Great Lakes Division The Company of Master Mariners of Canada

May 2025



Great Lakes and Marine Industry News Update

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

May 2025



Congratulations - Retirement

Message from Ron:

I am pleased to share some news that after 45+ great years in the insurance brokerage field (Reed Stenhouse and Marsh), I have entered into the next chapter which is - retirement. Yes it will be different however with travel, the cottage, pickleball, golf and five grandchildren I'm sure I will not be bored.

US revises port fees for China-built ships amid industry concerns

The initial proposal for \$1.5m fees per port call for China-built ships faced backlash from industry leaders.

The updated policy, released by the US Trade Representative (USTR), aims to support domestic exporters and vessel owners operating in the Great Lakes, Caribbean, and US territories. The initial proposal, which suggested fees of up to \$1.5m per port call for China-built ships, faced backlash from industry leaders concerned about the potential impact on US export prices and possible annual import costs of \$30bn on American consumers, reported Reuters.

American and Canadian vessels calling at Great Lakes ports will not be subject to these fees. Crucially, empty ships arriving to load US exports, such as wheat and soybeans, are also exempt. The new fee structure will apply to Chinese-built and owned ships, which will incur a charge of \$50 per net tonne starting October 14, with annual increases of \$30 for the next three years. Non-Chinese firms operating Chinese-built vessels will face a lower fee of \$18 per net tonne, with annual increases of \$5.

CMC Announces Departure of President and CEO



The Chamber of Marine Commerce (CMC) announces that President and CEO Bruce Burrows and the CMC Board mutually agreed to conclude Mr. Burrows' tenure after more than eight years of leadership.

"I thank Bruce for his years of dedicated service, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavours," said Allister Paterson, Executive Vice-President and Chief Commercial Officer for The CSL Group Inc. and Chair of the CMC Board of Directors.



U.S. Coast Guard Sees Interest from Finnish, Canadian Yards for Arctic Security Cutter

In November, the U.S., Canada and Finland signed a memorandum of understanding "to begin working together to develop world-class Arctic and polar icebreakers through the exchange of knowledge, information, and resources" in the three nations.



An artist's rendering of VT Halter Marine's winning bid for the U.S. Coast Guard Polar Security Cutter. VT Halter Marine image used with permission

Port Colborne gears up for record-breaking cruise ship season

More than 70 stops are scheduled between now and Oct. 27, marking a significant increase in traffic through the small Niagara port city.

The cruise ships, operated by lines including Viking, Victory, Pearl Seas and Ponant, are part of a broader surge in Great Lakes tourism. The rise reflects a renewed interest in freshwater voyages and heritage ports of call across the region.



After her long journey from Croatia, the new Algoma Endeavour arrived at Montreal on April 24th for crew and flag change.

The Algoma Endeavour, is the longest ship (740-foot forward-mounted) self-unloader launched at the Rijeka shipyard in Croatia.

This vessel is optimized for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway. The Endeavour is also the third in Algoma's domestic drybulk fleet with a forward-mounted boom, joining the Algoma Intrepid and Algoma Innovator.

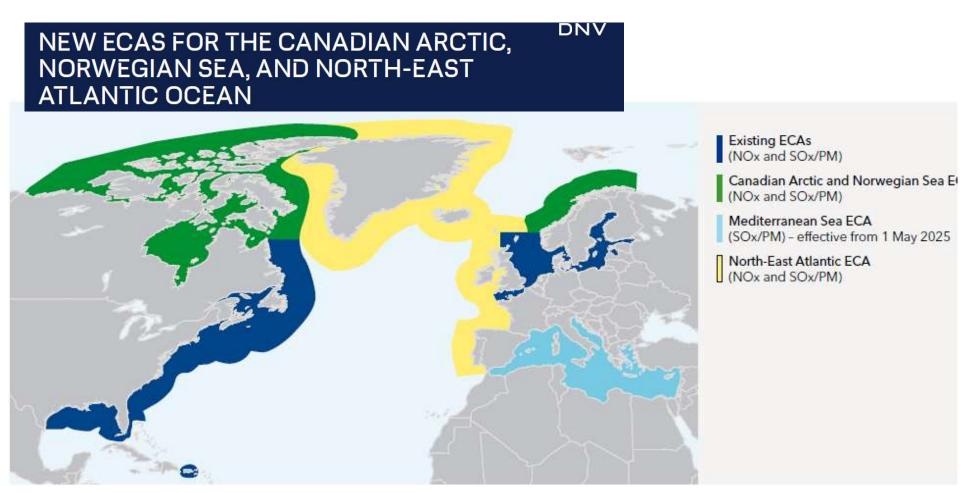
Ship Junkies – Lakes, Locks & Rivers (LL&R)

