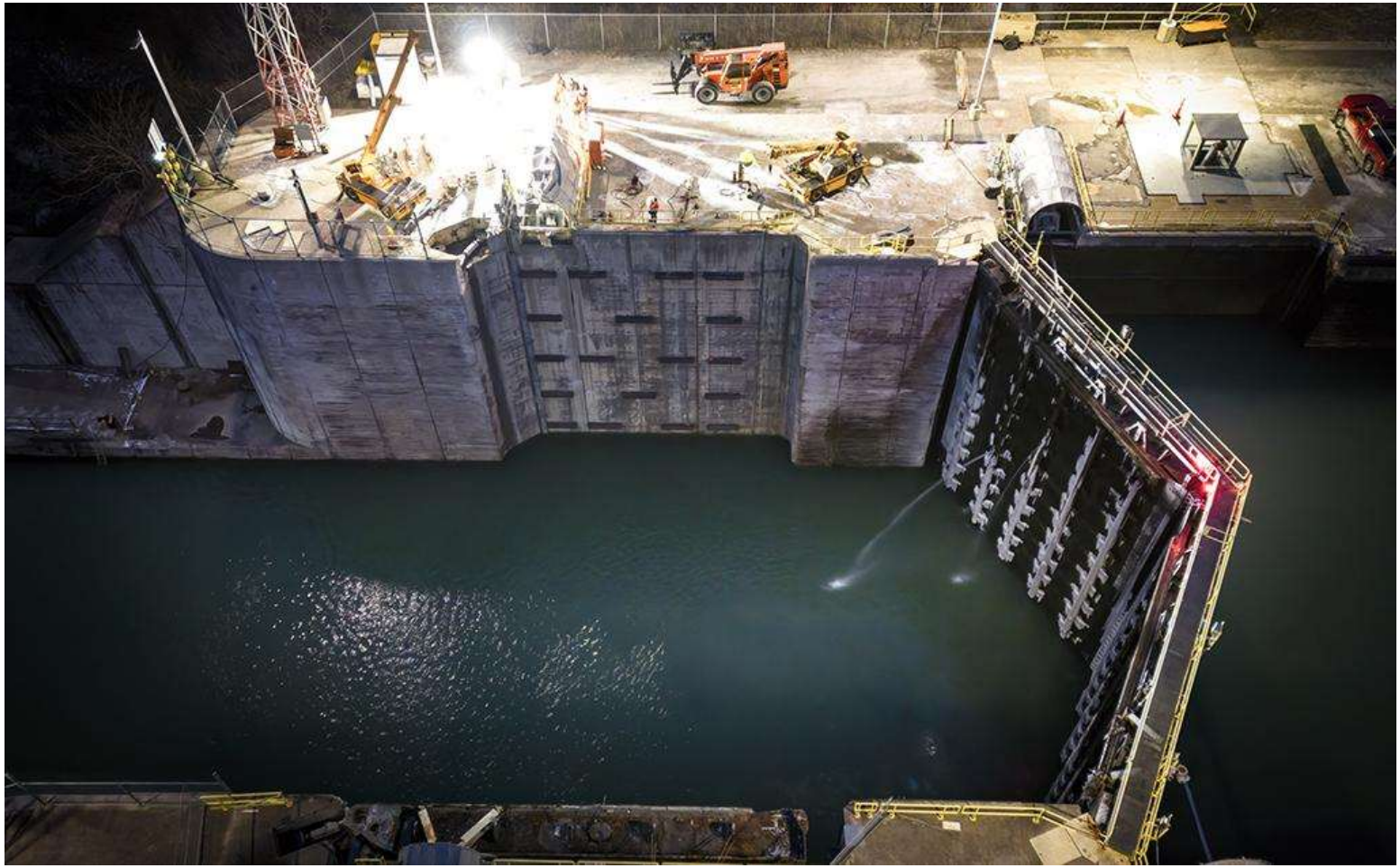
Great Lakes Division
The Company of Master Mariners of Canada

February 2026

Great Lakes and Marine Industry News Update

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

February 2026



SLSMC — Winter repair and maintenance work is underway on two Welland Canal locks and three bridges. It's part of a $180 million investment in the Welland Canal region.

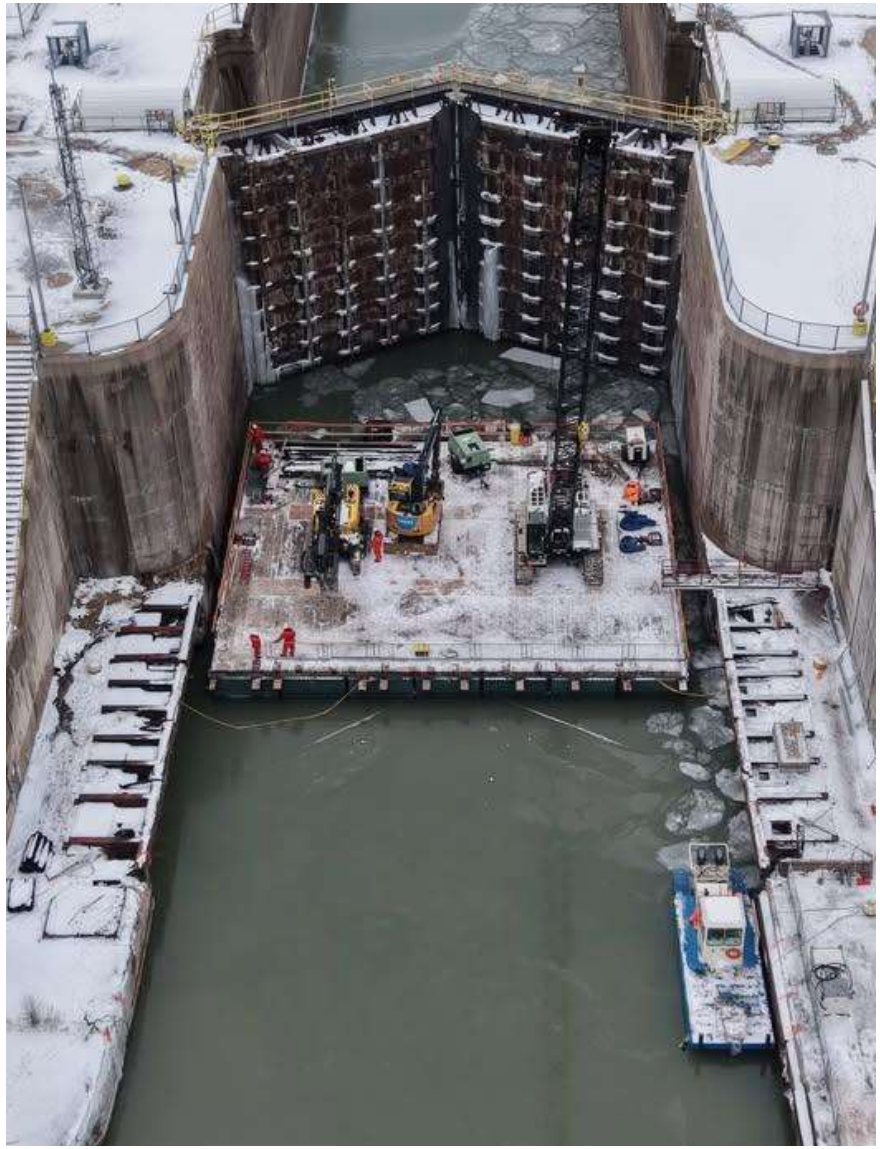
$350 million in infrastructure, with $180 million in the Welland Canal region and more than $170 million in the Montreal to Lake Ontario region.

