

# **Great Lakes and Marine Industry News Update**

**April 2022**

# **Upcoming Dates/Events**

**Battle of the Atlantic – May 1, 2022**

**International Day of Women for Maritime (IMO) – May 18, 2022**

**International Day of the Seafarer (IMO) – June 25, 2022**



## **Majestic Mural Unveiled on CSL Welland during St-Lawrence Seaway Opening Ceremony Captures Spirit of Canada Games**

Thursday, March 24, 2022

**Canada Steamship Lines (“CSL”) marked the official opening today of the St. Lawrence Seaway navigation season at Lock 3 of the Welland Canal, by unveiling “The Runners”, a spectacular work of art painted on *CSL Welland*, a 36,364 DWT Trillium Class bulk carrier.**



**CSL Welland  
loading at  
Sarnia.  
March 28,  
2022.**

Mike Cunningham.



**CSL Welland  
returning  
down the St.  
Clair River  
after loading  
at the Sarnia  
grain  
elevator.  
March 28,  
2022.**

Rod Burdick.

*ROD BURDICK*

# Top hat ceremonies launch St. Lawrence Seaway's 64th navigation season

Good grain crops key to seaway's season, says St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. CEO

By [Dave Johnson](#) Tribune Reporter  
Thu., March 24, 2022





**The Edgar B. Speer waits below the Soo Locks for its turn to lock through as the first freighter of the 2022 shipping season.**

Photo provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



**McKeil Marine's MV Evans Spirit arrived at the Port of Hamilton yesterday, officially kicking off the 2022 marine shipping season. Coming all the way from Garrucha, Spain, with 15,905 mt of natural gypsum, the Canadian bulk carrier and its crew docked at pier 12 where stevedore, Federal Marine Terminals (FMT), will unload the cargo from its shallow draft. HOPA Ports Director, Safety & Security and Harbour Master, Vicki Gruber, HOPA's President & CEO, Ian Hamilton, and McKeil Marine CEO, Scott Bravener, are quoted.**

**Arrival of McKeil Marine's Evans Spirit shows the worldwide reach of Hamilton Port | The Bay Observer**

[bayobserver.ca](http://bayobserver.ca)

# PortsToronto celebrates 161st annual Top Hat Ceremony with the arrival of the first ship of the season

Toronto (March 28, 2022) Port of Toronto



– In a sure sign that spring is here, earlier this morning, PortsToronto “crowned” Captain Dorde Perovic of the *MV Chestnut* with an antique top hat – first presented in the spring of 1861– at the annual Top Hat Ceremony. For the past 161 years, PortsToronto has celebrated the official opening of the commercial shipping season by crowning the captain of the first ocean-going vessel or “saltie” to arrive at the port.

# Two lakers arrive Wednesday to open Port of Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay, ON – Two domestic vessels arrived in the early morning hours Wednesday, March 30, marking the official opening of the navigation season in the Port of Thunder Bay. M/V Michipicoten came abeam of the light marking the Mission Bay entrance to the Port at 04:31 a.m. local time. M/V Captain Henry Jackman crossed the north entrance at 05:04 a.m.

The Michipicoten, namesake of the river that empties into Lake Superior near Wawa, Ontario, achieved the honor of being the Port's Top Hat recipient for 2022. A seasoned vessel on the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Seaway, this is the first time Michipicoten has received Thunder Bay's Top Hat. Michipicoten is owned and operated by Lower Lakes Towing, subsidiary of Rand Logistics.





