## **Great Lakes Division The Company of Master Mariners of Canada**

**September 2025** 



# Great Lakes and Marine Industry News Update

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

September 2025

The process to transition the Canadian Coast Guard into the Department of National Defence has commenced. The Coast Guard will have a new mandate, outfit it for maritime surveillance operations and integrate it into NATO's defence capabilities.

This will formally move the Coast Guard out of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and into DND.



#### **Coast Guard begins transfer to National Defence**

September 2, 2025

The transition of the Canadian Coast Guard into the Department of National Defence has commenced.

The government has given the Coast Guard a new mandate, outfit it for maritime surveillance operations and integrate it into NATO's defence capabilities which will move the Coast Guard out of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and into DND.

The Coast Guard will remain a civilian agency and that there are "no plans" to arm its personnel or ships.



# CSL and Hartmann partnership expands bulker fleet with newbuilding order in China

Two "state of the art" selfunloading vessels have been contracted at Chengxi Shipyard for delivery from September 2028.

"The newbuilds are a key part of the group's long-term growth strategy, ensuring increased transport capacity, improved operational flexibility and a further step towards sustainable shipping," the company said.



Mibau Stema has ordered new bulkers in China.

Photo: Mibau Stema

# Swedish-Canadian joint venture FureBear takes delivery of new product tanker

Baird Maritime, August 28, 2025.
FureBear, a joint venture formed by Canadian dry bulk shipping company Algoma Central
Corporation and Swedish tanker operator Furetank Rederi, has taken delivery of a new product tanker built by China Merchants Industry Yangzhou Dingheng
Shipyard. Fure Ven is the 17th vessel to be built for the Gothia Tanker Alliance with Älvtank, Thun Tankers and Furetank/Algoma ordering the vessels.



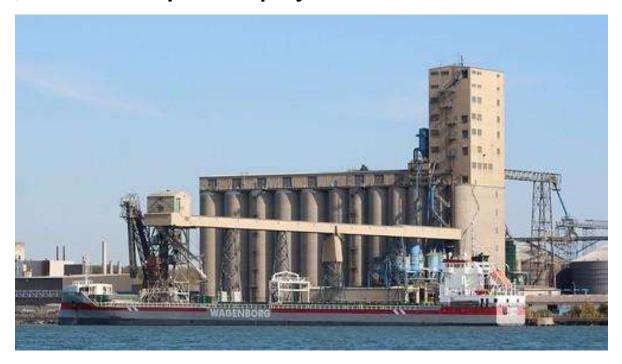
**Fure Ven** 

**FKAB Marine Design** 

A hands-free mooring (HFM) system uses automated equipment to secure vessels, replacing ropes and labour with hydraulic precision. "It creates more of a standardized user experience when they go through the system," said St. **Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. (SLSMC)** media relations manager Nicole Giroux, explaining the benefits of the new technology.



#### ADM completes \$76-million expansion project ahead of schedule



A \$76-million expansion project in Windsor is now complete. Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) held at ribbon cutting ceremony at its grain terminal on Maplewood Drive near Sprucewood Avenue. ADM also announced the installation of new grain dryers and said it would increase its grain storage capacity. Port Windsor President and CEO Steve Salmons says the project is the single largest in the history of Port Windsor.



MANITOWOC – A historic submarine departed for some much-needed maintenance in Sturgeon Bay. The USS Cobia left the dock and headed north up Lake Michigan to Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding in Sturgeon Bay with Tug Nickelena handling the tow. The maintenance should last about 6 weeks.

#### **Congratulations!**

Capt. Kamila Calko (member of the Great Lakes Division Master Mariiners of Canada and professor at Georgian College's Centre for Marine Training and Research. Kamila has been selected as one of Marine Log's Top Women in Maritime for 2025 as nominated by the Great Lakes Division.