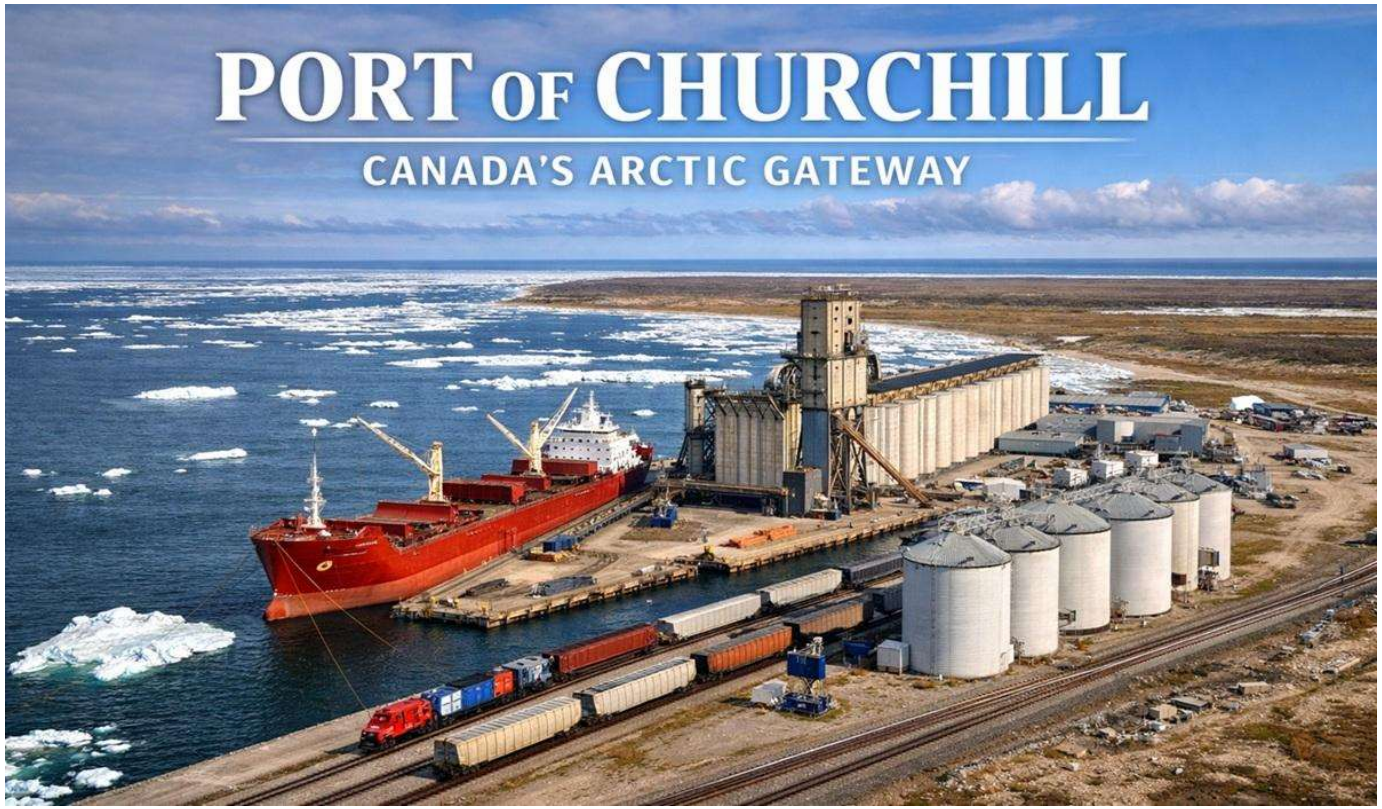
The winter 2026 Welland Canal components include:

- **Rehabilitation work to the main steel tower pockets of the Clarence Street Bridge bridge, resulting in its full closure until March 14.**
- **Installation of hands-free mooring units (remote-operated vacuum pads that hold ships in place during lock transits) at Lock 8 until March 20. This involves concrete demolition preparation and painting.**
- **Structural and steel repairs to the Carlton Street Bridge, resulting in full closure until Feb. 17.**
- **Installation of new floor anchors to Lock 1 until March 14.**
- **Communication system upgrades at the Glendale Avenue Bridge until Feb. 25.**
- **Lakeshore Road Bridge inspection and bridge counterweight buffer replacement until March 4.**
- **Replacement of a pedestrian bridge deck that is part of the Welland Canal's Trail Weir 25 near Lock 7 until Feb. 7.**

Pretty cool to get a bird’s eye view of the winter operation's crew from Rankin Construction on the job below Lock 1 in the Welland canal!

Michel Gosselin Jan 20, 2026





TDS News Canada January 18, 2026

In the 1990s, the federal government divested itself of the port and railway, ultimately selling them for one dollar to OmniTRAX.

Through history, geography, trade economics, and modern geopolitical risk, a strong case can be made that once fully operating at scale, Churchill may become the most strategically important port in Canada.

Completed in 1931 and linked to southern Manitoba by the Hudson Bay Railway, it was envisioned as a shorter, cheaper route for exporting grain to Europe.

IMO welcomes entry into force of High Seas Treaty 2026 January 19

The world's first global treaty to protect ocean life in international waters entered into force on 17 January 2026, bringing into effect legally binding rules for the sustainable use and management of marine resources in the high seas.

Ontario Shipyards 2026

January 15, 2026

2026 is shaping up to be another busy winter at the Port Weller Dry Docks, with two commercial repair projects scheduled CSL Niagara and Algoma Mariner as well as the continuation of the CCGS Terry Fox Vessel Life Extension. Our shipyards build and maintain the vessels that keep our waterways safe and transport the cargoes that keep our economy moving.

Ontario Shipyards

SEAWAY CUSTOMER RELATIONS MEETING – SPRING 2026

March 12, 2026 – 08:30 to 15:00 hrs

Hilton Garden Inn, Montreal Centreville, 380 rue Sherbrooke Ouest, Montreal Quebec

AGENDA

From	Subject	Time	By
:30 to 9:00	**CROISSANTS & COFFEE**	30 min.	All
9:00 to 09:15	**Introduction & Welcome** ➢ Meeting objectives / agenda ➢ Meeting feedback	15 min.	SG
9:15 to 10:00	**Seaway Operations** ➢ Review of 2025 operational performance ➢ Closing 2025 takeaways ➢ Marine Services activities	45 min.	MP / SG / OL
0:00 to 10:15	**BREAK**	**15 min.**	
0:15 to 10:30	**Ballast Program Review** ➢ 2025 Ballast water results	15 min.	OL
0:30 to 11:15	**Seaway Projects & Initiatives** ➢ Infrastructure projects ➢ Voyage Information System	45 min.	SG JM
1:15 to 11:45	**Customer Survey** ➢ Review survey results	30 min.	SG
1:45 to 12:00	**Pilotage Update**	15 min.	GLPA / LPA / U.S.
2:00 to 13:00	**LUNCH**	**60 min.**	
13:00 to 13:20	**2026 Navigation Season** ➢ Business outlook ➢ Conditions & forecasts for opening	20 min.	LS / MP/SG
13:20 to 14:00	**Seaway Regulations, Security, Operational Advisories** ➢ Review of changes to Seaway Handbook ➢ Seaway marine security ➢ Operational advisories	40 min	OL
4:00 to 14:15	**BREAK**	**15 min.**	
14:15 to 14:45	**Regional Updates** ➢ MLO, GLS, Welland Canal	30 min	MV / RC/JW
14:45 to 15:00	**Closing of Meeting**	15 min	SG

DRAFT

CSL Receives Fifth Consecutive Top Employer for Young People Award

The CSL Group Inc.

The CSL Group ("CSL"), a global leader in responsible marine transportation, is proud to be recognized as one of Canada's Top Employers for Young People for the fifth year in a row. The distinction reflects CSL's long-standing commitment to developing early-career talent and fostering an inclusive, growth-oriented workplace across both shipboard and shore-based operations.

Early-career professionals represent approximately 10% of CSL's workforce and are supported through a range of structured entry programs, including paid internships, co-op placements, summer jobs, and a cadet sponsorship program for future seafarers. Each year, CSL employs approximately 50 cadets from recognized Canadian marine colleges, providing hands-on experience aboard vessels operating on the Great Lakes and the East Coast.