**Thunder Bay's first commercial visitor of 2022, the Michipicoten. March 30, 2022. Michael Hull**

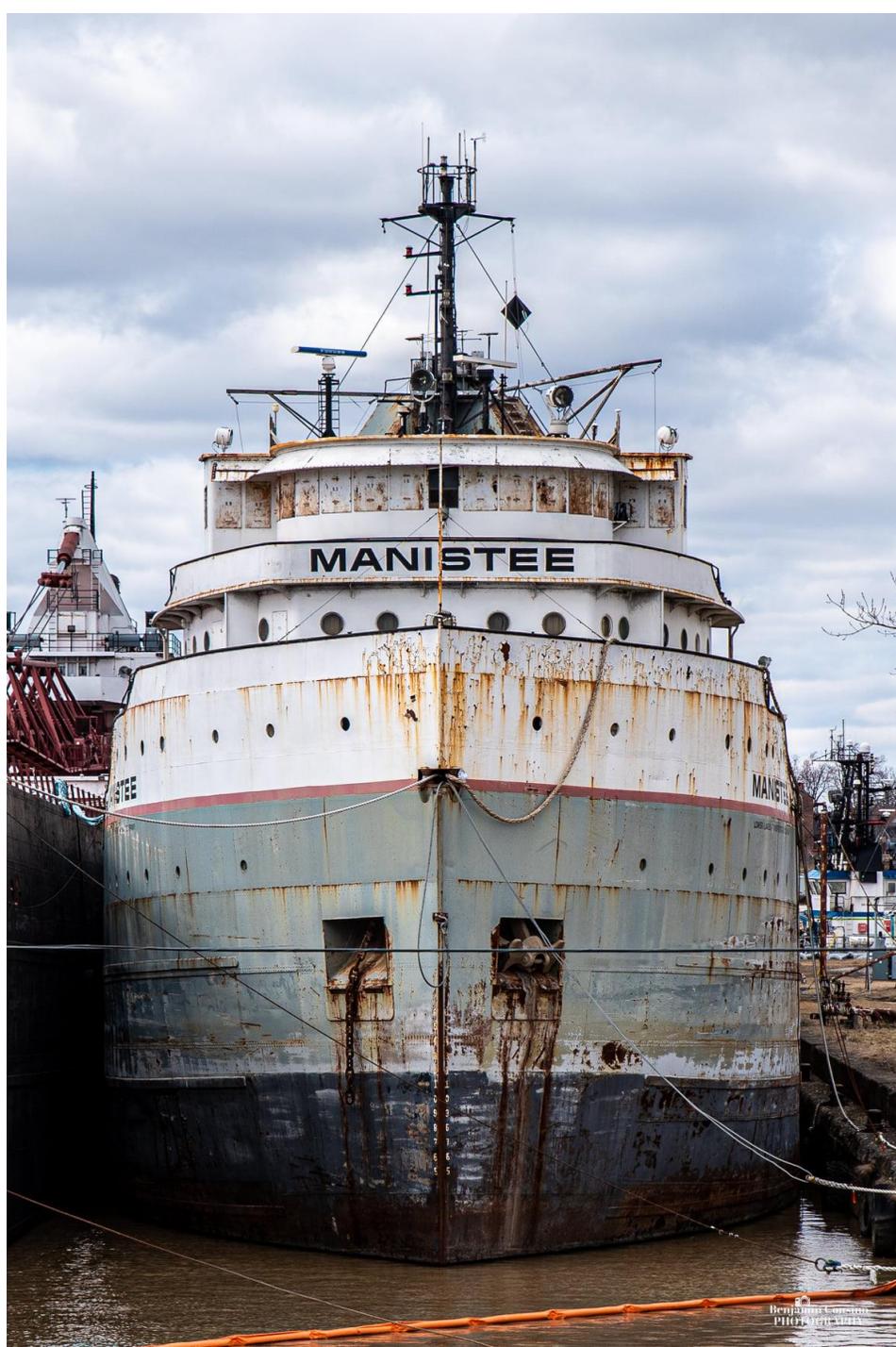
# Ontario Agrees to Establish Marine Strategy

**In Ontario, the Chamber of Marine Commerce worked with several port authorities, ship operators and Heddle Shipyards to restart its efforts to have the Ontario provincial government launch a robust marine strategy. Late January, CMC held a virtual day at Queen's Park, meeting with five ministerial offices to present the industry perspective and to show how marine can do more to move Ontario goods and people and help alleviate pressure on its congested highways. The message was well received and led to the announcement in the *Ontario Greater Golden Horseshoe Strategy* that the province will be tasking the Ministry of Transport to work with industry stakeholders in defining its approach to establishing its first marine strategy.**



**Crews removing fuel, water from sinking Lake Superior tugboat**  
**Duluth, MN** – The U.S. Coast Guard continues to work on a tugboat that's partially underwater in the Duluth Harbor to remove fuel and water from the vessel. The retired U.S. Army Corps tugboat, named Lake Superior, "was listing over the weekend but was supported by ice," Joseph McGinnis, the waterways management branch chief with the Coast Guard, told Bring Me The News on Monday.





**Manistee on Sunday  
awaiting her fate.  
Heading to Marine  
Recycling Corp.,  
Port Colborne**

Benjamin Lee



# Manistee on the move departing Toledo.

Benjamin Lee



# Manistee scrap tow outbound Maumee River.

Joe Cioletti

## Long-idle Manistee reaches her final dock

Port Colborne, ON – Manistee arrived at Wharf 17 Marine Recycling Corp. in Port Colborne about 0830 March 30. She was towed from Toledo to MRC by tug Beverly M 1 and assisted by tugs Vac and John D. to the scrap yard. Built in 1943 at Great Lakes Engineering Works, River Rouge, Michigan, Manistee sailed originally as Richard J. Reiss. Her name was shortened to Richard when she was sold to the Erie Sand fleet in 1986. A sale to Grand River Navigation Co. in 2005 saw her name changed to Manistee. She went into permanent layup at Toledo in 2015.





