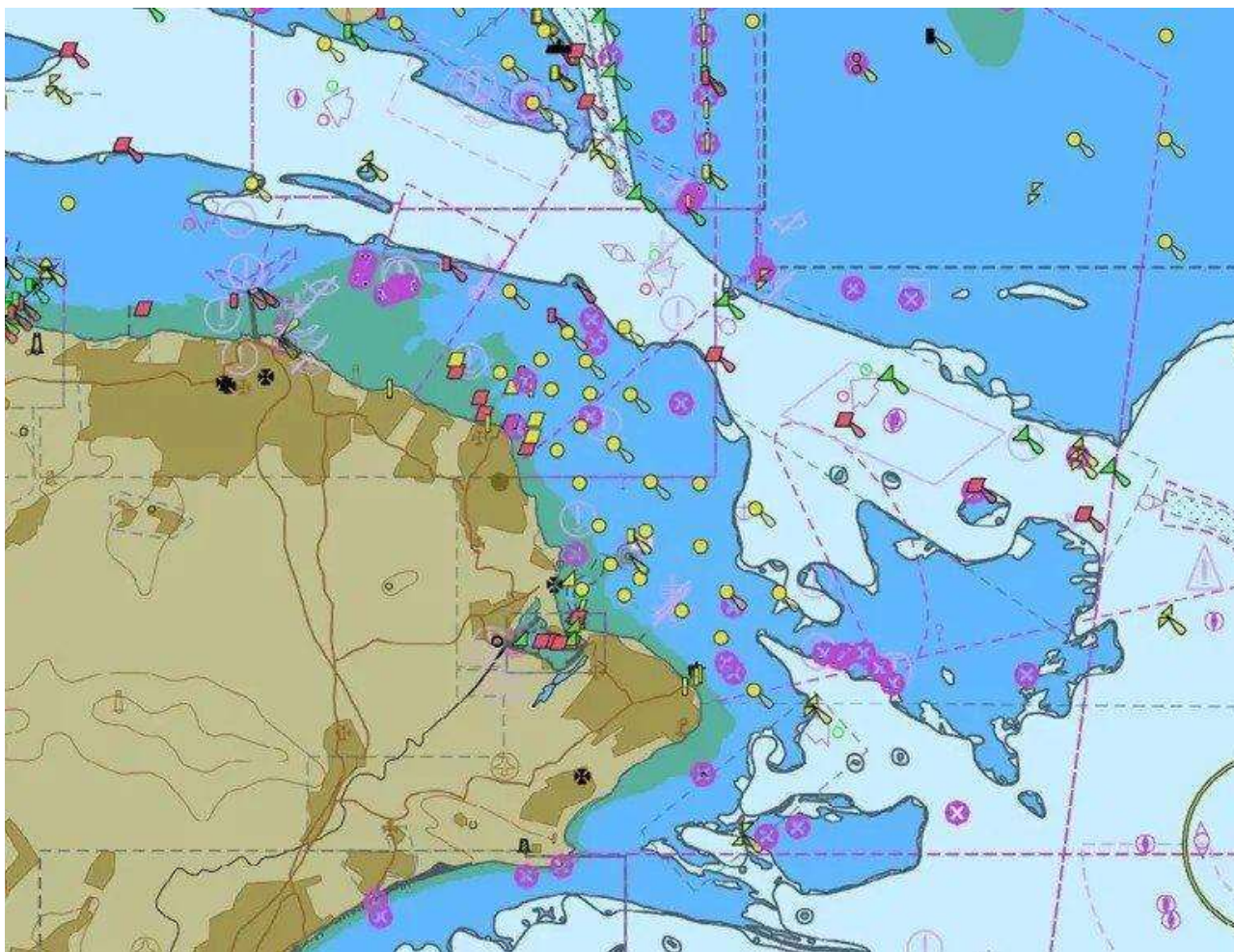
The Halifax grain elevator has 365 silos that can store up to 140,000 tonnes of grain

What's happening with Halifax's grain elevator?

September 18

The future of the grain elevator at the Port of Halifax remains murky as the port continues with an ambitious expansion aimed at growing its cargo and cruise ship businesses.

Canadian lakers have provided service to the elevator over the years for export grain.