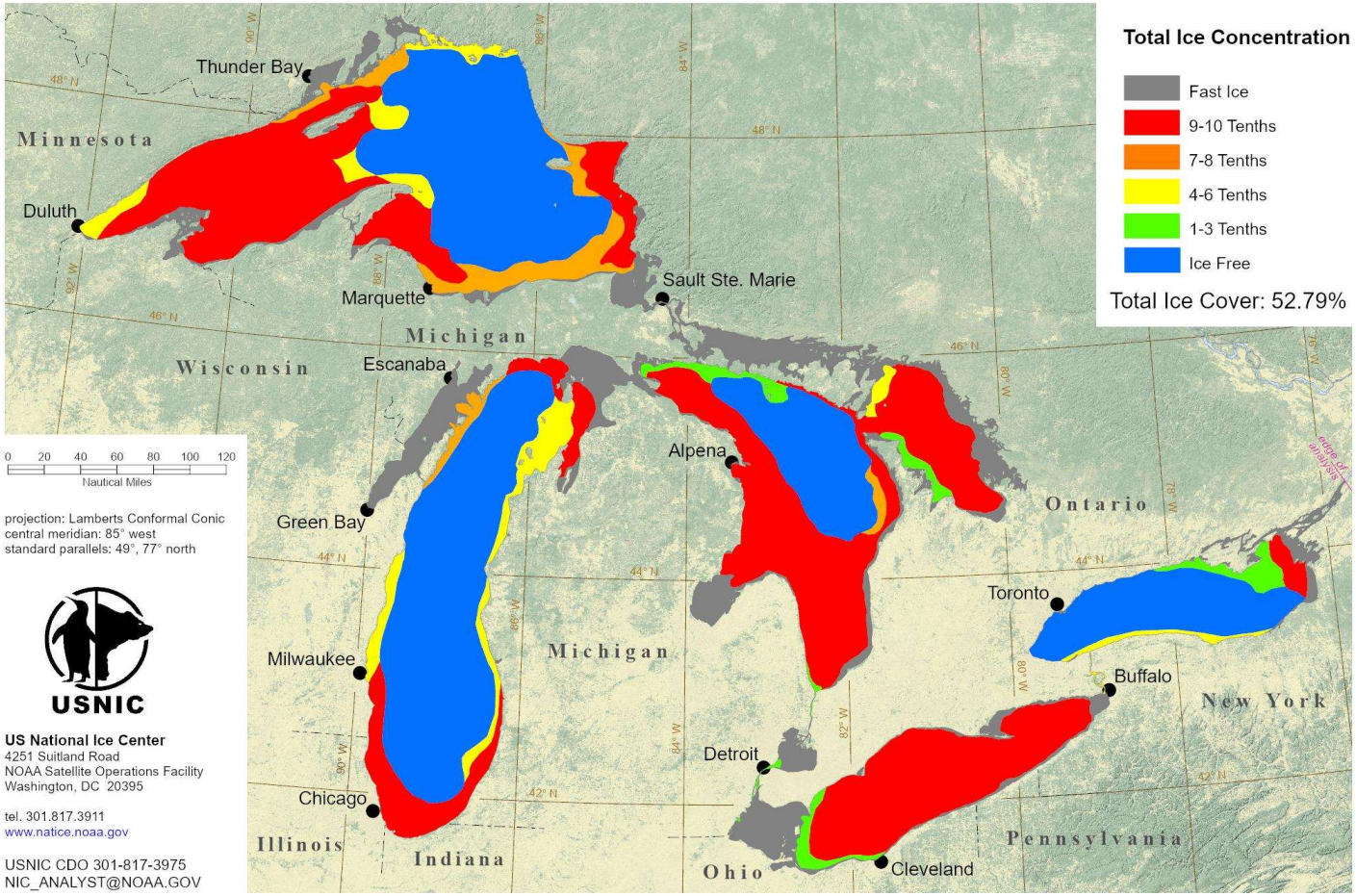
Young CSL ship and shore employees

U. S. NATIONAL ICE CENTER

USCG GREAT LAKES DISTRICT ICE CONCENTRATION

ICE DATE: 15 FEB 2026

MAP PRODUCED: 15 FEB 2026



projection: Lamberts Conformal Conic
central meridian: 85° west
standard parallels: 49°, 77° north

USNIC

US National Ice Center
4251 Suitland Road
NOAA Satellite Operations Facility
Washington, DC 20395

tel. 301.817.3911
www.natice.noaa.gov

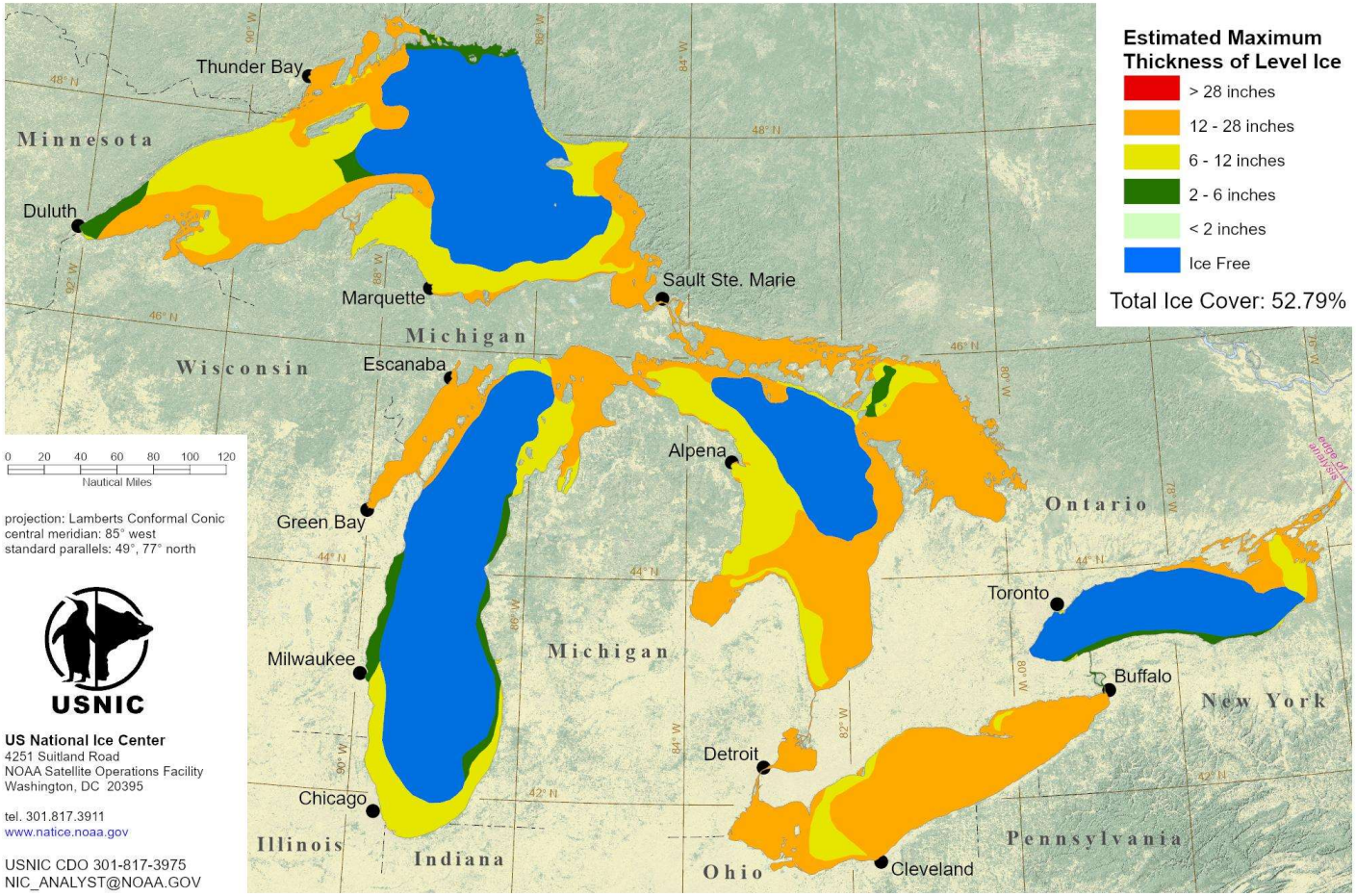
USNIC CDO 301-817-3975
NIC_ANALYST@NOAA.GOV

U. S. NATIONAL ICE CENTER

USCG GREAT LAKES DISTRICT
ESTIMATED MAXIMUM THICKNESS OF LEVEL ICE

ICE DATE: 15 FEB 2026

MAP PRODUCED: 15 FEB 2026



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Even Lake Erie is literally cracking under the pressure of an intense winter season. The visible satellite image (2/8/26) from GOES-East shows a series of large splits in the ice pack, which has been hovering at around 96% of the surface area over the last few weeks. Moderating temperatures will accelerate the thaw.

Deck Procedures Guide

Deck Procedures Guide align with those in the widely used ICS Bridge Procedures Guide and Engine Room Procedures Guide, completing an essential set of guides that enable companies to uphold the highest standards of best practice across ship operations.