We received an incredible number of nominations this year and narrowing it down to just 20 honorees was no easy task. Your achievements and contributions to the industry truly stood out. Marine Log





## SEAWAY MONTHLY TRAFFIC RESULTS August 2025

Traffic (in thousands of tonnes)	SLSMC - Combined Traffic			
	Year to Date		Change from 2024	
	2024	2025	Tonnes	%
Total Cargo	19 568	20 352	784	4.01%
All Grain	5 262	6 271	1009	19.18%
Iron Ore	3 189	3 122	-67	-2.09%
Coal	1 001	740	-261	-26.04%
Dry Bulk	5 889	6 486	596	10.13%
Liquid Bulk	2 360	2 323	-37	-1.56%
General Cargo	1 832	1 379	-453	-24.72%
Vessel Transits	2024	2025	Transits	%
Total Transits	2 104	2 159	55	2.61%

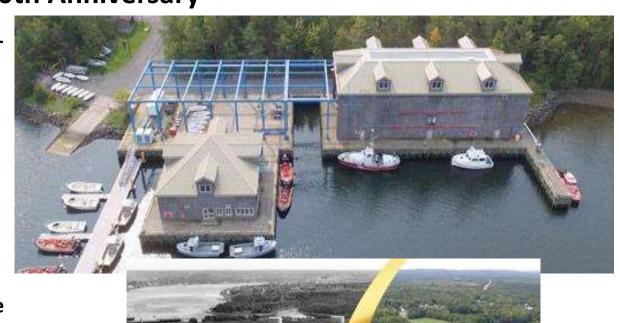
The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation

### Canadian Coast Guard begins new chapter of marine training excellence as it celebrates the institution's 60th Anniversary

September 8, 2025 – Sydney, Nova Scotia – National Defence / Canadian Coast Guard

For the past six decades, the Canadian Coast Guard College has been recognized as a leader in maritime training, preparing more than 1,500 students with the knowledge and skills needed to safeguard Canada's waters.

Today, a new chapter of training excellence begins under a new name – the Canadian Coast Guard Academy. The announcement was made in front of alumni and students, gathered to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the institution and its rich history of training Canadian Coast Guard personnel.



# Thamesborg Aground in Canadian Artic as Salvage Effort Looms

The Dutch-flagged 21,359-dwt general cargo vessel
Thamesborg remains aground along the Northwest Passage in the Canadian Arctic four days after hitting a shoal.

The vessel ran aground off
Prince of Wales Island in
Nunavut Canada on
September 6, while passing
through the Franklin Strait en
route from China to eastern
Canada.

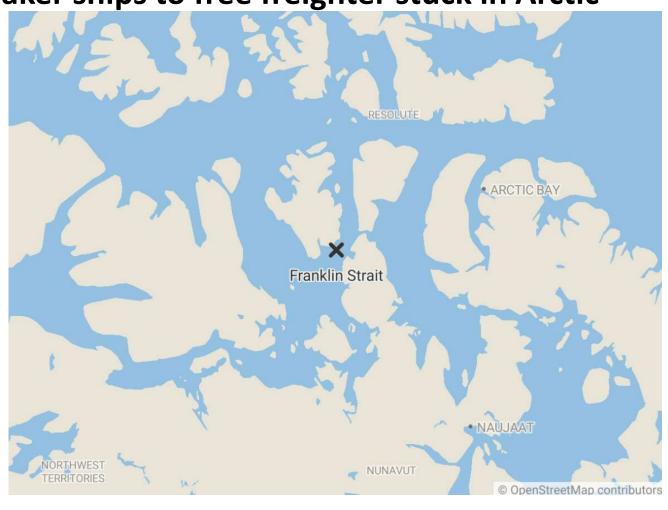


Dutch-flagged vessel MV Thamesborg pictured aground in the Franklin Strait, Nunavut. (Source: Canadian Coast Guard)

Canada sends ice-breaker ships to free freighter stuck in Arctic

sea route

The Canadian Coast
Guard said that CCGS Sir
Wilfrid Laurier, a Martha
L. Black-class light
icebreaker, "is on scene
and is assessing the
situation with its fast
rescue craft and
helicopter." Another
ship, icebreaking tug
CCGS Jean Goodwill has
also arrived on scene.



THAMESBORG is seen in an image published by Wagenborg in 2020.