The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) has worked with industry to develop S-100 to replace existing S-52, S-57 and S-63 standards - respectively covering the way ECDIS show electronic navigation charts (ENCs), formats used for transferring hydrographic data, and cyber security verification. First phase developments focused on finalising S-100 standards for ENCs, bathymetric surface, water level information, surface currents, navigational warnings, and under keel clearance management.

‘VisionMaster S-100 ECDIS - A step change for marine navigation’...from Sperry explains how the new S-100 framework will function with its many enhanced features.



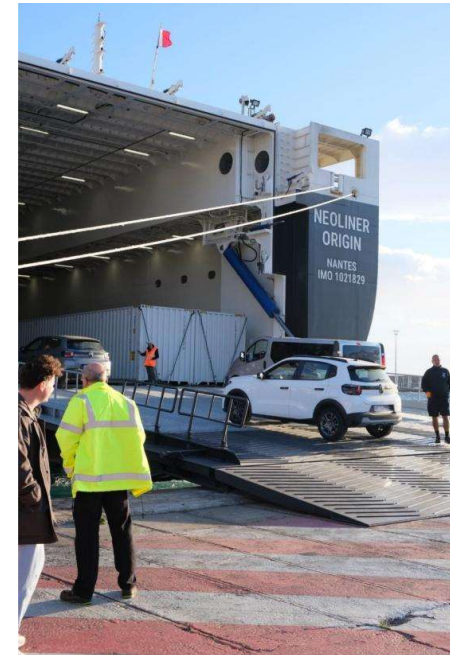
The ship, the EEMS TRAVELLER, is a typical gearless single hold vessel often seen in European waters, but due to its size is somewhat rarer as a transatlantic carrier with a recent transit to Canada's East Coast. It is unique however because it has been equipped with two suction eSAILS [registered trademark] that provide added thrust and thus a saving in fuel costs. The 17 meter high towers on this ship, were (and may still be) the largest installation of their type.

Sail assisted vessels continue to advance



NEOLINE's Sail-Powered Cargo Ship Completes First Commercial Loading

[Mike Schuler](#) 2025 October 6



Vessel loaded cars (6300 ton cargo capacity) from Bastia to France in first cargo. Future plans for operations to St. Pierre/Miquelon in Gulf of St. Lawrence and in Halifax.

IMO decides to postpone adoption of Net-Zero Framework

Safety4Sea



Governments at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) decided to postpone for one year the adoption of the world's first global carbon pricing system for shipping during the last day of Marine Environment Protection Committee, 2nd extraordinary session MEPC/ES.2 (14 to 17 October 2025).

The IMO Net-Zero Framework sets binding targets for ships over 5,000 gross tons to cut the carbon intensity of their fuels, starting in 2028, and introduces an economic system of credits and penalties: ships that exceed emission limits must buy “remedial units,” while low-emission ships can earn and trade surplus credits. Revenues go into an IMO Net-Zero Fund to support clean-fuel adoption and help developing countries transition.



September 26, 2025 was World Maritime Day announced by the IMO.

The Great Lakes Division of the Master Mariners of Canada join the IMO in honouring the 2025 theme: "Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity."



SEAWAY MONTHLY TRAFFIC RESULTS

September 2025

Traffic (in thousands of tonnes)	SLSMC - Combined Traffic			
	Year to Date		Change from 2024	
	2024	2025	Tonnes	%
Total Cargo	23 743	24 030	288	1.21%
All Grain	6 255	7 516	1261	20.15%
Iron Ore	3 919	3 674	-244	-6.24%
Coal	1 225	973	-252	-20.54%
Dry Bulk	7 285	7 531	246	3.38%
Liquid Bulk	2 846	2 772	-73	-2.58%
General Cargo	2 168	1 523	-645	-29.73%

Vessel Transits	2024	2025	Transits	%
Total Transits	2 553	2 583	30	1.18%

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation



ST. CATHARINES, Ontario — Algoma Central Corporation (“Algoma” or “the Company”) (TSX:ALC), today took delivery of the Algoma Legacy, the first of three new methanol-ready Kamsarmax-sized ocean belt self-unloading vessels. With this addition, the Company will have an ownership interest in 100 vessels across its global fleet, a historic milestone that underscores its leadership in long-term growth in diversified short sea shipping markets.

