

Great Lakes and Marine Industry News Update

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

March 2024



The Manitoba and federal governments recently announced an investment of up to \$60 million for the Arctic Gateway Group, a partnership of First Nation and other communities that operates the Hudson Bay Railway and the Port of Churchill.

Churchill, Manitoba port upgrades pose little threat to Thunder Bay: Heikkinen

Gary Rinne [TB Newswatch \(file photo and article\)](#)

Soo Locks to open early for new season

SAULT STE. MARIE, MI. – The Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan will open the Poe Lock to all marine traffic at 6 p.m. on March 22, marking the start of the 2024 Great Lakes shipping season. The shipping industry requested an early season opening due the urging of major steel producers.

“The St. Lawrence Seaway has announced that it will open this spring on March 22. We would like to match that early opening at the Soo,” President of the Lake Carriers’ Association James Weakley said. “We also note that the Seaway strike in 2023 and extreme wind events toward the end of the last operating season left the fleet with undelivered cargo.”

“Our winter maintenance period is a critical time for us to invest in our aging locks,” Detroit District Commander Lt. Col. Brett Boyle said. “This year, a number of factors worked in our favor that allowed us to safely deliver this critical maintenance and also open to navigation traffic a few days early, with the St. Lawrence Seaway.”

Cruise ship visits to Thunder Bay will rise to 17

Gary Rinne

TBNEWS

The number of individual vessels and the total number of port calls this year will both set records for the modern cruising era.

THUNDER BAY — New records will be established for Thunder Bay's burgeoning cruise ship business this year.

Four different operators will bring five different vessels to the port a total of 17 times between early June and early October.

That's the largest number of individual ships and the largest number of port calls in Thunder Bay – three more than last year – in the modern cruising era.

The Viking Octantis is shown docked at Pool 6 during a visit to Thunder Bay in May 2023
(TBnewswatch photo)Katie Nicholls



Irish seafarers from can now seek Canadian recognition of their STCW certificates - SSB No.: 07/2024

From: Transport Canada



Purpose

The bulletin is to let you know that:

Canada has signed reciprocal arrangements with Ireland. Irish seafarers holding a valid STCW certificateFootnote1 of competency can now apply for a Canadian endorsement.

Scope

This bulletin applies to: owners and operators of Canadian-flagged vessels, and seafarers from Ireland who want a Canadian endorsement.

What you need to know

Seafarers with a valid STCW certificate issued by the Department of Transport of Ireland can now apply for a Canadian endorsement. This is similar to reciprocal arrangements Canada has already signed with Australia, France, Norway, Ukraine, Georgia, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Jamaica and Panama.

Please note that Canadian seafarers can also seek an Irish endorsement of a valid Canadian STCW certificate by writing to the Department of Transport of Ireland using the following email address: admin@seafarers.ie.

Requirements for the use of an Electronic Record Books System - SSB No.: 08/2024

From: Transport Canada RDIMS No .: 20045967 Date (Y-M-D) : 2024-03-01



Scope

This bulletin applies to Canadian vessels that use an electronic record book for maintaining record-keeping.

Purpose

This bulletin explains the criteria contained in the policy that an Electronic Record books System must meet for it to be used as an alternative to traditional paper logbooks and recording.

What you need to know

An Electronic Record Books System must be certified (e.g., type approval, statement, or declaration) by one of the Canadian Recognized Organizations (RO), in accordance with the following publications as amended from time to time:

- IMO resolution MEPC.312(74) Guidelines for the use of electronic record books under MARPOL,**
- IMO resolution A.916(22) Guidelines for the Recording of Events Related to Navigation, Navigation Safety Regulations, and**
- ISO 21745 Electronic record books for ships - Technical specifications and operational requirements or an equivalent technical and operational standards acceptable to a Recognized Organization.**



Blair McKeil being fitted with loader cranes in Holland

The Canadian-registered general cargo ship Blair McKeil of the McKeil Marine Ltd., is currently alongside in the Neptune Repair yard in Hardinxveld, South Holland. She is being fitted with two ship loader cranes that have been designed and built by TMS Technical & Maritime Services B.V. This week crane components were delivered by floating sheerlegs crane from TMS to be installed on the Blair McKeil. The ship will be ready to leave within two weeks. Heavy Lift News

BBC Chartering takes delivery of 10 LakerMax vessels fitted for Great Lakes/Seaway use

Maritime Reporter

“The design of the BBC LakerMax ships has been optimized to fit both the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes,” BBC Chartering indicated...all ships bear a Laker identity in the name. The ships are equipped with a 6,000 kW MAN B&W engine that offers an eco-friendly service speed of 15.6 knots, according to BBC Chartering.