International Chamber of Shipping

Shipping Federation of Canada

Mariners' Workshop

January 28 & 29, 2026
Montreal, QC

The Shipping Federation of Canada is pleased to announce the 2026 edition of its Mariners' Workshop, taking place at the Marriott Montreal Chateau Champlain, in Montreal on **January 28 & 29**, under the theme of "**Enhancing the Human-Tech Balance in the Age of E-Navigation.**"

Chamber of Marine Commerce Jan 29, 2026

CMC's Vice-President of Operations, Véronique Bérubé, joined industry leaders at the Shipping Federation of Canada's 2026 Mariners' Workshop in Montreal, sharing insights on "Training Tomorrow's Mariners in a Rapidly Evolving Tech Landscape"

We welcome MV CSL KANATA to the CSL International Pool following the successful completion of her maiden voyage and inaugural commercial trade. Arriving in Port McNeill, BC, on January 10, the vessel loaded 70,000 MT of aggregate and discharged the cargo between January 15 and 19 across multiple locations in the San Francisco Bay area.

CSL

CSL KANATA is the first Pool vessel delivered from YAMIC and the second of five Kamsarmax newbuilds joining the fleet. Built to replace the oldest ships in the Pool, she combines methanol-ready Tier 3 engines with a fourth-generation hull form, exceeding EEDI Level III requirements. The vessels has a cargo capacity of 72,250 MT and a self-unloading rate of up to 5,000 MT per hour.

Three additional vessels in this series are scheduled for delivery later this year and in 2027. CSL

South Korean sub maker Hanwha signs agreement with Algoma Steel

OTTAWA — South Korean submarine maker Hanwha announced Monday it had signed a flurry of partnership agreements with Canadian companies, including Sault Ste. Marie's tariff-battered Algoma Steel, as it vies for a massive Canadian military procurement contract.

Hanwha Oceans said it signed a memorandum of understanding with Algoma that pledges $275 million in financial support to stand up a new structural steel beam mill.

The pact also declares Hanwha's intention to purchase steel products for both the construction of Canada's new submarine fleet and the maintenance infrastructure on both coasts to support it.

Both commitments come on the condition that Hanwha wins Ottawa's massive, multi-billion-dollar procurement contract to supply the Royal Canadian Navy with up to 12 modern submarines.

The company said in a news release Monday that the agreement is worth some $345 million. The proposed beam mill would allow Algoma to supply steel for Canadian infrastructure, housing and road projects.

Algoma's Algoma Intrepid alongside for another load of road salt

More than 100 trucks were lined up outside the Goderich salt mine in late January and stretching all the way up North Harbour Road onto Highway 21.

Locals say it's been like this for weeks, as the province grapples with a salt shortage. The mine, the largest in the world, is shipping de-icing salt as quickly as they can mine it these days thanks to one of the most severe winters in a decade.

Rock salt spews from the self-unloading arm on the partially-ice-encrusted Algoma Intrepid at the C. Reiss Company dock in Escanaba on Jan. 23 while the icebreaking tug Jimmy L works at her side. In the foreground, the skeleton of a former dock recalls Escanaba's shipping history. (R. R. Branstrom | Daily Press)

Frontenac at the Bluewater Bridge 2-2-2026 [William Phillips] [4]

Frontenac departing Chicago…also in the winter road salt trade! 1-31-2026 [Lou Gerard [2]

BBC Bremen departing after christening [BBC]

BBC Chartering celebrates naming of new LakerMax BBC Bremen

BREMEN, GERMANY – MV BBC Bremen, vessel number eight of a series of 15 LakerMax-type vessels, has been officially christened in the Port of Bremen.

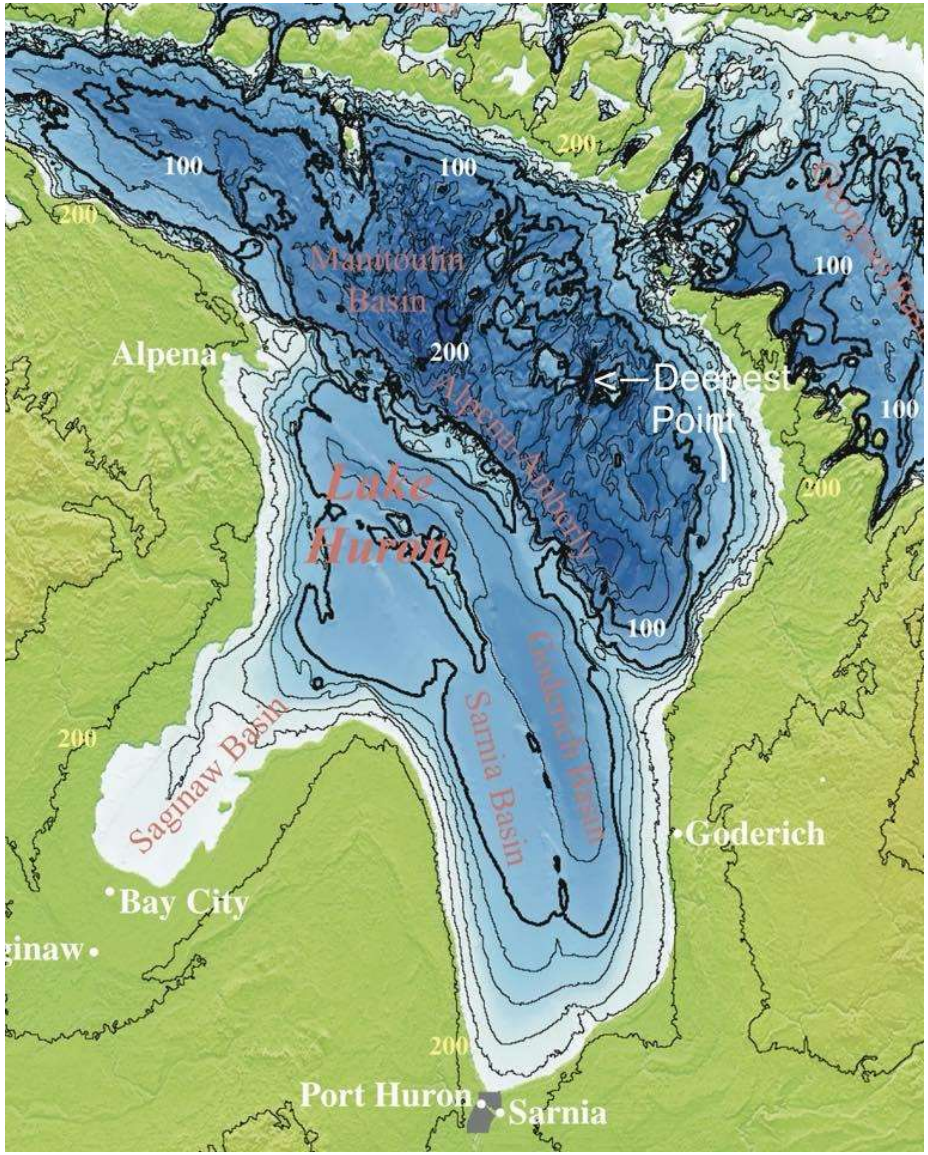
She and her sisters have been designed to trade inside the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway system.

As he prepares to embark upon his retirement on January 29, we would like to recognize

Mario Pelletier, Commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG), for his leadership and long-standing service to Canadians.

With more than 40 years of service, Commissioner Pelletier has made a long and lasting contribution to Canada. As the first graduate of the CCG Academy to ascend to the role of Commissioner, Mario brought invaluable experience and leadership to the organization. He is known to many as a steady, committed and resilient leader, a mentor, and a mariner at heart.

He has led the CCG with clarity, purpose, and commitment.