New Algoma Endeavour arrives at Montreal

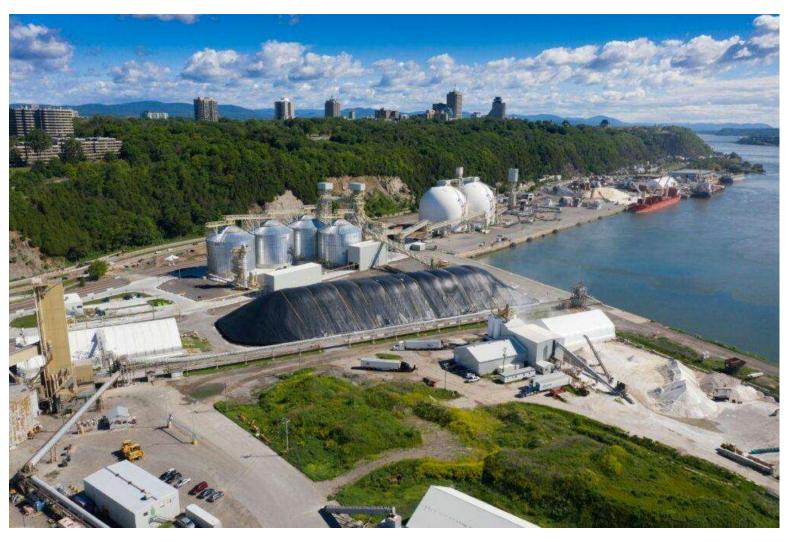




New Equinox Class laker Algoma Endeavour, first trip, upbound on the St. Clair River, en route to Goderich - May 4, 2025 [Rod Burdick]



Amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, adopted at MEPC 82 and entering into force on 1 March 2026, designate the Canadian Arctic and Norwegian Sea as new ECAs. The North-East Atlantic Ocean will also be designated as an ECA following MARPOL amendments approved at MEPC 83. More information about these ECAs can be found in this statutory news. DNV AS



Parrish & Heimbecker's deep-water export terminal in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

Credit: ©PARRISH & HEIMBECKER

Parrish & Heimbecker, Ltd. (P&H), a long term business in the grain industry and former **Great Lakes fleet** owner, has acquired a deep-water bulk marine export terminal at the Port of Quebec in **Quebec City from** Societe En Commandite **Terminal Grains.**



Port Colborne city council is continuing to explore options for its waterfront grain terminal following public consultations. Mayor Bill Steele says it's time to consider new uses for the aging building.

Rose Lamberti/Metroland file photo

During recent Port Colborne Council discussions, 80 per cent of respondents said the terminal on Lake Erie contributes to the city's culture and character. Despite its aging elements, 75 per cent also indicated it is important that the facility continue operating as a hub for receiving and transporting grain.

However, it was reported that 1909 grain elevator technology will require major \$ investments to return to a Seaway grain terminal.



BBC Houston headed for Erie, Duluth with wind turbine

Ship Junkies – Lakes, Locks & Rivers (LL&R) – Janey Anderson

The 13,000DWT vessel is operated by BBC Chartering with ownership by Briese Group.

The vessel belongs to a series of 15 triple-deck ships built to transport heavy lift and project cargo. The ship's two cargo holds are box-shaped and offer room for almost 26,000 cubic metres of cargo on a floor space of close to 5,000 square metres, when two tween decks are in operation.

The bridge and the crew accommodation spaces are located at the front of the ship, while two cranes with a combined lifting capacity of 500 tonnes are located portside. This allows for an unobstructed 2,830 square metres of space on the weather deck.

The vessels are certified to operate with open hatches.

U. S. Bill \$14.6B in Coast Guard Cutters and Great Lakes Icebreakers

- Three or more Arctic Security
 Cutters and an unspecified number of Great Lakes icebreakers for \$5.03 billion.
- Two Polar Security Cutters and advanced procurement for \$4.3 billion.
- Eight Heritage-class Offshore Patrol Cutters for \$4.3 billion.
- Up to 15 Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutters for \$1 billion.