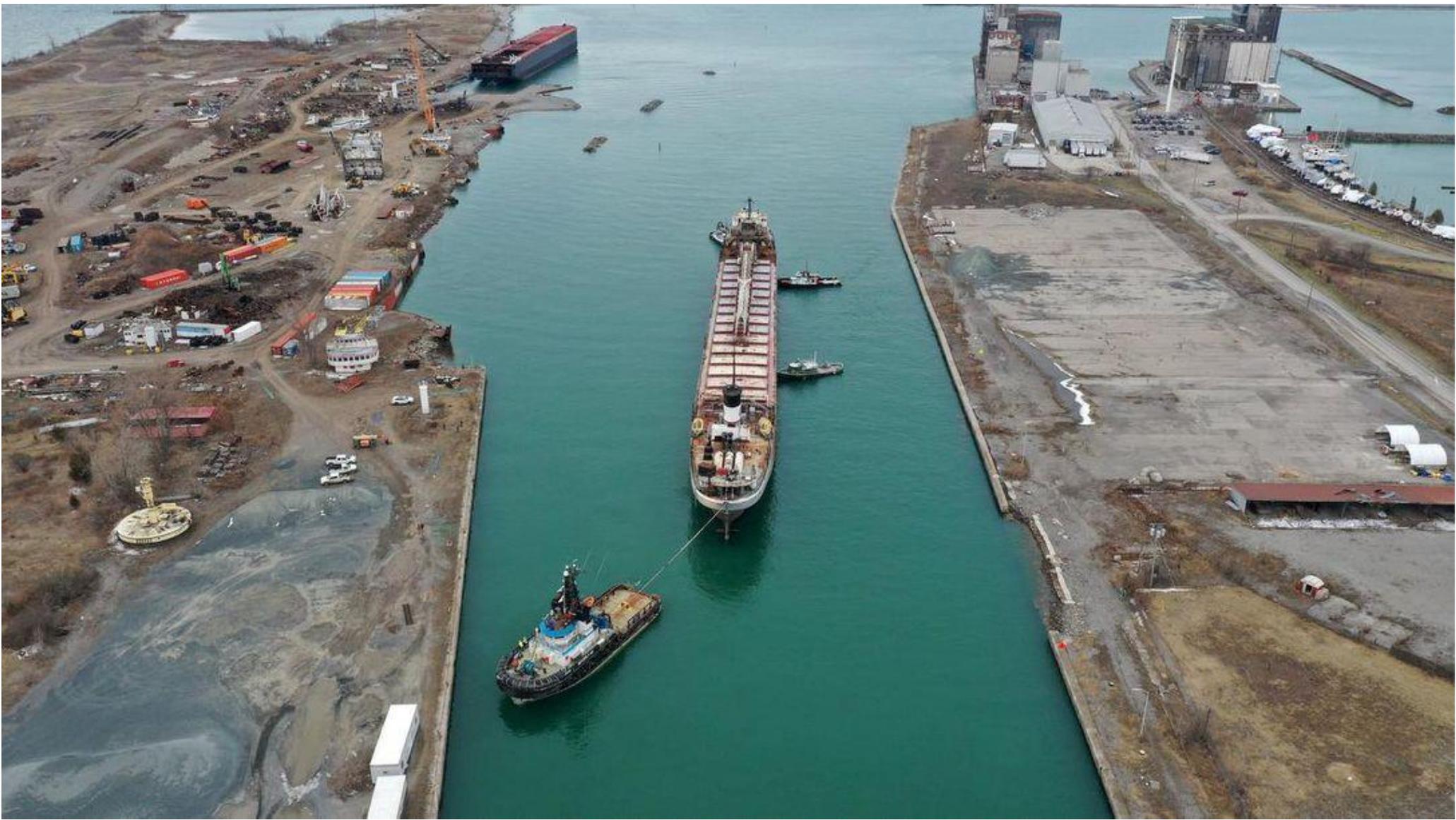
**Manistee  
at Wharf  
17 Port  
Colborne  
with tugs  
Beverly M  
I, Vac,  
John D,  
Charlie E  
on  
3.30.2022.**

Barry  
Andersen



**Manistee  
in 2010 at  
Toledo  
ARMS  
Dock .**

Jim Hoffman



With McKeil Marine tugs Beverly MI on the bow (front), and John D, on the stern (rear), Marine Recycling Corp.'s tug Charlie E, front middle, and McKeil's Vac, rear middle, work to get the nearly 80-year-old bulk carrier Manistee docked on the east wall of the Welland Canal in Port Colborne Wednesday. The vessel was once part of the Lower Lakes Towing Ltd. fleet. Welland Tribune – Dave Johnson



## Ojibway will make trip to scrapyard under her own power

Confirming what has been rumored since late last fall, the 1953-built Ojibway will be scrapped. She will sail under her own power from winter quarters at Sorel, QC, and is expected to arrive at the Marine Recycling Corp. scrapyard April 5. The information comes from the Facebook page of MRC owner Wayne Elliott.