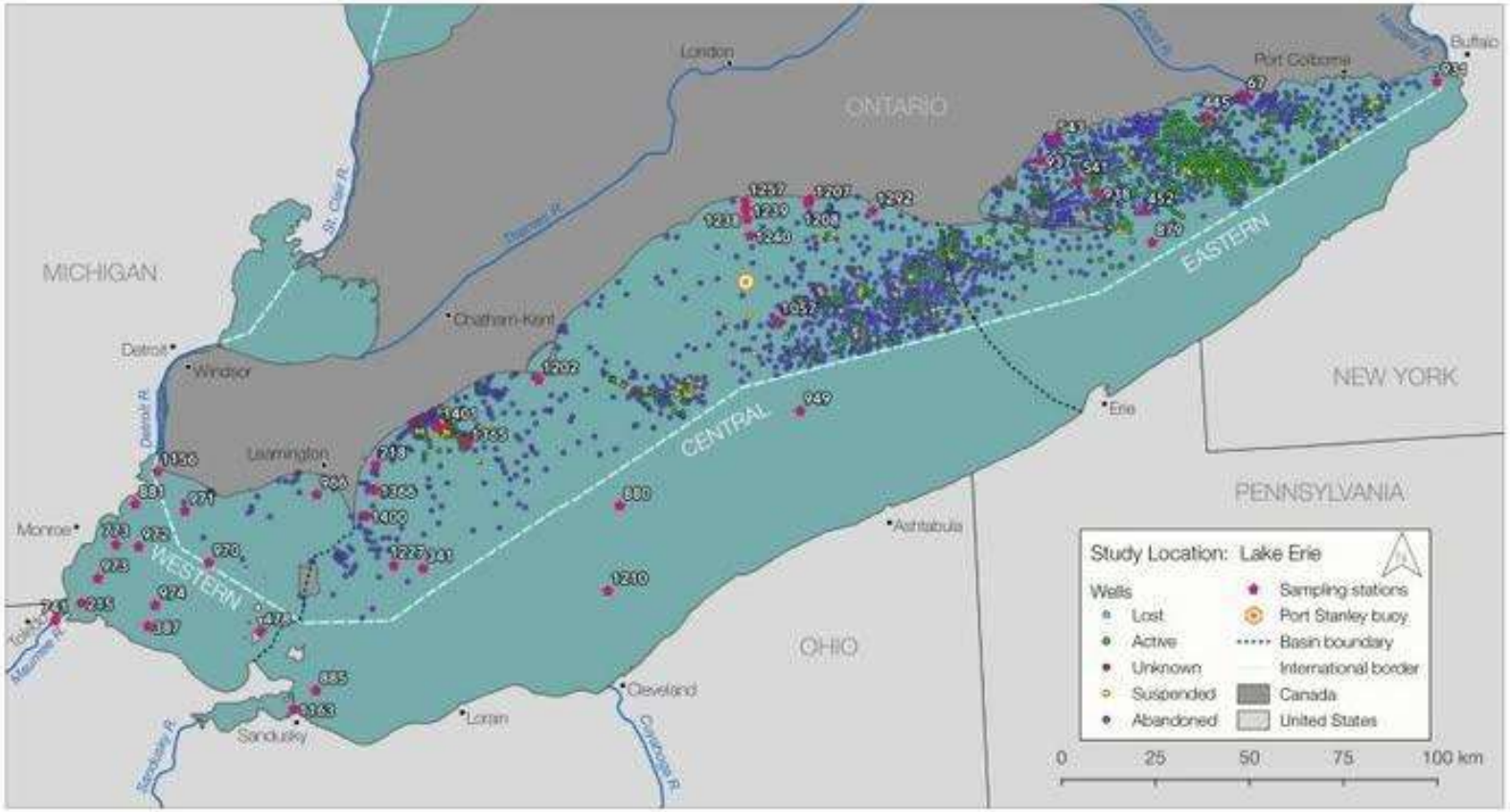


Some Lake Huron Facts:

Lake Huron's deepest point, shown within the broader structure of the Huron basin. The depth sits near the Tobermory Knolls, where the lake floor rises sharply nearby. Numbers on this map are shown in meters, not feet.

Credit: Bathymetry data: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)
Map visualization adapted by Brian Calley

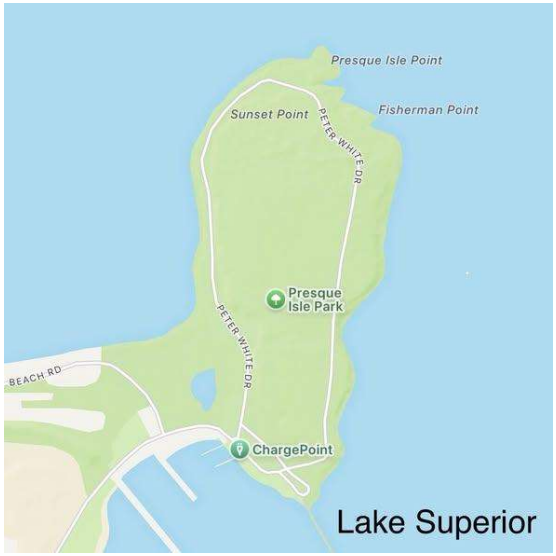
Lake Huron's deepest point plunges to about 750 feet. It sits right next to the Tobermory Knolls, which rise to within roughly 165 feet of the surface. That creates a vertical contrast of about 585 feet over a very short horizontal distance. A very deep pocket immediately beside steep, resistant bedrock spires shaped by hydraulic pressures.



Some Lake Erie Facts:

There are more than 2000 active and inactive underwater natural gas wells in Lake Erie, mostly in Canadian waters.

Photo: ReasearchGate



Some Great Lakes Facts:

Why So Many Places in the Great Lakes Are Called Presque Isle?

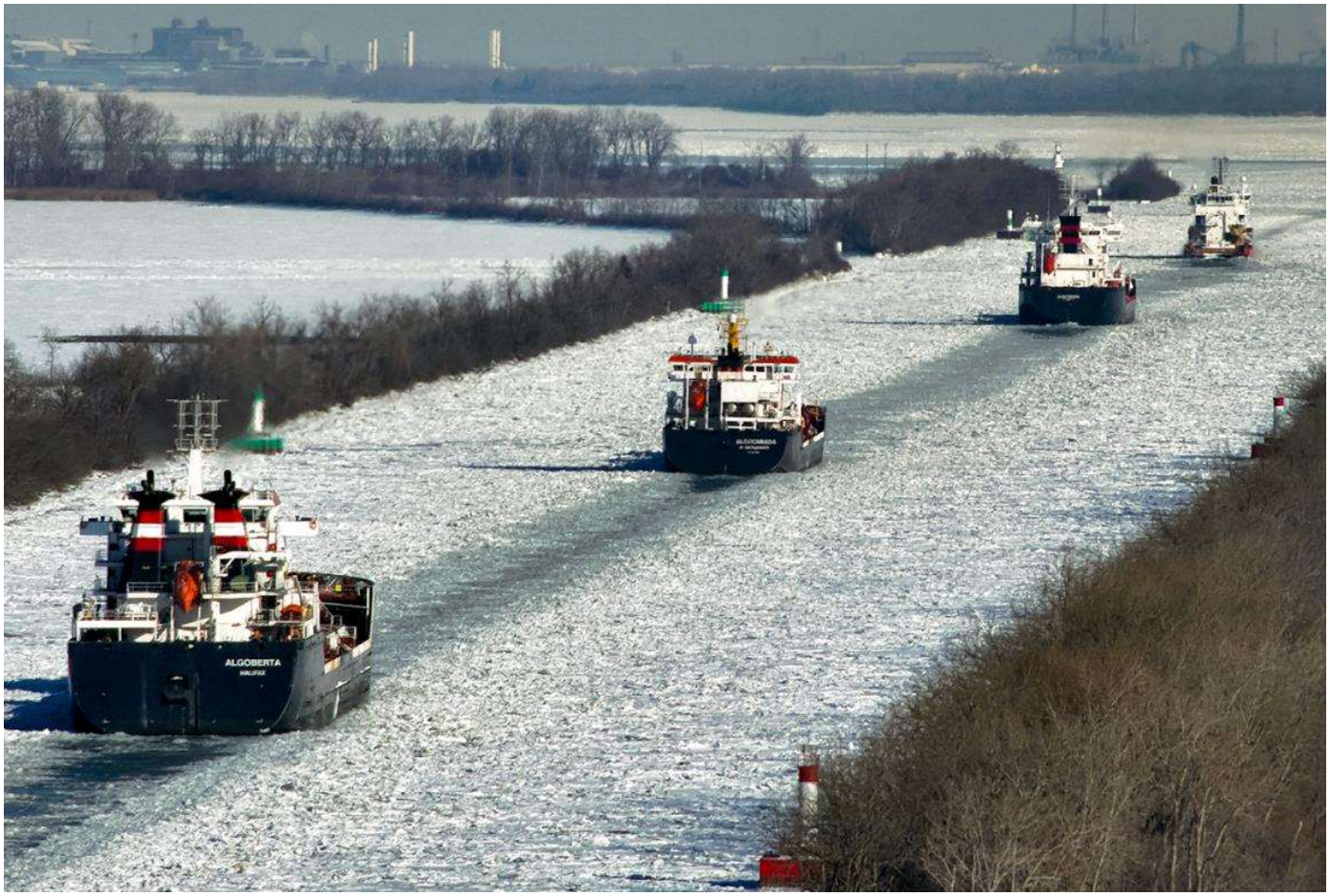
Presque Isle is a name based on a landform that repeats across the Great Lakes…the term comes from French explorers and Presqu'île means "almost an island." It describes land that nearly separates from the mainland…a peninsula connected by a narrow strip.