The Algoma Legacy will join the world’s largest Ocean Self-Unloader Pool, followed by two sister vessels in 2026 and early 2027. These new vessels will replace the three oldest ships in the Pool allowing for redeployment of the vessels being replaced and are expected to be 40% more efficient owing to a combination of fuel efficiency and optimized cargo lift.



Churchill's Port Tapped for National Fast-Track Program

Ottawa has placed the future of northern Manitoba at the centre of a sweeping new plan to accelerate nation-building infrastructure across Canada. Prime Minister Mark Carney announced this week that the Port of Churchill Plus project will be one of the first proposals referred to the country's new Major Projects Office (MPO). The Churchill plan would transform the northern port into a four-season trade and transportation hub, with investments in upgraded rail lines, a new all-weather road, expanded marine ice-breaking, and an energy corridor.

American Patriot



American Patriot

[American Cruises]

PRESS RELEASE: American Launches First All-U.S. Cruises on The Great Lakes

American Cruise Lines has announced the debut of three Great Lakes itineraries for the 2026 cruise season sailing May through August 2026 and operated aboard American Patriot. The U. S. registered ship will offer domestic cruises in the growing Great Lakes cruise market and focus only on U. S. Great Lakes ports.



HOPA Ports has secured the future operation of a biodiesel facility in Hamilton, Ontario, previously operated by Biox Corporation.

Image source: HOPA Ports

The Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA Ports) has secured the future operation of a biodiesel facility in Hamilton, Ontario, previously operated by Canada-based renewable energy company Biox Corporation. The Biox facility had been operating at the port site for more than two decades, processing used cooking oil (UCO), animal fats and seed oils into biodiesel, HOPA Ports said on 22 September. Since being built in 2005, more than US\$70M had been invested in the 67M litres/year plant.

HOPA Ports had finalised an agreement with Biox – owned by World Energy/Hartree – on 15 August, securing the plant’s assets, preventing the liquidation of essential equipment and maintaining the plant’s ability to re-start operations. The port authority said it was also actively engaging with industry partners to identify a suitable operator capable of maintaining biodiesel production at the facility.

MARI  TECH | CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION | 2026

SKILLED SEAS

MAY 12 – 14, 2026



VICTORIA, BC



ISMA ANNUAL GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIPS (Georgian/Huronian Lodge #15)

It is once again time to announce to our members that there are scholarships available to all members, and the deadline for applying is closing on November 1st, 2025. The ISMA Grand Lodge donates three \$1,500.00 scholarships annually to successful applicants.

Marine Officer Cadet Scholarships

- #1 Awarded to one Cadet enrolled at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City, Michigan,**
- #2 Awarded to one Cadet at the Great Lakes Marine Training Center in Owen Sound, Ontario.**

Hawsepipe Scholarship Award

- #3 Awarded to a candidate that is working on obtaining a certificate upgrade who is employed in the Great Lakes basin, be they Canadian or American Mariners.**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 01 November 2025

WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT: December 2025

2025 GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

U.S. Cadet Award Recipient: Great Lakes Maritime Academy Jeffrey Jaeger, INTERLAKE

Canadian Cadet Recipient: Georgian College Erin Carey, CANADA STEAMSHIP LINES

Hawsepipe Award: Alexander Murtha KEY LAKES



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

We are pleased to announce that the Marine Labour Standards webpage has been created. This page highlights Canadian marine labour standards applicable to Canadian vessels and foreign vessels in Canadian waters.

**Should you have any questions, please contact your regional Transport Canada Marine Safety & Security Service Centre. The location of Service Centres can be found on the following site:
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/regions.htm>.**

Thank you,

National CMAC Secretariat

Marine Labour Standards

Labour standards set fair employment conditions. They protect workers from being exploited and create a level playing field for employers.

On this page

Overview

Who does this apply to?