The last U. S. icebreaker for the Great Lakes, Mackinaw, was built in 2005.



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COMPANY OF MASTER MARINERS OF CANADA, GREAT LAKES DIVISION



ALLIED MARINE & INDUSTRIAL LIMITED, PORT COLBORNE ONT



CMMC Great Lakes Division were represented at the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Commemoration held in Port Colborne on May 3rd. Thank you to Capt. Bret and Lynn Maukonen and Capt. Rick and Pauline Whyte for attending. We also provided funding support for the event.

"We're delighted to further open the Green Marine program to the maritime operations in Australia, the Bahamas, and Mexico, and to already welcome new participants from each of these countries," says David Bolduc, Green Marine International's President and CEO. "Their participation bolsters the strength of the program in North America and Europe and raises the global bar for maritime transportation's environmental sustainability."

The newest participants are Grand Bahama Shipyard Ltd., SSA Marine Mexico, the Port Authority of New South Wales, and Manly Fast Ferry Pty Ltd. The Port of Brisbane, which also took part in the pilot projects, is currently working on its formal certification and expects to confirm its membership momentarily.





Traffic (in thousands of tonnes)	SLSMC - Combined Traffic			
	Year to Date		Change from 2024	
	2024	2025	Tonnes	%
Total Cargo	4 363	4 523	160	3.66%
All Grain	1 297	1 583	286	22.03%
Iron Ore	689	524	-166	-24.01%
Coal	222	160	-62	-28.10%
Dry Bulk	1 262	1 357	95	7.51%
Liquid Bulk	511	591	80	15.59%
General Cargo	379	308	-71	-18.75%
Vessel Transits	2024	2025	Transits	%
Total Transits	479	475	-4	84%

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation



New Fednav Vessel Headed to Milwaukee Federal William Paul (IMO 9975454), Fednav's newest vessel, is on its maiden voyage on the Great Lakes, headed for Milwaukee. She is sailing under the flag of Marshall Islands. Ron Beaupre



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



Irving Oil and Algoma Central Corporation recently welcomed the first of two new product tankers into Saint John Harbour.

The vessels will service Canada's largest refinery with deliveries to ports in Atlantic Canada and the U.S. East Coast. The vessels represent a total investment of \$127 million by Algoma in partnership with Irving Oil.

The Algoma East Coast and the Algoma Acadian – the latter of which will arrive later this spring – are 37,000 DWT ice class product tanker vessels.

Algoma Central Corporation



Thunder Bay off to a strong 2025 start Port of Thunder Bay

Cargos to April 30 included:

- 1,096,924 tonnes of grain (average is 994,666)
- 140,396 tonnes of potash (average is 76,763)
- 26,074 tonnes of coal (average is 44,302)

To April 30, 59 vessels had come through the port, up from an average of 51. In 2024, 62 vessels came through the port between the beginning of the season and April 30.

Ontario boat company secures Toronto Dock Site

An Ontario boating company is one step closer to launching a ferry that will take passengers from Toronto's waterfront to central Niagara in just 30 minutes. Hoverlink Ontario has officially secured its Toronto docking site, marking a major milestone for travellers and commuters along this route. The service is set to become the first large-scale hovercraft transit system in North America and is designed to move passengers across Lake Ontario in just half an hour.



Global News

Great Lakes face below-normal water levels

Water levels on most of the Great Lakes are below their long-term average for this time of year.

Lakes Michigan, Huron, Superior and Ontario are about 4 to 6 inches below the long-term average as of Friday.

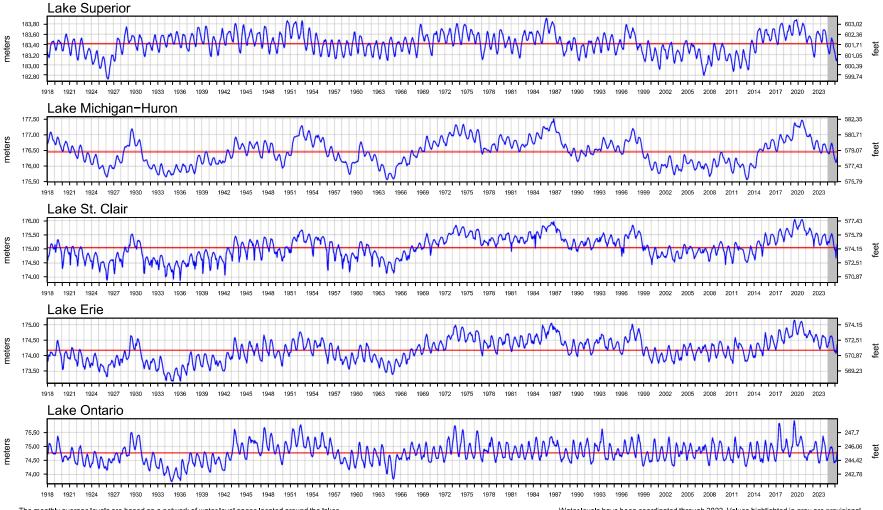
Lake Erie is the only lake that remains above normal.