#### ISMA ANNUAL GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIPS (Georgian/Huronia 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

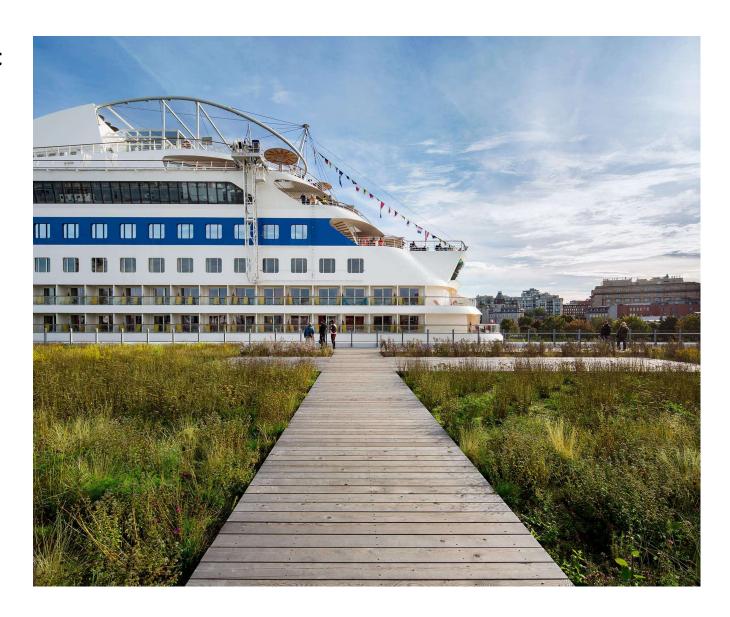


Congratulations to Canadian Capt. Simon Pelletier and team behind the International Marine Pilotage Association (IMPA) Foundation, bringing expertise in management, maritime policy and operations, government relations, capacity building, and sustainability to deliver on our mission.

Our Trustees, Simon Pelletier, Guy Platten, and Amb. Nancy Karigithu, provide governance, while Eliane Blanch, oversees the foundation's work.

Montreal Cruise season at its peak with 35,000 passengers

Every year, the end of summer ushers in peak cruise season in Montreal. After a fairly quiet start to the season, MPA teams are expecting about 35,000 passengers on 33 cruise ships by the end of October. Closing out the 2025 season on November 1 is the Seabourn Sojourn.



#### A next-generation cement carrier for the St. Lawrence-Great Lakes corridor

The Port of Montreal welcomed the MV Tamarack, the first new cement carrier commissioned on the Great Lakes in 20 years. A joint venture between CSL and SMT Shipping shows how shipping on the St. Lawrence Seaway and Great Lakes is becoming more modern and frequent. About 3 million tonnes of goods go through the Port of Montreal each year on this route. The cement industry alone accounts for over 50,000 tonnes handled annually at the Port.

Designed specifically for the Great Lakes, this 12,500 DWT cement carrier replaces two older vessels with a 10,700 m³ cargo hold and a lower ecological footprint. It features the latest technology, including diesel-electric propulsion and advanced manoeuvrability, along with energy-saving cargo systems. Also, it can run on HVO biofuel and includes shore-power capability.





A rendering of Davie Defense's Arctic Security Cutter platform. [Image courtesy Davie]



The move is part of a broader strategic acquisition by Canadian-based Davie, which announced in June its intention to purchase shipbuilding assets in Galveston and Port Arthur from Gulf Copper & Manufacturing Corporation.

The deal, which is expected to close shortly, is aimed at addressing the acute shortage of American Arctic-ready vessels and comes as both Russia and China have stepped up their activity in the region.

A rendering of Davie Defense's "American Icebreaker Factory," a planned \$1 billion transformation of the historic Gulf Copper shipyard in Galveston, Texas. Image courtesy Davie

Service on lakes over, Sunnanvik heads back overseas On September 10, shortly before sunset, the cement carrier Sunnanvik left Section 96 of the Port of Montreal for Section 72. From there, it will depart overseas Thursday morning. It will probably not be seen again; it has been replaced by the Tamarack in the Great Lakes.

René Beauchamp



Sunnanvik at Montreal [[Rene Beauchamp]



A new ship, the McAsphalt Advantage arrived in Halifax on Sepetember 11. It is a state of the art bitumen tanker, especially built to keep the cargo heated to maintain its liquid state.

Built by the Wuhu Shipyard
Co Ltd in China, it is a dual
fuel ship of 12,534 gt, 12,917
dwt. It was delivered to
McAsphalt Transportation
Ltd just a year ago and was
registered in Canada in
November of 2024.

Blogger and Photo Mac



After hiring tugs and barges for some time, McAsphalt started its own fleet when it acquired the tug TUSKER in 1979 and used to tow and push barges starting in 1980.