Exemptions

Information for seafarers

Information for authorized reps

Get a Maritime Labour Certificate or Declaration of Maritime Labour

Compliance

Information for seafarer recruitment and placement services

Transport Canada's role

Ontario Investing Over \$8.7 Million to Protect Workers in Ottawa and Eastern Ontario Skills Development Fund will train more than 1,500 people for in-demand jobs in the face of U.S. tariffs

The Canadian Marine Careers Foundation is pleased to be receiving \$672,735 from the Ontario government's Skills Development Fund to prepare 36 Ontarians for high-demand seafarer careers aboard Great Lakes–St. Lawrence vessels, while also upskilling 32 current workers for more advanced roles. The CMCF is working in collaboration with Georgian College's Centre for Marine Training and Research, the Seafarers' International Union of Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, McKeil Marine, Lower Lakes Towing, Algoma Central Corporation, CSL Group, the Ontario Marine Council and a number of Employment Service Ontario organizations to make this project a success.





The first cohort of Georgian College's trainees graduated this month with their certifications, and are now ready to embark on their careers!

Ontario Skills Development Fund Supports Marine Workforce Development

Canadian Marine Careers Foundation is receiving \$672,735 to prepare Ontarians for high-demand seafarer careers aboard Great Lakes–St. Lawrence vessels, while also upskilling current workers for more advanced roles.

CANADA'S BUSIEST PORTS

Canada's ports connect the nation to the world by moving nearly 7.5 million containers annually, a 20% increase since 2014, almost half of which is handled by the Port of Vancouver.



Explore Canada's Most Reliable and Authoritative Source of Transport Data.

Canada 

 VISUAL CAPITALIST

Sources: Government of Canada, Transportation Data and Information Hub, November 2024 | Note: Figures are rounded, cover 2023, are the sum of containers with and without items, and are measured in twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs)



The vessel Mick departing Sarnia with yachts heading to St Thomas V.I.

10-6-2025 [Bruce Hurd]

U.S. Steel sues Algoma Steel over refusal to honor multimillion-dollar contract

**U.S. Steel has sued
Canadian steel company
Algoma Steel alleging that
it is refusing to pay for
millions of tons of iron ore
pellets it agreed to
purchase five years ago
because of new Trump
administration tariffs.**



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD OF CANADA

WATCHLIST



KEY SAFETY ISSUES
REQUIRING URGENT ACTION

Commercial fishing safety

Despite years of attention, unsafe conditions continue to put thousands of Canadian commercial fish harvesters—and the communities that rely on them—at risk. The TSB has issued 55 recommendations on fishing vessel safety; however, progress remains inconsistent across regions and even among fishing communities.



Fatigue management

Fatigue continues to affect human performance in air, marine, and rail transportation. Work and rest rules alone are insufficient without effective fatigue management plans, awareness training, and supportive reporting cultures.

Safety management

Many operators are still not required to have formal safety management processes, and where systems exist, effectiveness is not always demonstrated, leaving hazards unidentified and mitigations unvalidated.



Substance use

This item has been added as an emerging safety issue. Investigations and consultations indicate growing safety risks linked to drug and alcohol impairment in the marine and rail sectors. Inconsistent testing and the absence of reliable data suggest the issue is more widespread than reported and requires close attention.





Goderich port seeks \$50 million port expansion.

(Source: Goderich Port Management Corporation)

Goderich's Port sees about 200 ships each year, shipping salt, grain and wheat around the world, and receiving shipments of gravel and aggregates.

Following a 2018 expansion that saw four acres filled in to create new docks and port land, there's an appetite to see an additional 11 acres of Lake Huron filled in with rock and stone to create even more docks and land to expand Goderich's Port even further. The price tag: \$50 million.

**National CMAC Fall 2025 / CCMC National
Automne 2025**

By Transport Canada - Transports Canada

**In person meetings: November 4th to 6th. /
Rencontre en personne : 4 au 6 novembre.**

Date and time

November 4 · 8am - November 6 · 5pm EST.

Doors at 7:30am

Location

Rogers Centre Ottawa

55 Colonel By Drive Ottawa, ON K1N 9J2



Transports
Canada

Transport
Canada



The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway System
Le réseau Grands Lacs - Voie maritime du Saint-Laurent

2025 - NOTICE TO SHIPPING #28

MAISONNEUVE REGION
MONTREAL / LAKE ONTARIO SECTION

Speed Restrictions - MLO Section - Revision #2

Due to the continuing decline of water levels on Lake St. Louis, tighter speed restrictions are in effect.