**Ojibway on  
March 28, 2021,  
at the start of  
her final season.**

John C. Knech





## Canal Days in Port Colborne 2022

'Added excitement' part of preparations for return of Canal Days in Port Colborne

Annual festival draws about 300,000 people over four days; runs July 29 to Aug. 1 this year

By [Kris Dubé](#) Tribune Reporter



**Nukumi  
at  
Halifax,  
with tug  
Atlantic  
Beaver  
assisting.**

Mac  
Mackay



HAMILTON'S  
2022 RBC ROYAL BANK  
**CITIZEN OF  
THE YEAR**

**Blair McKeil**



RBC Royal Bank\*

**Congratulations to Blair McKeil, CEO of Breakwater Investments, as the recipient of the 2022 RBC Royal Bank Hamilton Citizen of the Year Award.**

**The Hamilton Citizen of the Year award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Hamilton community and who have brought outstanding and remarkable attention to the Hamilton community beyond our municipal borders.**

**Blair will be honoured at the Hamilton Chamber's in-person Outstanding Business Achievement Awards gala on May 11 at Carmen's Banquet Centre.**

## **Best Wishes to Capt. Thomas Aulinger – retiring from Georgian College**

**Best wishes and thanks to Captain Thomas Aulinger, who is retiring from the Centre for Marine Training and Research (CMTR) at Georgian College on May 31st. Thomas joined the college in 2018 as the Director of the CMTR and in his time at the college has transformed the CMTR increasing the contribution to the college substantially. Thomas has been instrumental in broadening the number of maritime companies who send seafarers for training, including new clients as well as reengaging several that had moved away from using the CMTR. Clients such as BC Ferries, Disney Cruise Lines and Canadian Steamship Lines have joined many others to experience the outstanding training and exceptional client service provided by CMTR. During the pandemic, the CMTR became the first training centre to deliver Transport Canada approved Marine Emergency Duties courses using blended delivery and “In-Cloud” simulation systems.**

**In addition to the new cliental, Thomas has been able to facilitate the renovation and upgrading of the existing navigation bridge simulators and with the addition of the Canadian Steamship Lines Advanced Integrated Simulator has secured Georgian College’s position as a world class marine training facility.**

**Capt. Aulinger was a recent “guest speaker” at our CMM Meeting, and we thank him for his service to marine training and our industry in his upcoming retirements.**

United States Coast Guard Cutter BRISTOL BAY (WTGB 102) is conducting a **Waterways Analysis and Management System (WAMS) review for the following waterways: Toledo / Maumee Channel (LLNR 6030-6455) & Monroe Harbor (LLNR 6460-6680).**

As part of this WAMS, we are reaching out to the key players of the military, industry, and general public to provide useful input regarding these waterways. Attached to this email you will find a PDF form that includes basic information and several questions to help us determine the best course of action regarding the waterway's Aids to Navigation (AtoN). Any and all responses are welcome!

Please send any completed forms, feedback, or questions to: [brian.s.hwang@uscg.mil](mailto:brian.s.hwang@uscg.mil) by COB on 20 April 2022.



**Martha L.  
Black  
arriving in  
Johnstown  
to load  
buoys.**

March 30,  
2022.

Port of  
Johnstown.



**Family members of crew aboard the SPAR (WLB-206) greet the cutter as it arrives in its new home port of Duluth, replacing the Alder.**

March 30, 2022.

David Schauer.



## **GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, Mich., (WPBN/WGTU) – Great Lakes Cruise Industry**

**The great lakes cruise industry was expected to generate more than half a billion dollars in 2020. While the pandemic put a dent in that, cruises are set to get back under way this year across the great lakes. Staff with the great lakes cruise association tell us the industry is coming back strong.**

**Before the pandemic hit the association reported some 15,000 people took great lake cruises.**

**In the next two years, they're expecting more than 50,000 and the associations director says there are a number of reasons for that.**

**"Travelling on a cruise ship now is probably one of the safest places in the world. Because you don't get on a cruise ship unless you're completely vaccinated," said Stephen Burrnet, executive director for the Great Lakes Cruise Association.**

**"Crew are not allowed to work unless they are completely vaccinated," Burrnet said. "The protocols for getting on a ship and moving around a ship are stringent. So, I think there is a degree of comfort people have in going on board a cruise ship that did not exist."**

**Burrnet also says a pent-up desire to travel is partially fueling a rise in cruise numbers.**

**And he expects this demand to continue growing in northern Michigan ports like Sault Ste Marie and Mackinac Island.**

**Quiz Time????????????**

**What Great Lake has the most recorded shipwrecks?**

**There are over 6,000 shipwrecks in the Great Lakes, which have claimed an estimated 30,000 lives. About 550 ships rest at the bottom of Lake Superior alone, “most of which are undiscovered,” says the museum website.**

**At least 200 lie along the particularly treacherous 80-mile stretch of Lake Superior shoreline, which bears the cautionary nickname “Shipwreck Coast.” Nearby is the [Edmund Fitzgerald](#), which at 730 feet is the largest (and undoubtedly, the most famous) of the Great Lakes shipwrecks.**

**The five interconnected Great Lakes are truly massive. Combined, they hold about 21% of the world’s fresh surface water (5,472 cubic miles, or 22,812 km<sup>3</sup>), enough to cover the lower 48 states in 9.5 feet (2.9 m) of water. Because of their depth and size, not to mention the occasionally terrible weather and real danger to shipping, they are often called “inland seas,” or even “America’s fourth coast” (after the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf of Mexico).**

Michigan

Erie

Huron

Superior

Ontario

# Lake Michigan wrecks: the oldest and the mostest

Lake Michigan is the third-largest Great Lake by area (22,404 square miles, or 57,800 km<sup>2</sup>) and the second-largest by volume (1,180 cubic miles, or 4,920 km<sup>3</sup>). It is the only one that is entirely within the United States. Because they are level (at 557 feet, or 176 m) and connected, Michigan and Huron are sometimes considered to be one lake.