Blogger Mac



After a few adventurous years, they acquired a larger tug and formed one of the first Canadian flag ITBs (Integrated Tug and Barge) with Upper Lakes Shipping where the tug remains connected to the barge at all times with a flexible coupler allowing for independant movement. That tug, renamed **EVERLAST** (ex Bilbino) in 1996, is still running, with its barge NORMAN MCLEOD, although now largely confined to the **Great Lakes. It seems likely** to live up to its name.

Blogger Mac



A second, more modern combination, built to order for ocean conditions in 2008 is the tug Leo A.
McArthur (ex Victorious) and barge John J. Carrick which are regular traders in the Great Lakes, Seaway and down to Halifax.

Blogger Mac



#### 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 (Except between buoys A30 & A40 as noted below)	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	
<b>Lake St. Louis,</b> 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	

<sup>\*</sup>Ship speeds in the above areas will be monitored closely.

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



#### 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.

Canadian Coast Guard celebrates the completion of the 10th and final Bay Class search

and rescue vessel, the CCGS Mira Bay

The Canadian Coast Guard celebrated the completion of Canadian Coast Guard Ship Mira Bay, the 10th and final new search and rescue lifeboat built by Hike Metal Products Ltd. in Wheatley, Ontario on Lake Erie. The completion of the Mira Bay marks a milestone – the completion of 19 of 20 search and rescue lifeboats under construction.



The new vessel, the CCGS Mira Bay, represents the culmination of a highly successful chapter in Canada's National Shipbuilding Strategy, showcasing the strength of Ontario shipbuilding and reaffirming Wheatley's reputation as the freshwater commercial fishing capital of the world.



The CCGS Mira Bay is ready to sail!

#### Kingston's Great Lakes Museum celebrates 50 years

"For half a century, we've been preserving these important stories, and with the addition of the S.S. Keewatin to our collection, we will continue this legacy for generations to come," Schippers said.

The Great Lakes Museum was founded in 1975 by a group of divers conducting underwater archaeology in Lake Ontario. Since then, the museum has grown significantly, now located at its historic waterfront property at 55 Ontario St.

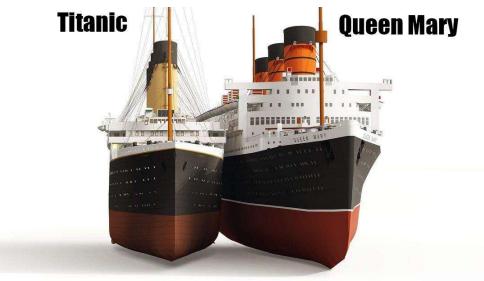
The visitor experience manager, Claire Notman, drew attention to the museum's historical significance.

"Many Kingstonians aren't aware that we are a National Historic Site, with much of the original features and machinery still intact from the original 1890s construction," Notman said.e S.S. Keewatin —the world's last surviving Edwardian-era passenger steamship.

The museum sits on the location of the first dry dock in Canada on the Great Lakes and its accompanying pump house. It still has the original steam engines and pumps that were used to empty the dry dock, what Notman calls "engineering marvels."







#### **Size Comparisons of the Titantic**

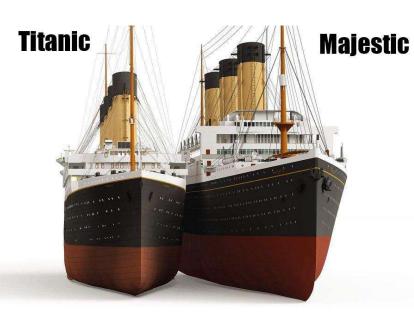


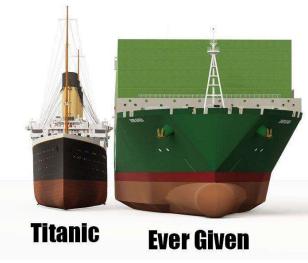


#### **Titanic Queen Mary 2**























# Canadian Warship #431 [HMS Margaret Brooke]

[Richard Haydon-Ship Junkies]

**HMCS Margaret Brooke on her way to Thunder Bay** 

THUNDER BAY – It's been over a decade since the Canadian navy brought a large vessel to Thunder Bay. From Sept. 18-22, community members can expect to see HMCS Margaret Brooke docked at the Pool Six cruise ship terminal, alongside a showcase of Thunder Bay's HMCS Griffon's own vessels with public tours.