Apple Maps (annotation by Brian Calley)

Some Great Lakes Facts:

The Province of Ontario touches four of the five Great Lakes, stretching across them end to end.

The State of Michigan does as well, but its reach to Lake Erie is comparatively small.



Algoma tankers heading up the Livingstone Channel
[Windsor Aerial Drone Photography]

The CCG Vincent Massey assist a convoy of tankers cross Lake Erie, up the Livingstone Channel in their transit to Sarnia and Milwaukee.
All of Algoma's product tankers are Ice Class 1A vessels. Ice Class 1A ships are designed to operate in difficult ice conditions. Their hulls are reinforced with high-strength, ductile steel to withstand ice pressure and impact. Under the Finnish-Swedish Ice Class system, 1A is one of the highest levels of reinforcement below 1A Super and is often considered roughly equivalent to Polar Class 7 (PC7).
Below 1A are Classes 1B and 1C, which are intended for lighter ice conditions.

SEAWAY MONTHLY TRAFFIC RESULTS

2025 End of Navigation Results*

Traffic (in thousands of tonnes)	SLSMC - Combined Traffic			
	Year to Date		Change from 2024	
	2024	2025	Tonnes	%
Total Cargo	36 967	37 023	56	.15%
All Grain	11 810	12 915	1105	9.36%
Iron Ore	5 077	4 968	-109	-2.15%
Coal	1 891	1 584	-307	-16.25%
Dry Bulk	11 051	11 314	264	2.38%
Liquid Bulk	3 995	4 019	24	.61%
General Cargo	3 083	2 175	-909	-29.47%

Vessel Transits	2024	2025	Transits	%
Total Transits	3 952	3 937	-15	-.38%

*Estimates

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation

The Lake Erie Fishing Port of Wheatley, Ontario

Beautiful sunny day outing yesterday to Wheatley, Ontario. Home, apparently, to the worlds largest fresh water commercial fishing fleet.

Photos by Larry Strung

HOPA Ports delivered a strong 2025 navigation season, moving 10.8 million MT of cargo across its expanding port network

(Image courtesy of Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority).

U.S.-Flag Dry-Bulk Cargo Carriage on the Great Lakes

2020-2025 and Long-Term Average

(net tons)

Commodity	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average 2020-2024
Iron Ore							
Direct Shipments	33,422,404	37,960,232	35,370,648	39,008,635	41,041,726	36,723,733	37,360,729
Transshipments	3,637,614	3,690,957	2,017,176	3,375,654	2,876,166	2,372,408	3,119,513
Total - Iron Ore	**37,060,018**	**41,651,189**	**37,387,824**	**42,384,289**	**43,917,892**	**39,096,141**	**40,480,242**
Coal							
Lake Superior	4,930,728	7,268,985	6,160,250	5,367,531	5,173,375	4,356,393	5,780,174
Lake Michigan	560,057	827,962	878,467	803,237	842,896	1,457,199	782,524
Lake Erie	1,764,650	2,255,738	2,262,121	2,230,065	1,318,754	643,912	1,966,266
Total - Coal	**7,255,435**	**10,352,685**	**9,300,838**	**8,400,833**	**7,335,025**	**6,457,504**	**8,528,963**
Limestone	20,694,823	24,141,410	23,704,683	24,631,568	21,062,713	20,071,204	22,847,039
Cement	3,441,467	3,612,012	3,748,705	3,732,534	3,497,443	3,460,088	3,606,432
Salt	866,354	1,162,396	1,230,538	1,158,665	1,225,424	1,276,199	1,128,675
Sand	411,165	500,055	653,695	734,591	846,102	621,756	629,122
Grain	314,849	366,154	356,503	314,513	312,345	271,357	332,873
Totals	**70,044,110**	**81,785,901**	**76,382,786**	**81,356,993**	**78,196,944**	**71,254,249**	**77,553,347**

Davie image of Polar Max design

Davie and Algoma Steel celebrate the rolling of Canadian Steel for the construction of the Polar Max Icebreaker

The historic milestone highlights Davie's commitment to using Canadian content and building a resilient national shipbuilding supply chain. It builds on several years of planning and collaboration. Davie has been working with Algoma Steel, Stigterstaal Canada, the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, and other Canadian industry partners since 2022 to secure domestic steel solutions for the Polar Max Program and for Canada's next generation of complex vessels.

Update on the scrapping of Lower Lakes Mississagi at Purvis Marine Scrapyard, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The Mississagi's final voyage was in 2021.
Roger LeLievre

(Below) Mississagi being towed to scrapyard…the 78-year-old Great Lakes freighter launched in 1942, in the St. Marys River en route to Purvis Marine Scrapyard in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. on Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021.
(Courtesy photo | Roger LeLievre, "Know Your Ships")

Fednav places order for four new ocean-going Lakers

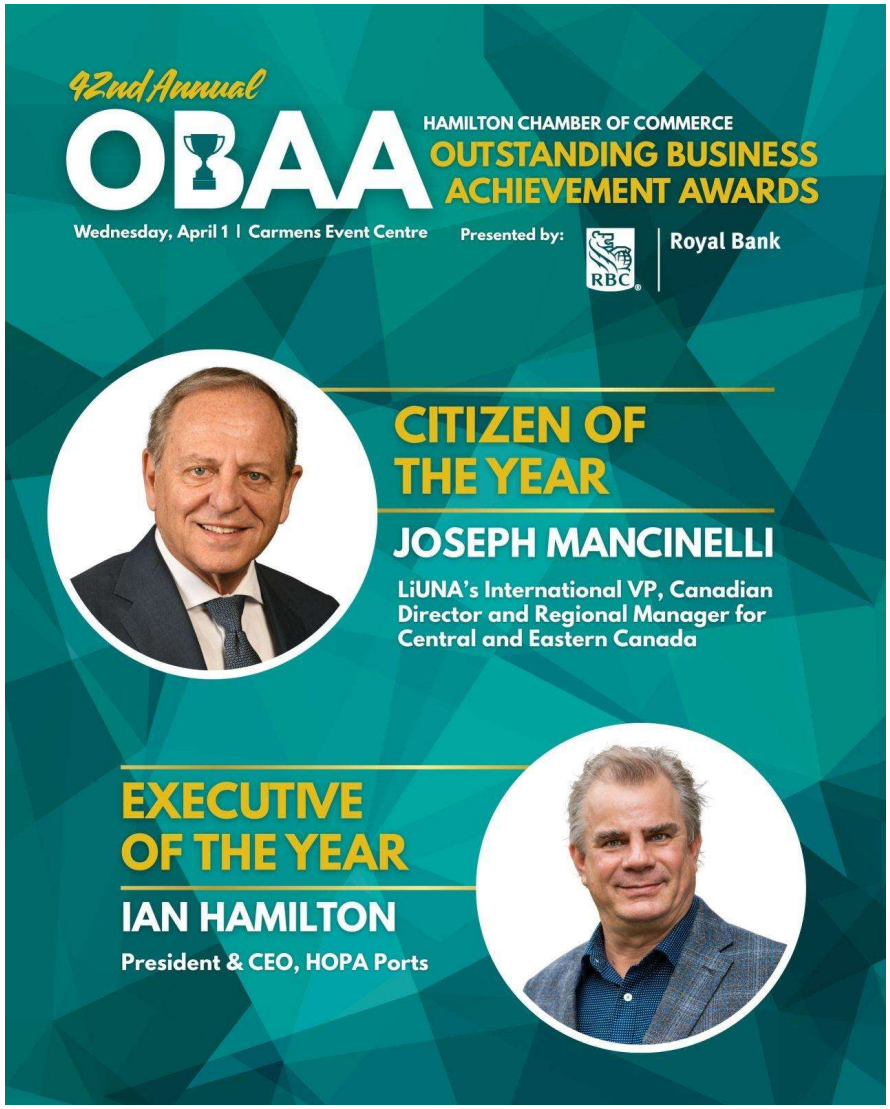
Fednav Limited, Canada's largest dry bulk shipping group, has signed a letter of intent (LOI) with Oshima Shipbuilding to build four 35,000-dwt ocean-going Lakers. The vessels will be constructed at Oshima's shipyard in Japan, with the first vessel expected to be delivered by mid-2029.

These Fednav-Oshima-designed super-eco Lakers will be built to specifications similar to vessels recently delivered and will replace older ships, which will retire upon delivery. They will achieve at least a 7% improvement in fuel consumption compared with Fednav's previous generation and at least a 33% improvement over first-generation models.