Great Lakes Water Levels (1918-2025)

Monthly Mean Level

Long Term Average Annual



The monthly average levels are based on a network of water level gages located around the lakes. Elevations are referenced to the International Great Lakes Datum (1985).

Water levels have been coordinated through 2023. Values highlighted in gray are provisional.



Federal Lexi Rose [Fed Nav Photo]

Another new Fednav vessel headed for Lakes Later this week, another new addition to the Fednav fleet will transit the St. **Lawrence Seaway.** The Federal Lexi Rose, anchored at Montreal Wednesday evening, will be bound for Hamilton.

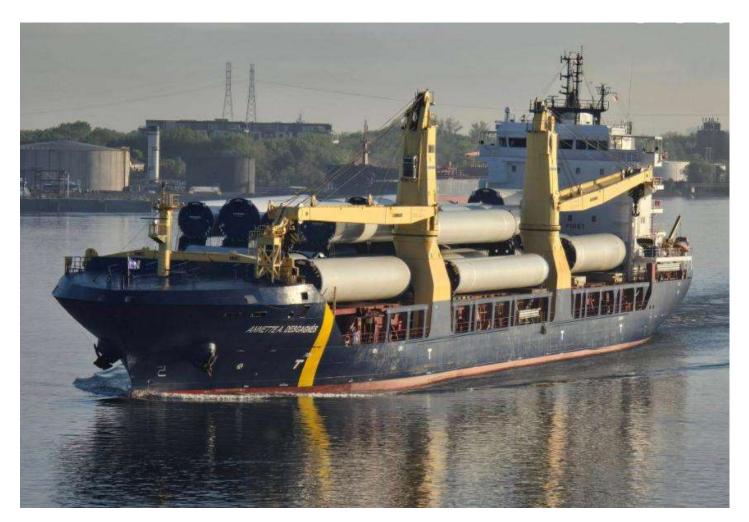
René Beauchamp



Sail-fitted saltie Vectis Progress now in the Seaway

The saltwater vessel Vectis
Progress, with her
groundbreaking new sail
system, is on her way up the
Seaway, destination
Oshawa, ON.

Sail-fitted saltie Vectis Progress [GT Wing]



A new Desgagnes vessel, the Annette A Desgagnes, on her way up with windmill parts

[Alan Wooller]

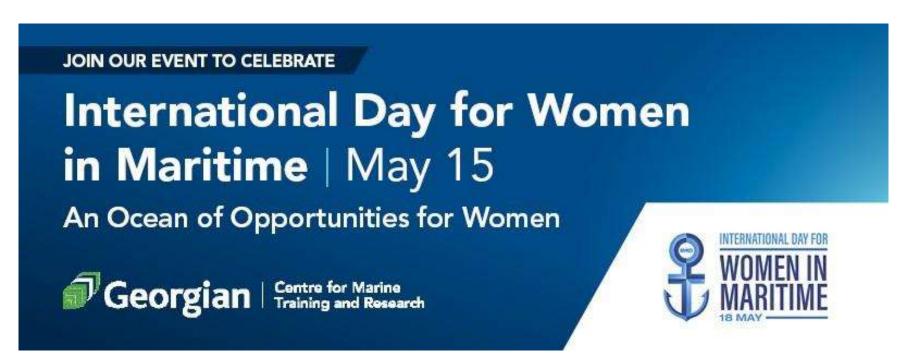


BBC HOUSTON in St-Lambert Lock

BBC HOUSTON first vessel of the "LakerMax" series completing passage into the Great Lakes

posted by AJOT | May 20 2025 at 12:07 PM | Maritime | Ports & Terminals

The BBC HOUSTON is a multipurpose tripledecker with a lifting capacity of up to 500 m/tons. Her optimized deck layout and forward location of bridge and accommodation allow for unobstructed 2,830 sqm of space on the weather deck with 26,000 cbm and 5,500 sqm covered floor space.