The company will take delivery of 10 LakerMax, 13,000 dwt MPPs starting this April until 2026.



BBC Leer 1st of a series of new LakerMax Vessels

Great Lakes levels expected to be down this summer, still higher than average

WOOD

GRAND RAPIDS, MI. – The latest forecast from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers expects water levels on the Great Lakes to come down this summer, closer to average....lower snow totals and higher evaporation rates from a lack of ice will slow down this year's swing.

Data: Great Lakes hit record low for ice levels

According to the USACE's February water level summary:

Lake Michigan-Huron — currently four inches above its long-term average for February.

Forecasts expect Michigan-Huron to be between 1 and 6 inches below last year's lake levels. That would be roughly 32 inches below the record highs, and only 1 to 3 inches above the long-term average.

Lake Superior and Lake Ontario are expected to come in below long-term average levels this summer.

Lake Erie is expected to stay 6 to 13 inches above the long-term average.

Shipping on the Seaway: New Educational Experience Uses Virtual Reality to Bring Canadian Marine Careers to Life

[Ottawa, March 21st, 2024] — Ocean School, a groundbreaking collaboration between Dalhousie University, the Ocean Frontier Institute, and the National Film Board of Canada, proudly unveils “Shipping on the Seaway,” a transformative educational experience designed to ignite curiosity and foster a deeper understanding of maritime transportation among youth aged 11-17. With 43% of the marine workforce expected to retire in the next decade and an estimated 19,000 ‘on board jobs’ alone, to fill, this initiative aims to cultivate the next generation of marine professionals by strengthening their connection to Canada’s vital waterways. The high-paying career opportunities to explore are vast, ranging from ship captains and seafarers to marine engineers and shoreside professionals.

Launched in conjunction with the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway shipping season tomorrow, “Shipping on the Seaway” offers a unique, inquiry-based learning experience utilizing cutting-edge technologies alongside engaging activities. Students will embark on an immersive 360° tour of a CSL vessel, getting insights into the challenges, diverse career paths, and operations of shipping professions. From navigating locks to exploring the use of biofuels, this bilingual series of videos provides a taste of what life is like working onboard a 750 ft. vessel.

About the Partners:

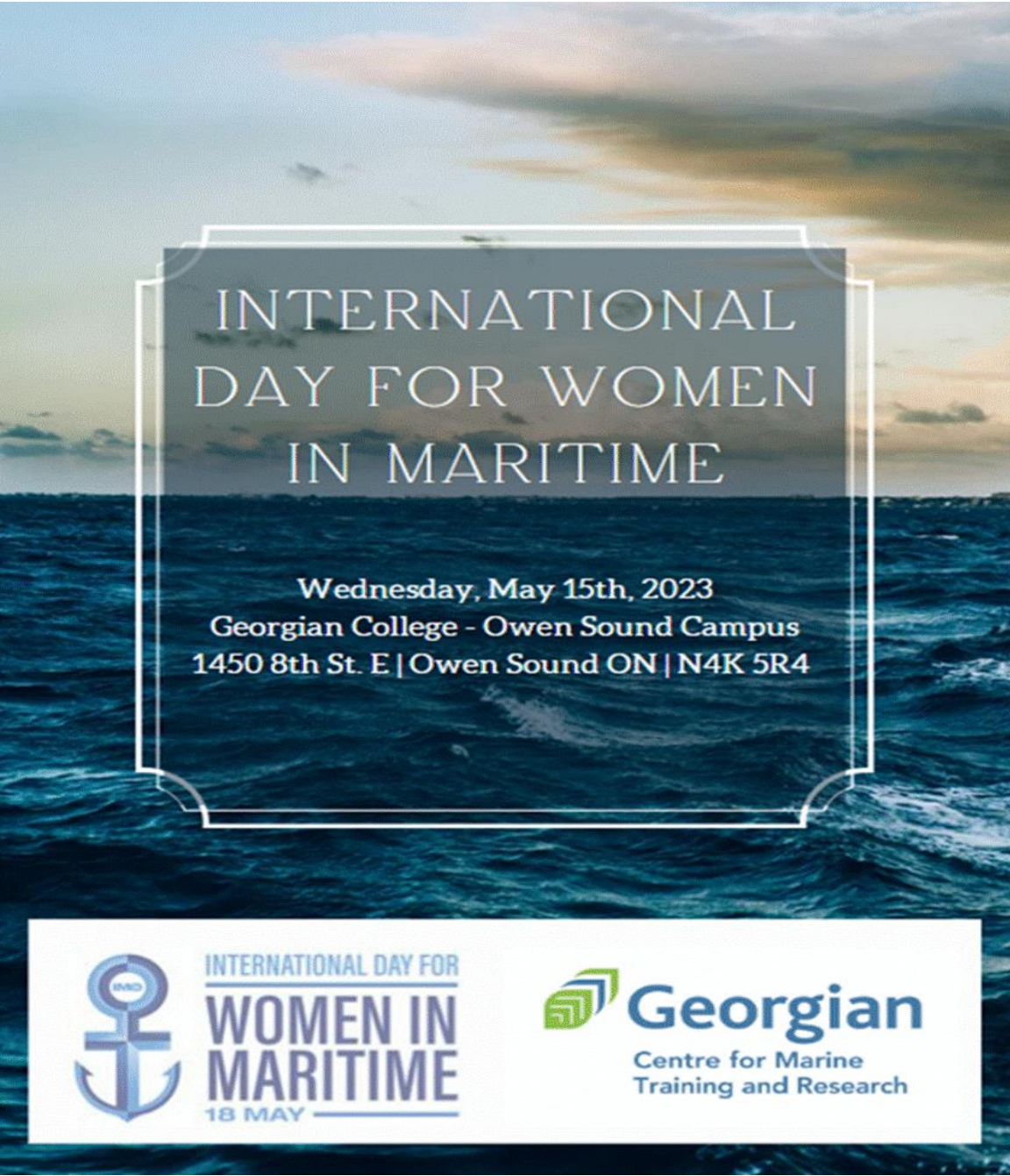
CSL Group

Chamber of Marine Commerce

Canadian Marine Careers Foundation

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation

Seaway Opens its 66th Navigation Season with a Renewed Long-Term Management Agreement



INTERNATIONAL
DAY FOR WOMEN
IN MARITIME

Wednesday, May 15th, 2023
Georgian College - Owen Sound Campus
1450 8th St. E | Owen Sound ON | N4K 5R4



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
**WOMEN IN
MARITIME**
18 MAY



Georgian

Centre for Marine
Training and Research

Save the Date

WoW!

**International Day
for Women in
Maritime**

Announcement: Changes to the National CMAC Meetings / Announce: Changements au rencontre National du CCMC

In Budget 2023, the Government of Canada announced an initiative to refocus spending, and in so doing asked us to review our programs and financial commitments. **Consistent with this direction, meetings of the National Canadian Marine Advisory Council (CMAC) will now be held only once a year in the fall. The annual fall meeting will also be held in person only.**

This switch to a single national CMAC will be complemented by the 5 regional CMAC meetings that occur each year in Pacific Region, Prairies and Northern Region, Ontario Region, Quebec Region, and Atlantic Region. Representatives from Transport Canada's HQ will be available to attend regional CMAC meetings to provide updates on regulatory files and initiatives, as necessary.

Information on the regional CMACs can be obtained from the following e-mail addresses:

Pacific Region: tc.pacificcmac-cccpacifique.tc@tc.gc.ca

Prairies and Northern Region: tc.pnrcmacsecretariat-secretariatccmcrpn.tc@tc.gc.ca

Atlantic Region: tc.atlcmac-ccmcatl.tc@tc.gc.ca

Ontario Region: RegionalCMAC-CCMCregional@tc.gc.ca

Quebec Region: melanie.charbonneau@tc.gc.ca (no generic inbox available yet)



**Hedde
Shipyard**

**Ontario
Shipyard**

**Port
Weller**

[Hedde photo]
3-12-2024



JENKINS, Philip – passed on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at the age of 82

In memory

Captain Philip was a Master Mariner in the British Merchant Navy until moving to Canada in 1967. After several years in the Canadian shipping industry (St. Lawrence Seaway), he decided to start his own business as a Marine Consultant serving both the Canadian and US industries.