In addition to the speed limits outlined in the Seaway Practices & Procedures Schedule II - Table of Speeds, the following speed restrictions are also in effect in the MLO section:

LOCATION	RESTRICTIONS	
	UPBOUND	DOWNBOUND
Lake St. Louis, between Buoy A13 & Lower Entrance of Lower Beauharnois Lock <i>(Except between buoys A30 & A40 as noted below)</i>	Revised to 11 knots for all ships, as per column IV of the speed table	Revised to 13 knots for all ships, as per column IV of the speed table
Lake St. Louis, between buoys A30 & A40	- Revised to 8 knots for all ships - Ships drafting 76.0 dm or greater are to avoid ship meets	- Revised to 8 knots for all ships - Ships drafting 76.0 dm or greater are to avoid ship meets
Galop Island, between LB122 & LB127	8 knots for ships drafting greater than 78.0dm	N/A
Sector IV, between buoys LB157 & LB162	8.5 knots for ships drafting greater than 78.0dm	N/A

*Ship speeds in the above areas will be monitored closely.

**Reduced Water Levels in
St. Lawrence River
impacts Seaway vessel
drafts with speed
restrictions.**

On October 18 the opening of Lake Ontario water flows into the St. Lawrence River to raise water levels

The St. Lawrence River is facing unprecedented low water levels, severely affecting navigation and the boating community. The International Joint Commission (IJC) will open the gates of Lake Ontario for 36 hours to alleviate these challenges.

This operation will release 500 cubic meters of water into the river every second. This volume is equivalent to an Olympic-sized swimming pool being emptied every two seconds.

Although this will lead to a minimal drop of less than one-third of a centimeter in Lake Ontario, it will provide crucial assistance to thousands of boats currently stranded in the mud along the river.



Low water levels ground boats at marinas in the St. Lawrence River

The Weather Network



The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway System
Le réseau Grands Lacs - Voie maritime du Saint-Laurent

2025 - SEAWAY NOTICE #13

Maximum Permissible Draft – Montreal to Lake Ontario and Welland Canal

Mariners are advised that water levels on Lake St. Louis are low and continuing to decline.

Effective **August 23, 2025**, the **maximum permissible draft** in the **Montreal-Lake Ontario section** will be reduced to **80.0 dm (26'-3")** for all ships.

Reduced outflows and low water levels are expected to persist for some time. We will continue to monitor conditions closely and will advise of any change as soon as possible.

Speed restrictions remain in effect as described in the latest Montreal-Lake Ontario Notices to Shipping.

In the **Welland Canal**, maximum permissible draft will remain at **80.8 dm (26'-6")** for all ships.

Ships equipped with an **approved and operational Draft Information System (DIS)** will continue to be permitted to transit at a draft of up to **7cm (3")** above the maximum allowable draft.

August 12, 2025



The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway System
Le réseau Grands Lacs - Voie maritime du Saint-Laurent

SEAWAY NOTICE #14 - 2025

Closing of the 2025 Navigation Season

The Seaway Corporations are confirming the closing dates of the 2025-26 navigation season that were communicated in Seaway Notice No.2 of 2025.

Closing Dates

Montreal-Lake Ontario Section

- The Corporations have decided to **waive** the operational surcharges on December 21, 22, 23 and 24.
- Any transit of the Montreal-Lake Ontario Section of the Seaway after 23:59 hours, December 24, if permitted, will be subject to prior written agreement. Arrangements are to be made at the St. Lambert office.
- **All ships must be clear of the MLO Section by 12:00 January 5, 2026.**

Welland Canal

- Any transits of the Welland Canal after 23:59 hours, December 26, if permitted, will be subject to prior written agreement. Arrangements are to be made at the St. Catharines office.
- **All ships must be clear of the Welland Canal by 12:00 January 10, 2026**

Targeted opening dates for the 2026 Seaway navigation season are as follows:

- Montreal / Lake Ontario Section: March 22, 2026
- Welland Canal: March 22, 2026

Sault Ste. Marie Locks and Canal (United States)

Closing of the Sault Ste. Marie Locks (U.S.A.) is currently scheduled for January 15, 2026. Please note the Notice to Navigation Interests released by the US Army Corps of Engineers for further information.