Step Aboard
HMCS
MARGARET
BROOKE in
Owen Sound on
October 3, 4 & 5.



SAVE THE DATE

### Imagine Marine Conference

Solutions and Actions: Building Our Future Marine Workforce







The Imagine Marine Conference will return for its second year 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

Implementation of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO)

Prohibition on the use and carriage for use as fuel of heavy fuel oil (HFO)

by ships in Canadian Arctic waters - SSB No.: 13/2025

**From: Transport Canada** 

Date (Y-M-D): 2025-07-08



#### Scope

This bulletin applies to all Canadian and foreign vessels, including pleasure crafts, operating within Canadian Arctic waters, except vessels engaged in:

securing the safety of ships, preventing the immediate loss of another vessel, search and rescue operations, or preparing for, or responding to, oil spills.

#### **Purpose**

#### This bulletin explains:

the requirements of the International Maritime Organization's prohibition on the use and carriage for use of heavy fuel oil by ships in Canadian Arctic waters, and how eligible vessels can apply for a temporary waiver. These requirements are listed in the Interim Order No. 2 Prohibiting the Carrying of Certain Oils on Board Vessels in Arctic Waters which came into force June 30, 2025.

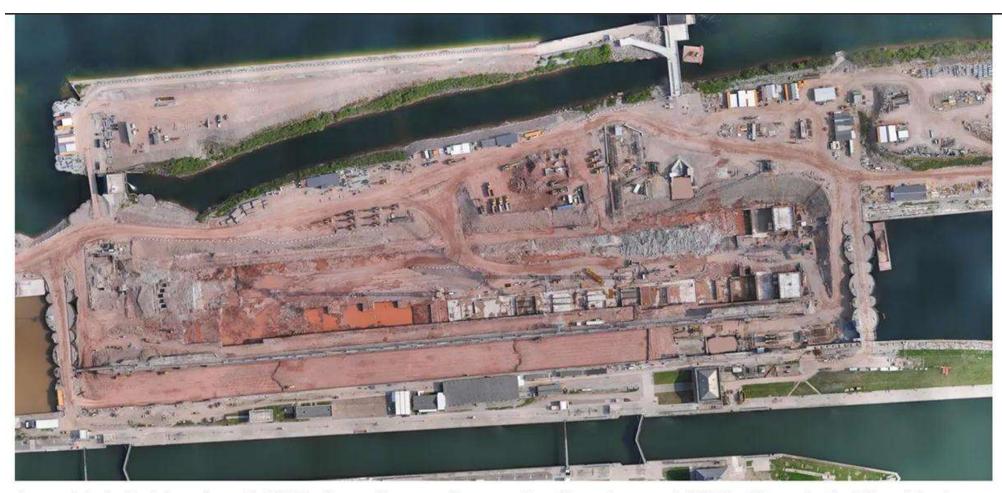
## Price tag for Soo Lock mega project drops to \$2.6B

The latest cost estimate for the 10-year mega project in Sault Ste. Marie to build a new shipping lock has taken the price tag from nearly \$3 billion down to about \$2.62 billion — a nearly 13% reduction.

\*The New Lock project in Sault Michigan should be completed and open to shipping in 2030 as long as U.S. federal government funding keeps flowing in a timely manner to the crucial megaproject.







An aerial photo taken June 8, 2025, shows the ongoing construction of a new 1,200-foot-long lock at the shipping complex in Sault Ste. Marie that will be big enough to handle the largest Great Lakes freighters. The new lock will be roughly at the center of the site, where workers are starting to build the concrete monolith walls. The 10-year project is expected to be complete in summer 2030 and cost \$2.6 billion. U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers



#### Historic Toronto ferry Trillium towed, and its fate is up in the air

TORONTO, ON – A piece of Toronto's history was towed away by tugboat to Hamilton last Tuesday, after a century spent ferrying millions of people, including baseball legend Babe Ruth, to and from the islands.

The long-term future of the Trillium is under review, according to the city, and it has been temporarily relocated to a shipyard while construction takes place at the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal to prepare for new electric ferries.

### **Great Lakes History**

September 2025

#### Oldest U. S. freighter on Great Lakes sets sail.

The SS Alpena, the oldest working freighter on Michigan's Great Lakes, is back for another season.