**PZM Takes Delivery of 37,000 DWT Great Lakes Bulk Carriers
Polsteam Dabie** www.imarinenews.com



Transport Canada announces funding to increase capacity at the Port of Thunder Bay

From: Transport Canada

The Government of Canada will contribute:

- Up to \$3 million to redevelop the existing marshalling yard at the Ports Keefer Terminal. with new heavyweight rail track and switches for increased cargo handling capabilities
- Up to \$3.7 million to enhance capacity by:
 - upgrading the wharf at Keefer Terminal;
 - expanding the terminal's cargo laydown area;
 - developing the electrical infrastructure
 - improving the rail crossing infrastructure between Keefer Terminal and the marshalling yard.



Port Directory – Port of Thunder Bay



GSTS to develop world's first AI-based berth schedule management system

IT & SOFTWARE

March 14, 2024, by Naida Hakirevic Prevljak

Maritime intelligence company Global Spatial Technology Solutions (GSTS) has been contracted by Canada's Ocean Supercluster's Core Technology Leadership Program to further develop and implement a predictive, dynamic berth schedule management system.

Working in partnership with maritime innovators including Canada Steamship Lines, Montreal Port Authority, Laurentian Pilotage Authority and Clear Seas, OCIANA's latest capability will streamline vessel berthing through AI predictive analytics to support Just-in-Time Arrivals (JIT).

Government of Canada partners with Inuit firm to enhance marine safety in the Arctic

From: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is pleased to announce that the Canadian Hydrographic Service has awarded a contract to Sedna ROV Services, a marine and underwater services company based in Iqaluit, Nunavut, to conduct hydrographic survey missions in the Arctic. The contract for this project, worth \$6.5 million over two years, was awarded in July 2023. The first survey mission was completed in late October 2023. This initiative is funded through the second phase of the Oceans Protection Plan that was announced in August 2022.

Operating from aboard the icebreaker M/V Polar Prince (owned by Miawpukek Horizon Maritime Services), Canadian Hydrographic Service survey equipment and hydrographers successfully surveyed over 9,000 linear kilometres of Arctic Ocean last year. These hydrographic surveys will play a crucial role in advancing our knowledge of the Arctic seabed. The data collected will contribute to the safety and efficiency of navigation, support environmental protection efforts, and facilitate sustainable economic development in the region.

Canada launches Green Shipping Corridor Program

By portnews March 11, 2024

Canada's Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, has announced the creation of the Green Shipping Corridor Program – an investment of \$165.4 million – and launched a call for proposals under the programme.

The aim is to establish green shipping corridors and help decarbonise the marine sector in major shipping areas along the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence Seaway, and Canada's East and West Coast

This programme will reportedly support the delivery of innovative projects in the marine sector to help keep Canada's economy growing strong, ensure goods get to Canadians, and keep the air clean.

“With the new Green Shipping Corridor Program, Canada is taking another step towards meeting its commitment to net-zero emissions by 2050,” said Rodriguez.

Quebec company named port operator at Marathon

Ian Ross Timmins Today Mar
10, 2024



MARATHON - The Town of Marathon has chosen Quebec City-based QSL to operate its proposed commercial port on the north shore of Lake Superior.

Considered a North American leader in port terminal operations, QSL has been working with Marathon, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, and its Peninsula Harbour Port Authority Corporation in shaping the redevelopment of the waterfront site at the former Marathon Pulp facility, which was permanently shuttered in 2019.

Port of Toronto Moves 2.3 Million Metric Tonnes of Cargo in 2023

Toronto (March 11, 2024) – The Port of Toronto moved more than 2.3 million m.t. of cargo and welcomed a record 45 cruise ships and nearly 18,000 visitors in 2023. Another strong year in marine imports and cruise ship activity highlights the important role the Port plays in Toronto’s economy.