Fednav Ltd. adds new Federal Phoenix to its Laker-Class fleet

MONTREAL – Fednav Ltd. has recently taken delivery of another new vessel for its Laker-Class fleet of ships. Federal Phoenix, IMO 1072610, built in 2026 at the Oshima Shipbuilding Co. Ltd. Shipyard in Oshima, Japan, is the newest addition to the Fednav fleet. The Federal Phoenix is 199.98 meters or 656 feet in length and 23.760 meters or 78 feet wide. It is an Ice Class 1C vessel and it is also listed as being 34,763 SDWT. Photo below shows vessel class and design.

[Denny Dushane]

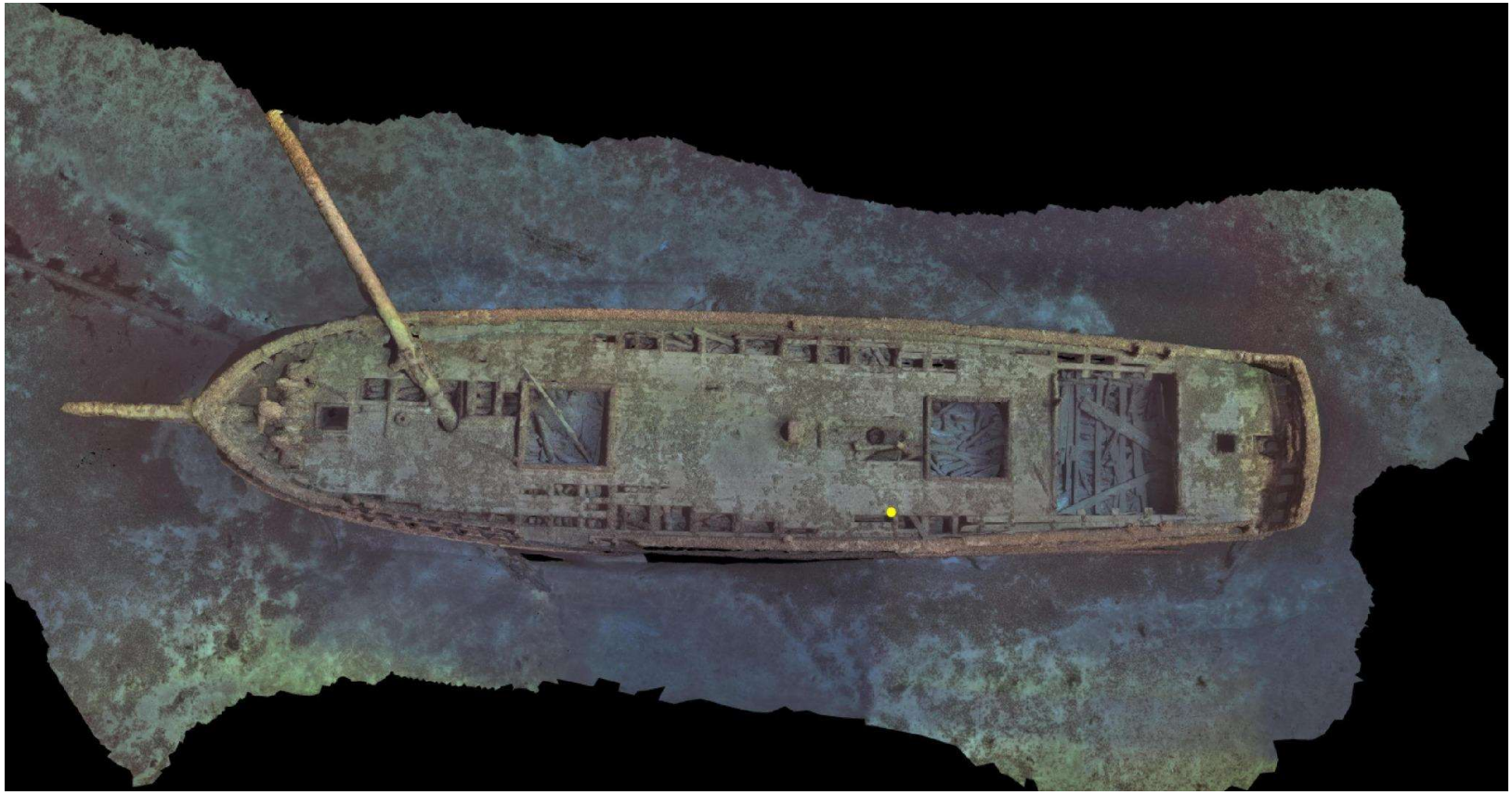


Ian Hamilton, Executive of the Year

As President & CEO of HOPA Ports, Ian is celebrated for his visionary leadership, strategic innovation, and measurable impact on his organization, industry, and the broader local economy. His ability to foster growth while investing in people and community has positioned him as one of Hamilton's most respected business leaders.

Great Lakes History

February 2026



New scanning imagery technology shows sailing vessel “Northerner” which sank in 1868 and currently resting upright on the lakebed of Lake Michigan off the coast of Wisconsin ever since. Hibbard Inshore / NOAA

NAVIGATION CADET OFFICER

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HON. WM. G. DAVIS, B.A., Q.C., MINISTER

The Provincial Institute of Trades & Occupations

37 DARTNELL AVE.
TORONTO 4
365-4288

GENERAL INFORMATION

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of Grade 12 standing in any four year course offered by Ontario Secondary Schools. Equivalent standing from any other province or country will also be accepted.

Prospective students should have a set of good work habits and have a strong aptitude for mathematics and science.

Cadet Officers must also be able to pass the Department of Transport sight test which requires 20/20 vision and colour perception.

LENGTH OF COURSE

Four years. Approximately half of this time is spent in school and half in practical application.

FEES (Annual)

Registration	$ 10.00
Tuition	90.00
Student Council	5.00
Accident Insurance	1.00
	$106.00

Tuition fees are payable for the first two years only. The total cost of tuition in the third and fourth years is met by the Federal and Provincial Treasuries.

Other expenses include books, board and lodging.

An oil tanker in Parry Sound in the 1950s.

credit: Archives of Ontario

Canadian Oil Co. (White Rose gasoline) was taken over by Shell in the 1960's.

LOCK
CHAIN
V
M.P.
L.I.
PANEL
HOLD
ZERO
Decca Navigator Mk 12
REF.
TEST
ZERO
ZERO
ZERO