Extension of the National trial of remote inspections for grain and concentrates in bulk

SSB No.: 23/2024

From: Transport Canada



RDIMS No .: 20495028 Date (Y-M-D) : 2024-09-09

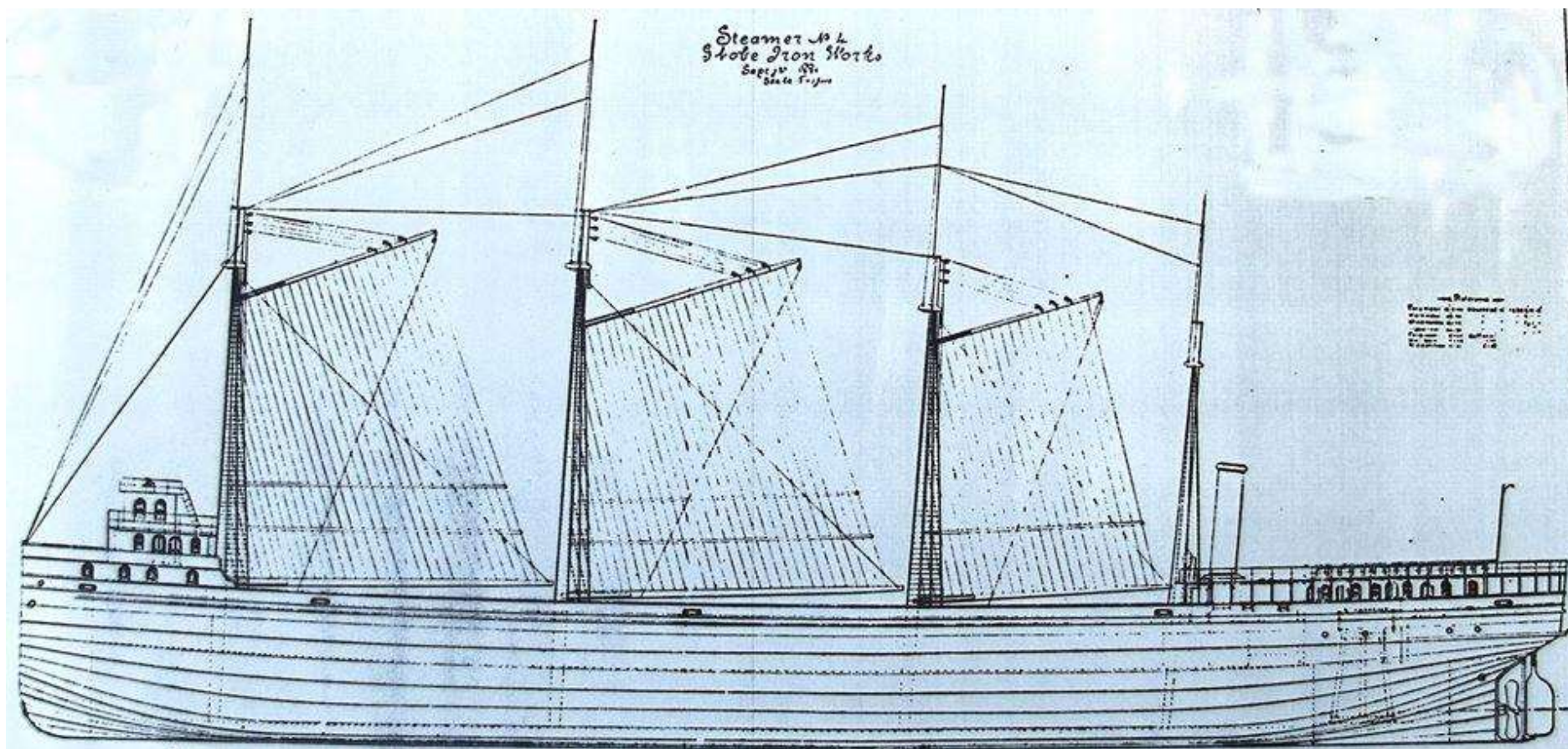
The National Trial for Remote inspections for grain and concentrates in bulk will be extended from September 2025 to March 31, 2026. Extension of the Trial will permit collection of additional data to help assess the remote inspection. The trial will facilitate the collection of data to compare the efficacy and efficiency of remote and physical inspection.