606,000 mt sugar

685,661 mt salt

796,644 mt cement

97,016 mt aggregates

123,234 mt steel products



Ports Toronto

Ports Toronto By the Numbers

189 cargo ships delivered 2,311,616 million metric tonnes of goods to the Port of Toronto in 2023, including:

796,644 metric tonnes of cement (an 11 per cent increase over 2022);

606,060 metric tonnes of sugar;

685,661 metric tonnes of salt;

97,016 metric tonnes of aggregate; and,

123,234 metric tonnes of steel products, including coil, pipe, and rebar.

The 2.3 million metric tonnes of cargo delivered to the Port by ship last year took approximately 57,000, 40-tonne trucks off Toronto's congested roads and highways.

- \$463.5 million in economic activity generated by marine cargo at the Port in 2022.**
- \$79.1 million in taxes generated by cargo and vessel activity at the Port in 2022.**
- 673 jobs directly generated by marine cargo and vessel activity at the Port of Toronto.**
- 18,000 passengers welcomed to Toronto on 45 cruise ships in 2023.**
- USD \$200 million in economic value expected to be generated by cruising in the Great Lakes in 2024[1].**
- \$2 billion film industry thriving in Toronto.**

Hamilton's 'harbour master' among the women paving the way for others in the marine industry



Vicki Gruber was Hamilton's first woman port patrol officer, and now leads an all-male team of seven Saira Peesker · CBC News · Photo by HOPA)

Hornblower cruises into bankruptcy protection

By Bill Sawchuk Reporter St Catharines Standard



Hornblower Group, the San Francisco–based company that operates the Voyage to the Falls tour of the Canadian Horseshoe Falls, has filed for bankruptcy protection in the U.S....business as usual stated by company.

A Hornblower cruise vessel travels up the Niagara Gorge to the Horseshoe Falls. Bob Tymczyszyn St. Catharines Standard file photo

ASHTABULA, OH – The self-unloader Cuyahoga, Canada’s oldest operating lake vessel, experienced a fire. Photos on the internet showed that the blaze may have originated on deck near the unloading boom, then moved forward but will have to await accident investigation. Firefighting crews attended.

The Boatnerd layup list shows her at the NS Dock in Ashtabula, OH.

Boatnerd



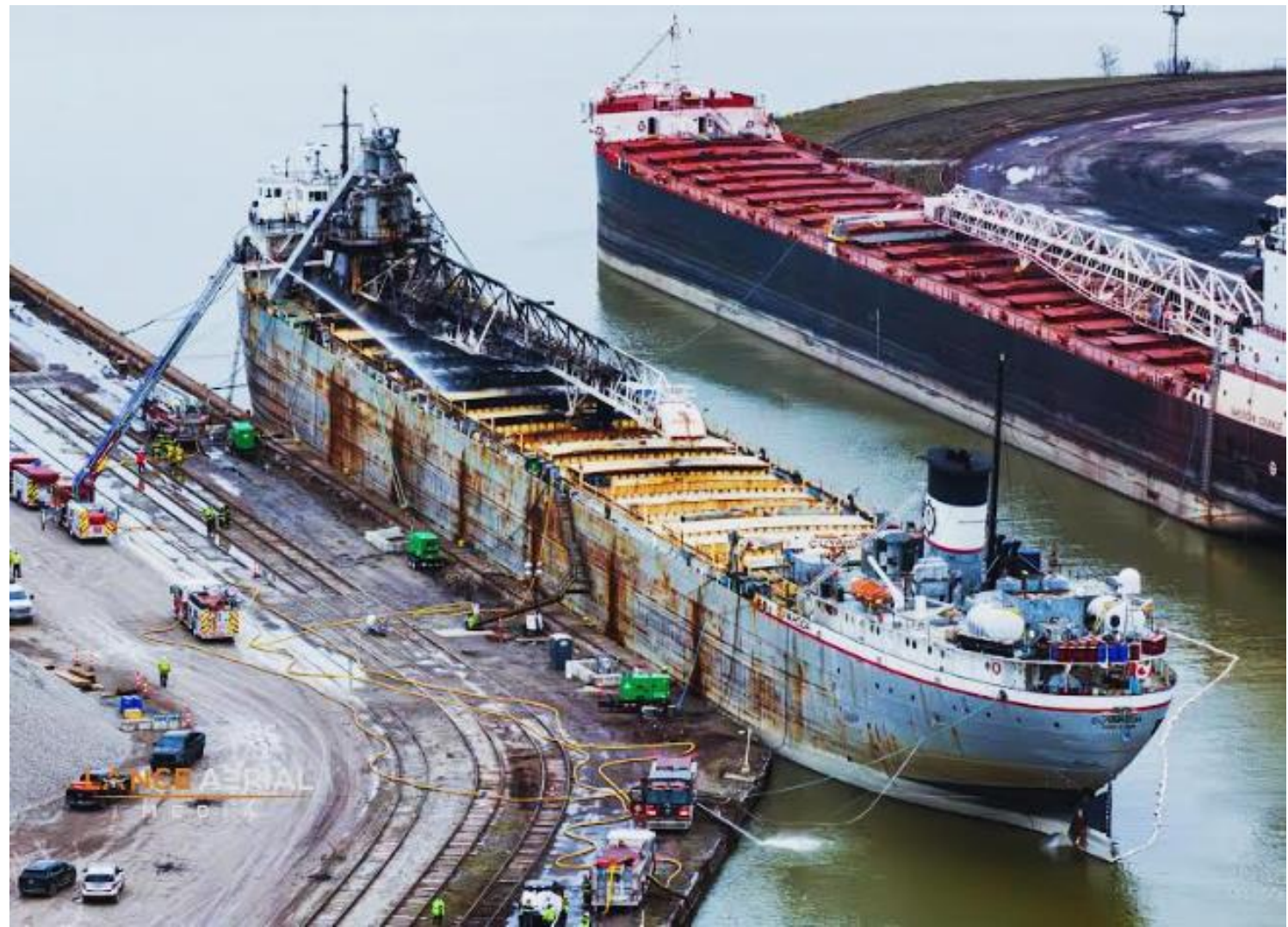
Cuyahoga Fire [NL Maritime Network] 3-15-2024