2nd Annual International Day for Women in Maritime event on Thursday May 15th, hosted by Georgian College's Centre for Marine Training & Research for a day of networking, meaningful discussions, and connection.

Event Details:

Date: Thursday, May 15, 2025 Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Georgian College - Owen Sound Campus, Room C115/123

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch will be provided



Georgian College's **Centre for** Marine **Training and** Research hosted the second annual International Day for Women in Maritime event. It was a remarkable gathering of voices, insights, and action.



Kamila Calko Founder and Owner of SeaLight & SeaLight Sisters and member of the Master Mariners of Canada – Great Lakes Division hosted the panel.

Panelists (Dalia Dief, Jaelynn Bower-Pires, Allwyn Phillips, Kate **Courchesne) sharing critical** sector intelligence and reflective lived experiences. It was also a pleasure, as always, to hear from Julia Fields, whose presentation added another valuable layer to the day. All of this was focused on that vital goal of building a more inclusive marine sector here in Canada and beyond.

International Day of Women in Maritime – hosted by Georgian College

Marine Safety Management System - TP 13585 E

Marine safety management system (MSMS)

From: Transport Canada



Marine Safety Management System (MSMS)

Title:

Determination of the minimum manning and issuance of a document specifying the minimum safe manning

Link:

https://mytc-montc.tc.gc.ca/sites/default/files/2025-04/volet-ii-procedure-determination-effectif-minimal.pdf





Join us for our annual

CELEBRATION DINNER

honouring the

International Day of Seafarers

and in support of

Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario

June 25, 2025

The Lakeview by Carmen's 180 Van Wagners Beach Road Hamilton, ON

Purchase tickets: mtsso.org/celebration-dinner-2025









Salute and Thank You to our Corporate Members Support













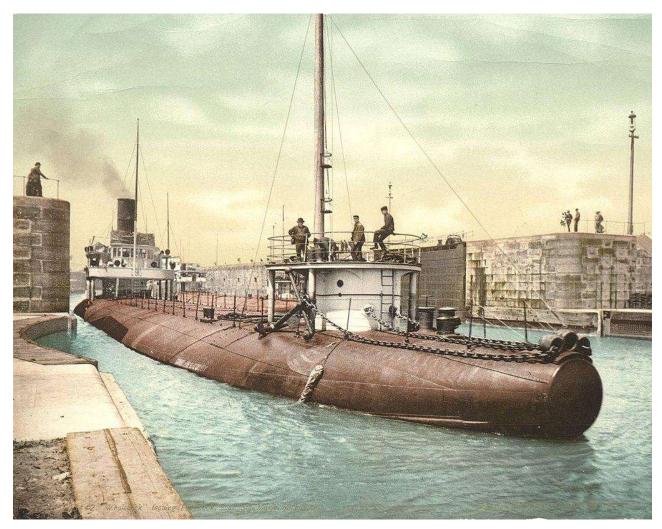


Great Lakes History

May 2025

A whaleback was a type of cargo steamship of unusual design, with a hull that continuously curved above the waterline from vertical to horizontal. When fully loaded, only the rounded portion of the hull (the "whaleback" proper) could be seen above the waterline. With sides curved in towards the ends, it had a spoon bow and a very convex upper deck. It was formerly used on the **Great Lakes of Canada and the United** States, notably for carrying grain or ore. The sole surviving ship of the "whaleback" design is the SS Meteor, which is docked in Superior, Wisconsin, as a museum ship.

A total of 44 such vessels were constructed from 1887 to 1898 Wikepedia



Joseph L. Colby, built 1890, scrapped 1935, was the second whaleback built by McDougall



JOHN ERICSSON [Larry J Geiger Collection]



ALEXANDER HOLLEY [Larry J Geiger Collection]

1898: May 13, 1898 – The steamer JOHN ERICSSON, having in tow the barge **ALEXANDER HOLLEY, bound** down with ore, went aground while making the turn at the dark hole in little Mud Lake. She is on a sand bottom. Tugs and lighters have gone to release her. When the steamer grounded the barge ran into her, damaging the latter's bow and causing a large hole above the water line on the starboard side of the ERICSSON. Both were repaired temporarily.



SS Christopher Columbus, the only whaleback passenger ship ever built