Lake Michigan contains more shipwrecks than any of the other Great Lakes, as well as the oldest recorded one: the French ship Griffon, the first European vessel to sail the Lakes. It vanished with all six hands in 1679. Nobody knows what happened to it, or where its wreck may be found.

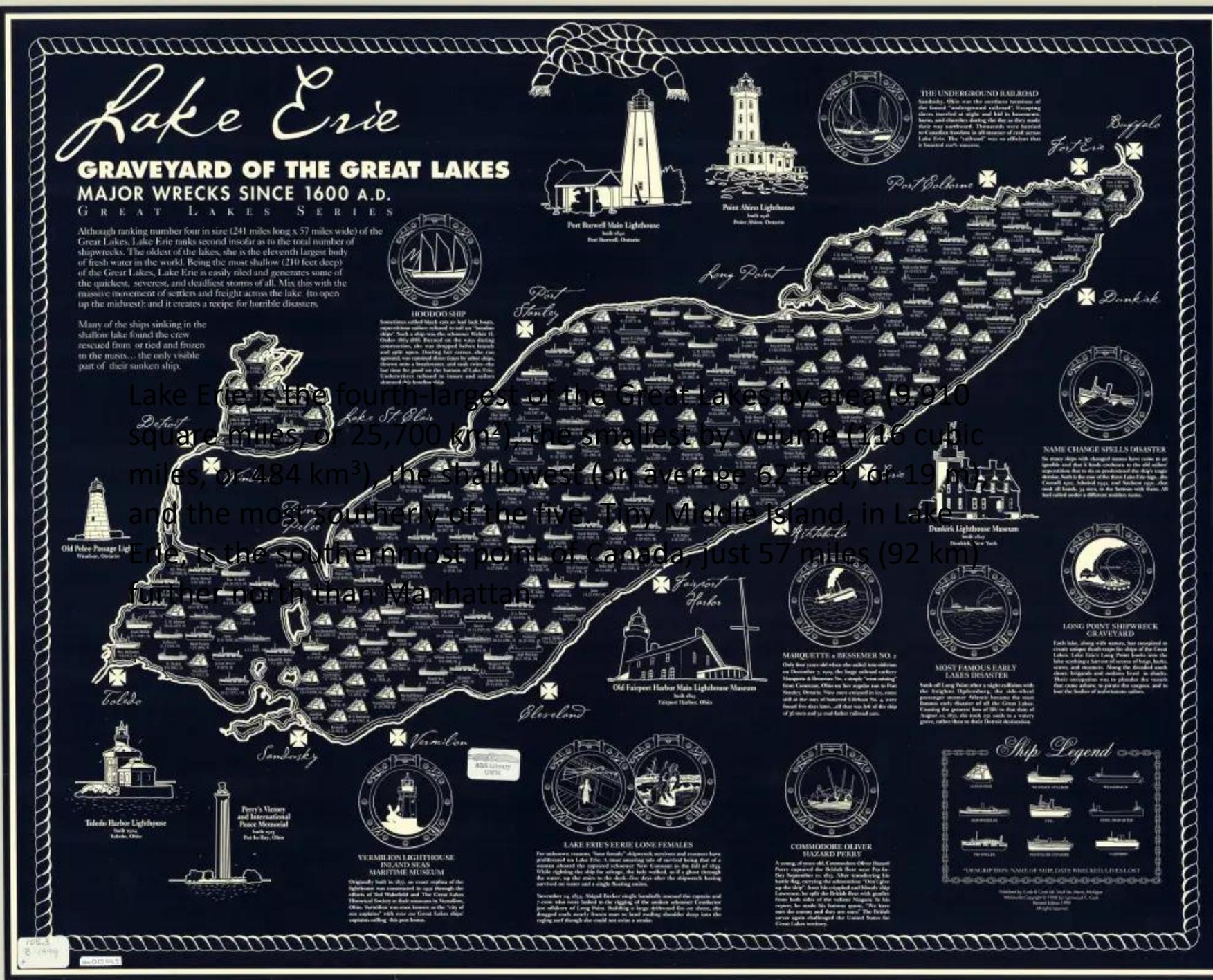


The Griffon was the first European vessel to sail the Great Lakes. Its remains are still at the bottom of Lake Michigan.

(Credit: The American Geographical Society Library Digital Map Collection at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM); map by Cook & Cook Ltd)

# Lake Erie: Shallow and #2 in shipwrecks

Lake Erie is the fourth-largest of the Great Lakes by area (9,910 square miles, or 25,700 km<sup>2</sup>), the smallest by volume (116 cubic miles, or 484 km<sup>3</sup>), the shallowest (on average 62 feet, or 19 m), and the most southerly of the five. Tiny Middle Island, in Lake Erie, is the southernmost point of Canada, just 57 miles (92 km) further north than Manhattan.