Transport Canada will assess if remote inspection is equally effective as physical inspection to confirm compliance with the Cargo, Fumigation and Tackle Regulations (CFTR).

For this trial to be successful, a certain number of vessels must be inspected remotely and physically. This will allow direct comparison of the two methods.

Great Lakes History

October 2025



The SS Onoko, launched in October 1862, was the first iron hulled freighter on the Lakes. She served as the prototype of the traditional "straight decker" design with the pilot house 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 and survived through 1915.



Final pieces of Tug James Whalen arrive at Pool 6 Thunder Bay

October 1937: The Canadian Seaman's Union signed a tentative wage contract. Sailors would continue a two-watch system (working 12 hours every 24 hours) and be paid the following monthly wages:

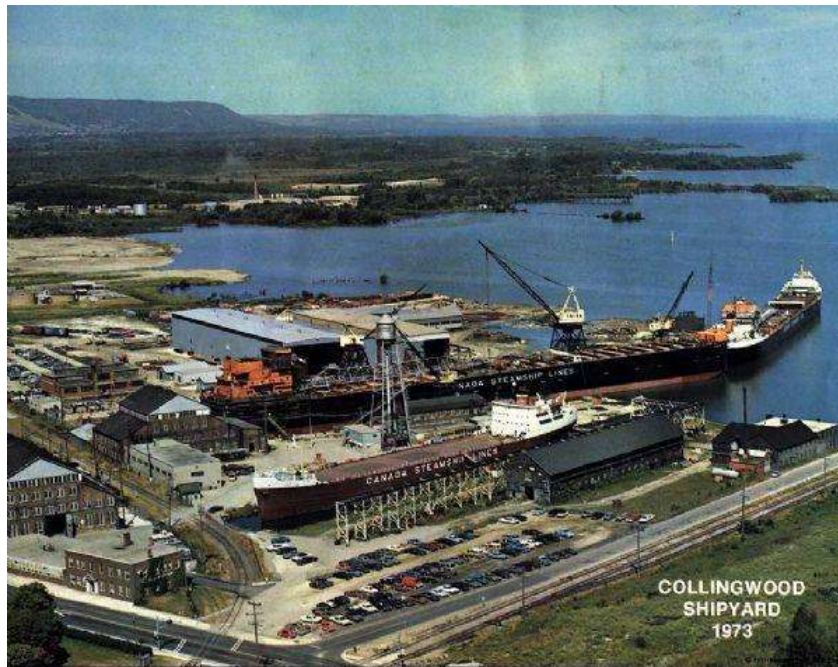
- wheelmen and oilers — \$72.50;**
- watchmen and firemen — \$67.50;**
- second cooks — \$52.50;**
- deckhands and coal passers — \$50.00;**
- porters — \$45.00;**
- chief cooks on the upper lakes — \$115.00;**
- chief cooks on canal boats — \$105.00.**



**1947: The tanker
IMPERIAL COLLINGWOOD
(Hull #137) was launched
at Collingwood, ON, by
Collingwood Shipyards
Ltd. for Imperial Oil Ltd. of
Toronto, ON. Renamed b.)
SEAWAY TRADER in 1979,
she was sold off the lakes
in 1984 and later renamed
c.) PATRICIA II and d.)
BALBOA TRADER in 1992.**

Imperial Collingwood on October 16, 1960. Robert A. Zeleznik Collection

October 1986: It was announced that Canada Steamship Lines and Upper Lakes Group would merge CSL's Collingwood shipyard and ULS' Port Weller shipyard and create Canadian Shipbuilding & Engineering (1986) Ltd.



Collingwood Shipyards (photo left) and Port Weller Dry Docks (photo right)

Salute and Thank You to our Corporate Members Support



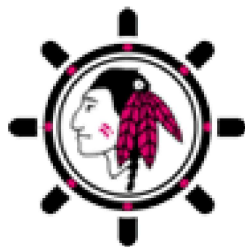
**PORTS
TORONTO**



The St. Lawrence
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Corporation



CHAMBER OF
MARINE COMMERCE



**LOWER LAKES
TOWING LTD.**