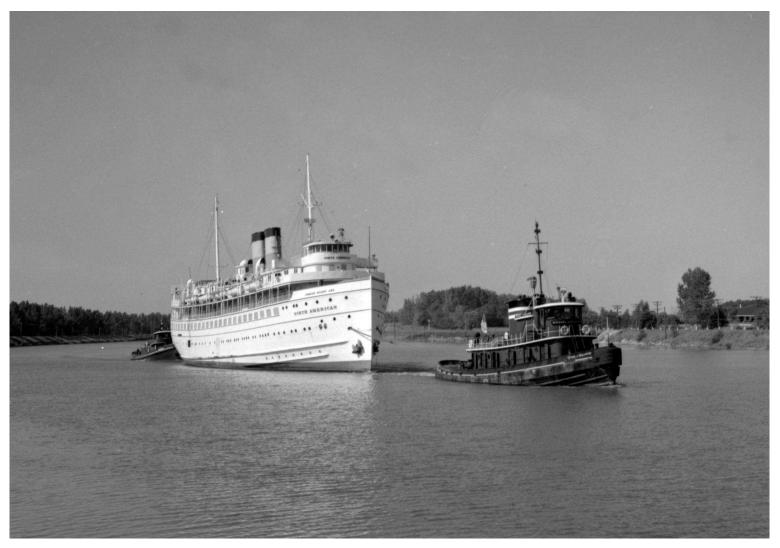
On Aug. 28, the ship was en route from Cleveland, Ohio.

The SS Alpena, a cargo ship with white and red detailing, was built in 1942, and still carries (primarily) cement to and from Alpena in northern Michigan.

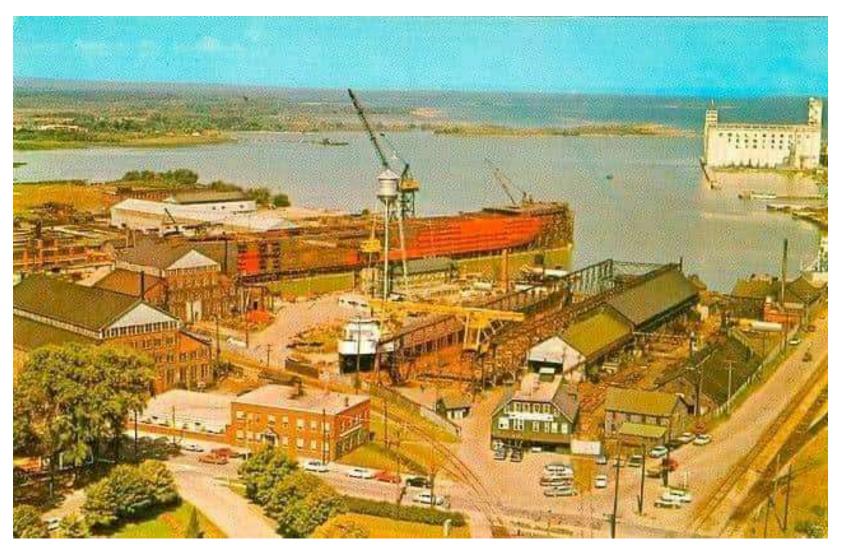


1942 SS ALPENA(3)/LEON FRASER Laker - Industrial History

**1967:** The tugs **MICHAEL MCALLISTER** and **AMERICA** towed the retired passenger ship NORTH **AMERICAN** through the Welland Canal en route to a new career as a training ship for the Seafarers **International Union** at Piney Point, MD.



North American is towed by tug Michael McAllister in August 1967. Paul Sherlock



The Collingwood, Ontario Shipyards in the 1960s.



September 2001: The former Boblo boat STE. CLAIRE was towed from Detroit, MI, to Toledo, OH, by Gaelic's tug SHANNON. In August 2005, she was taken to Belanger Park in River Rouge, MI, and in the spring of 2006, she was returned to Nicholson's slip in Ecorse, MI, by Gaelic's tugs PATRICIA HOEY and CAROLYN HOEY.

Ste. Claire under tow of tug Shannon on September 11, 2001. Boatnerd files



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.

Manasoo. Peter B. Worden Collection, MHSD



# The Noronic on fire September 1949

[[Credit- Great lakes Historical Collection at BGSU Library]

## Salute and Thank You to our Corporate Members Support















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!

Master Mariners of Canada – Great Lakes Division