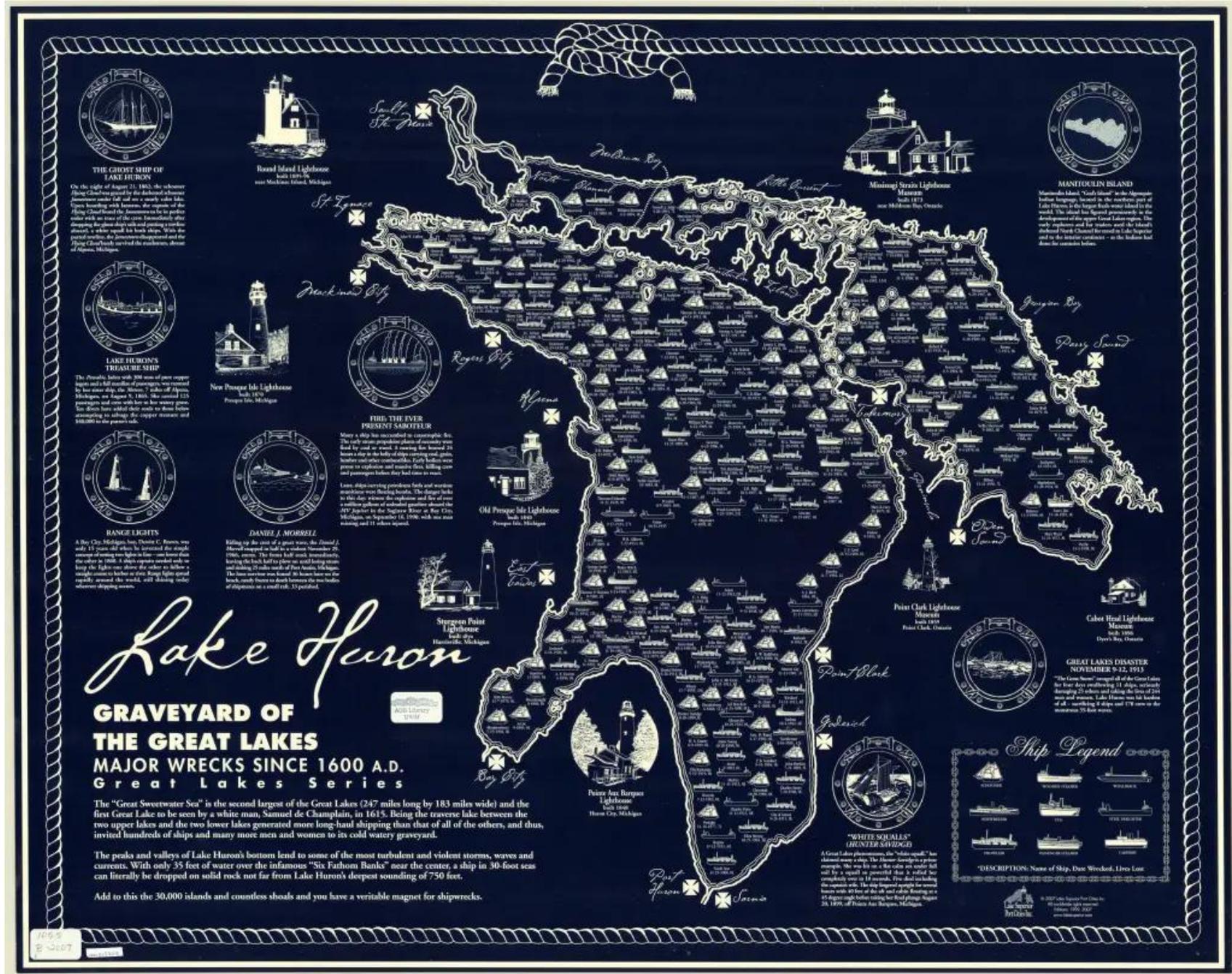
Lake Erie is fourth in size out of the five Great Lakes but comes second in terms of number of shipwrecks.

(Credit: The American Geographical Society Library Digital Map Collection at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM); map by Cook & Cook Ltd)

# Lake Huron: a

“magnet for shipwrecks” - #3

Also known as the “Great Sweetwater Sea,” Lake Huron is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Great Lake by area (23,007 square miles or 59,600 km<sup>2</sup>), of which about 14,000 square miles are in Ontario and 9,000 in Michigan. It’s the third Great Lake by volume (850 cubic miles, or 3,540 km<sup>3</sup>). Because of its many islands, it has the longest shoreline of the five lakes (3,827 miles, or 6,157 km). Manitoulin Island (1,068 square miles, or 2,766 km<sup>2</sup>) is the world’s largest island in any inland body of water.