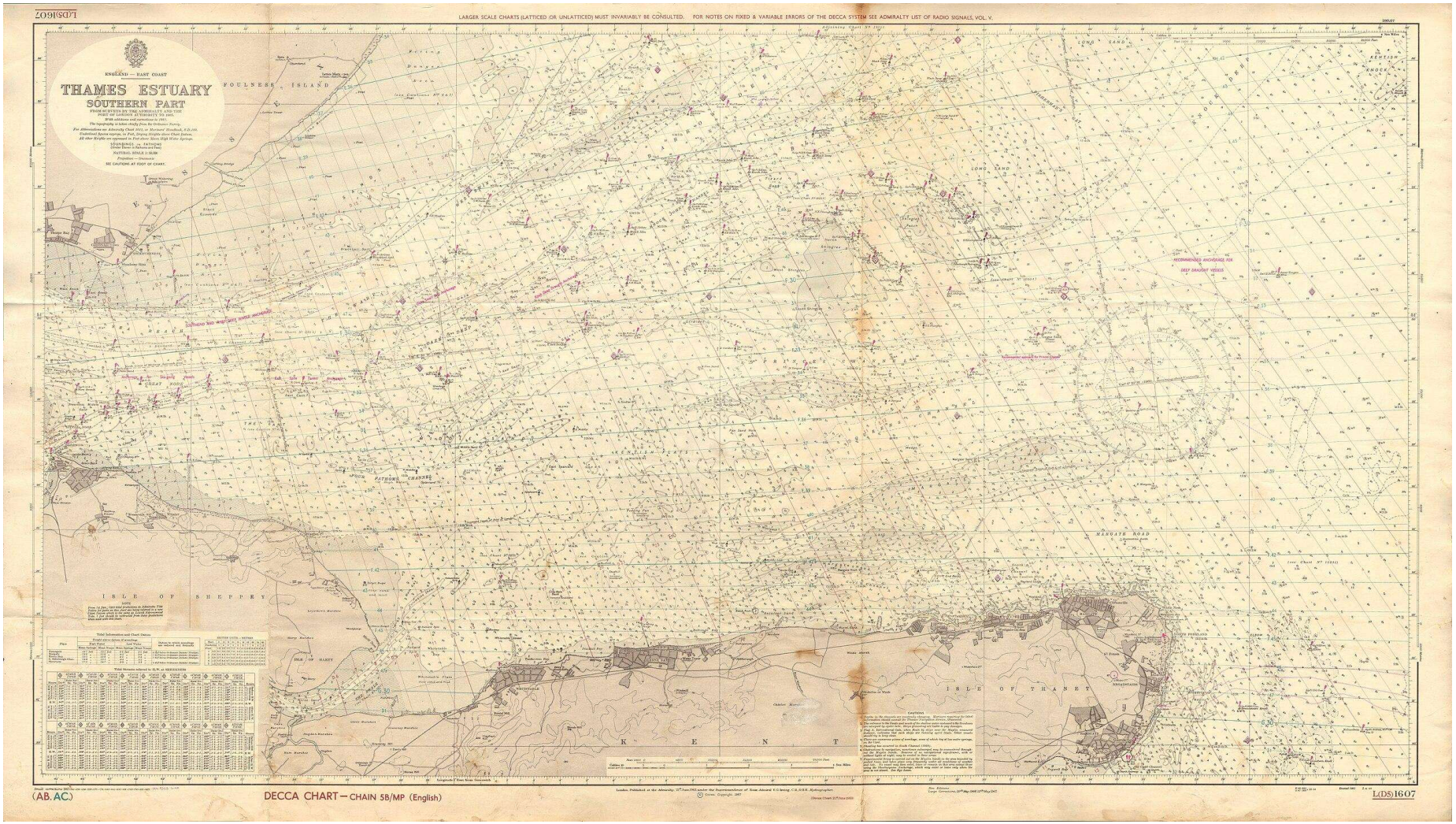
Guess What

????????????

Remember the DECCA???

Radio navigation instrument used in the past to determine the ship's position by receiving signals from shore stations. The position was obtained by reading the lane values and plotting them on a Decca chart. It is no longer in use today, but it represents a very nice example of traditional navigation technology.

Still in the TC Exams for exams for Watchkeeping Mate in the early 80's. It had already been phased out in Canada as it had been replaced by Loran C but still in use in Europe.

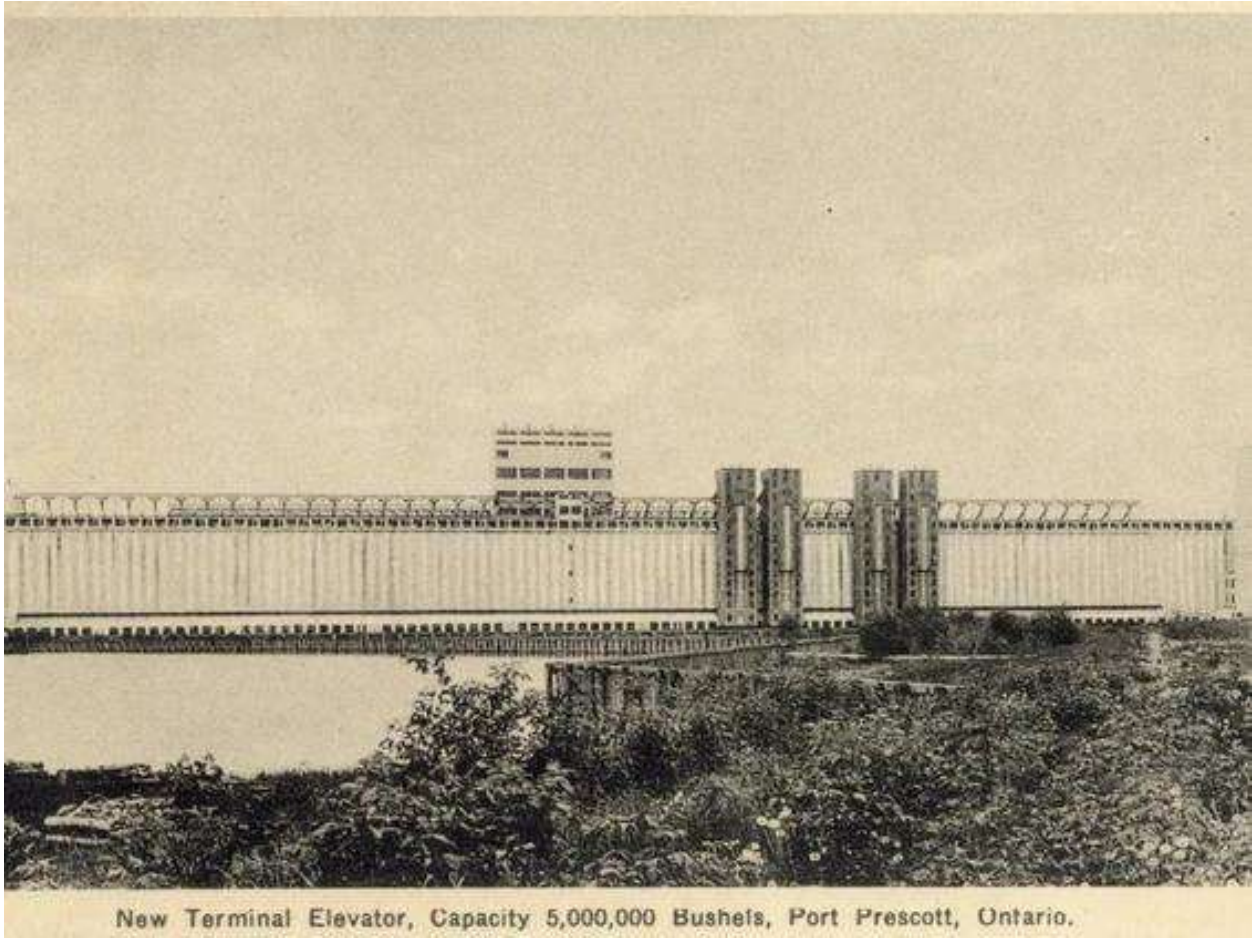


A Decca Chart showing the "Lanes" for plotting position off the navigation instrument

USCG Icebreaker Mackinaw

From her commissioning in 1944 through the end of her career in 2006, the Mackinaw's service stands as a testament to the enduring mission of maintaining safe, navigable waters.

Tanker Texaco Brave 1970..part of the lakes "Texaco" tanker fleet



Completed in the early 1930s by C.D. Howe and Company, the massive grain elevator at Port of Prescott, Ontario, remains a busy hub of storage and trans-shipment as Port of Johnstown. (Supplied photo) jpg, KI, apsmc

Providing transfer and storage facilities for farmers and shippers at Kingston, grain elevators were constructed along the city's shoreline for unloading and reloading. Thriving in the early 1900s, the local trans-shipment elevators were gradually shuttered as the St. Lawrence Seaway allowed lake freighters to sail on past.

The last of Kingston's grain elevators was demolished in 1988, but just more than 100 kilometres east, the colossal elevator at Port of Johnstown near Prescott remains as the upper St. Lawrence Rivers only grain elevators along with Cardinal.

Tug Dawn Light in Tobermory, Ontario

This historic vessel was built in 1891 by Craig Shipbuilding Company in Toledo, Ohio as the yacht Leroy Brooks for "Count" William Rehburg of Middle Bass Island, Ohio. In 1905 it was acquired by H.D. Rehburg of Toledo, Ohio and was inactive for several years. In 1910 it was sold into Canadian ownership to McQueen Marine Ltd. of Amherstburg, Ontario, rebuilt as a tugboat, and the vessel retained its name. In 1925 the Brooks was sold to Dominion Sugar Company of Chatham, Ontario, rebuilt again, and renamed Henry Stokes. McQueen Marine Ltd. acquired the tug again in 1935. By the early 1950s she was out of service and derelict. In 1954 she was rebuilt once again and renamed Aburg. She was converted to diesel and widened by 3 feet in 1960. In 1978 she was sold to William E. Smith for use as a pleasure craft.

Subservices Ltd. of Penetanguishene, Ontario acquired the Aburg in 1980, and the following year she was sold to Carol Baker of Penetanguishene, renamed Dawn Light, and used as a dive boat in Georgian Bay. Berthing was added for passengers in 1984. She was repowered in 1988. The Dawn Light is currently owned by Dan Welsh, out of Tobermory, Ontario, likely the oldest operating vessel afloat on the Great Lakes.

The tug ABURG participates in the Windsor-Detroit International Tugboat Races on the Detroit River 06/27/1980.

Now the Tug Dawn Light!

Earl Minnis

Salute and Thank You to our Corporate Members Support

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Thank you for viewing our Monthly 2025 monthly Industry Update.

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

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