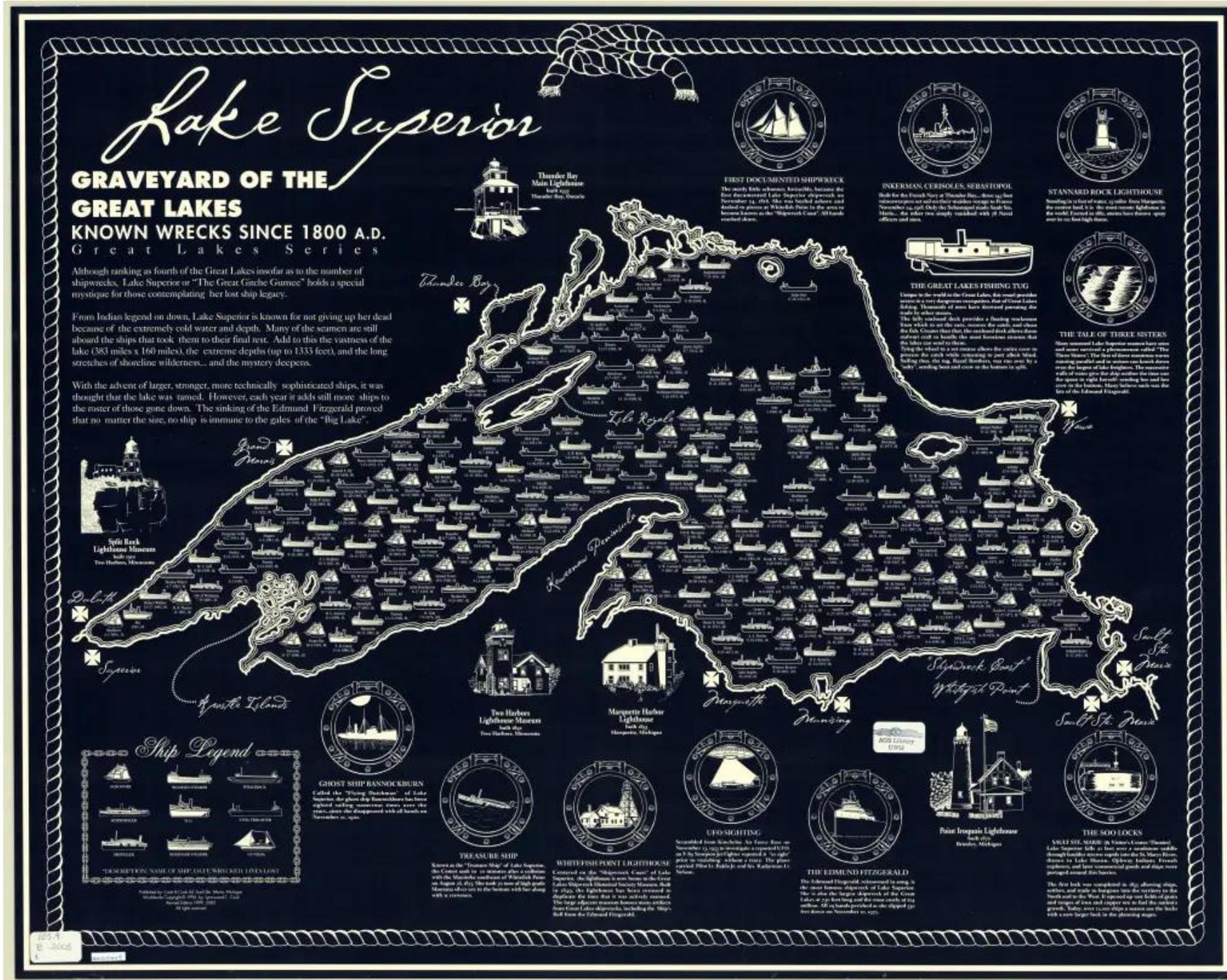


Some of the shipwrecks in Lake Huron include the Cream City and the Alice Coffee, as well as the Delaware (sic) and the Typo.

(Credit: The American Geographical Society Library Digital Map Collection at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM); map by Cook & Cook Ltd)

Lake Superior: 1<sup>st</sup> in size, 4<sup>th</sup> in wrecks

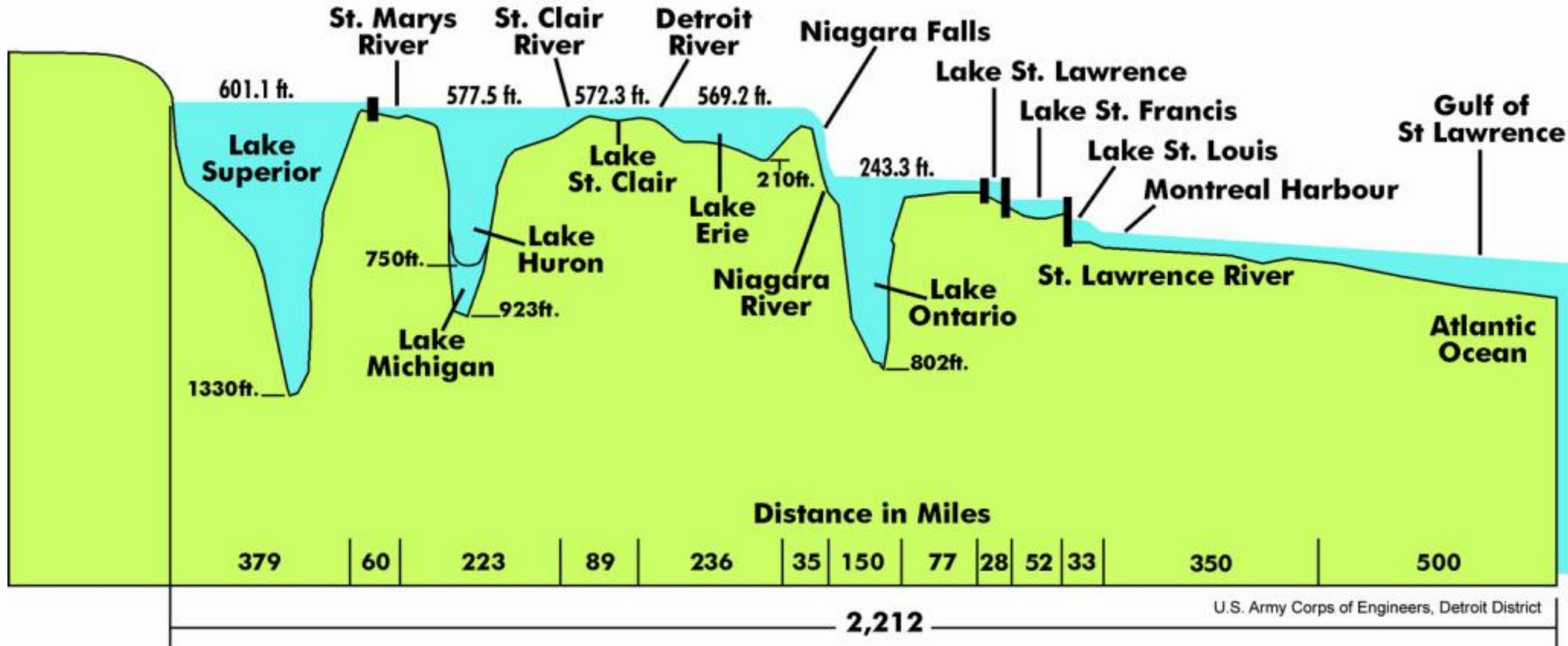
The largest of the Great Lakes by area (31,700 square miles, or 82,103 km<sup>2</sup>), Lake Superior is also the largest lake in North America, the world's largest freshwater lake, and the world's second-largest lake per se. (The Caspian Sea, which is larger, is salty.) It is also the largest of the Great Lakes by volume (2,903 cubic miles, or 12,100 km<sup>3</sup>), has the greatest depth (1,332 feet, or 402 m), and the highest elevation (600 feet, or 183 m).



Lake Superior is number one in size, but only fourth out of five when it comes to shipwrecks.

(Credit: The American Geographical Society Library Digital Map Collection at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM); map by Cook & Cook Ltd)





U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District

# **MCKEIL MARINE BUILDS ITS FLEET WITH NEW ACQUISITION**

**BURLINGTON, Ontario – April 11, 2022 – With the 2022-23 navigation season underway, marine services provider McKeil Marine is pleased to announce the expansion of its fleet following the purchase of the MV Da Shen. This unique shallow-draft, self-discharging vessel, built in 1998, will complement McKeil’s bulker fleet and further enhance the broad range of services which McKeil offers within its niche markets.**

**The MV Da Shen has four cargo holds and measures 155 metres by 22 metres, with a deadweight of 19,651 MT. Originally designed for the carriage of cement clinker, the vessel is currently docked in China where it will be retrofitted with a new single-point loading system, together with the modifications and upgrades necessary for its intended service. Delivery to Canada is expected in early 2023.**

**“The purchase of the MV Da Shen reflects our consistent strategy in fleet expansion,” explains McKeil’s CEO, Scott Bravener, “and that is to build a fleet that remains flexible and versatile. Our goal is to meet the needs of existing and new customers through unique and innovative marine solutions. This vessel acquisition is positive news as we continue our growth trajectory heading into a new shipping season.”**



**MV Da Shen**



LAKE HURON—Lake levels in the Great Lakes have dropped substantially for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. On April 1, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released its weekly water level data for all five Great Lakes, as well as for Lake St. Clair. **Lakes Michigan and Huron saw a decline of 15 inches in water levels in the past year, with Lake Superior falling about 11 inches. The previous year saw a reduction of approximately 11 inches in Lakes Michigan and Huron and around eight inches on Lake Superior.**

**The record high lake level, in April, in Lakes Michigan and Huron was set back in 2020. As of April 1, 2022, the lakes are 29 inches lower than that high-water mark.** Manitoulin Expositor