Damages being assessed after welding sparks ignite fire on Cuyahoga

ASHTABULA, OH – Multiple fire departments and U.S. Coast Guard personnel fought a blaze aboard the motor vessel Cuyahoga, docked in Ashtabula for winter lay-up, Friday afternoon.

According to City of Ashtabula Fire Rescue there were no reported injuries. Reporting on social media said the fire started 2 p.m. and took three hours to put out. The fire was caused by welding; flames ignited paint on inside of cargo hold, the fire spread to the main deck and the unloading belt caught fire. The fire was extinguished by late Friday afternoon and damages will now be assessed.

Boatnerd



Cuyahoga fire [Lance Aerial Media] 3-15-2024

2024 Increase of Seaway Tariffs

MARCH 18, 2024

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) announced a 4% increase of Tolls and Wharfage & Storage Charges for the upcoming navigation season.

The Schedules of Tolls and Wharfage & Storage Charges are available on our web site: Seaway Handbook – Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System (greatlakes-seaway.com)



The M/V Amalia recently launched with a ship design in 2017 has a cargo capacity of 13.800 tonnes and a large hold intake of 625.000 cbft. She has an installed power of less than 3.000 kW and an aerodynamic hull shape with extremely low fuel consumption. Photo and article Wagonbord



Image of ice coverage back in March 2014, courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Back then, ice coverage was at about 92%.



Contrast that to a satellite image taken by the NOAA last month, nearly 10 years later. On Valentine's Day, overall ice coverage was 3.1%. It was 1.9% on Lake Superior and Lake Ontario, 2.8% on Lake Michigan, 7.0% on Lake Huron, and .1% on Lake Erie. The historical average is 40%.



Chamber of Marine Commerce, March 22, 2024.

The Chamber of Marine Commerce (CMC) is pleased to advise that the 2024 edition of Marine Delivers Magazine has just been launched! The full magazine can be viewed in flipbook and PDF formats.



**The Joseph L. Block
freighter waits by the
approach to the Soo Locks.
It is to be the first ship
through on Friday, March
22 when the locks open for
the 2024 shipping season.**

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



*Capt. Edward Kemp tips his top hat after a ceremony in Port Colborne Friday morning celebrating the opening of the Welland Canal. Kemp was taking the Algoma Conveyor to Thunder Bay to load wheat for Hamilton.
Dave Johnson Welland Tribune*



Capt. Robert Loveless poses with the Algoma bear in front of the ship Algoma Sault after the Welland Canal-opening top hat ceremony at Lock 3.

Bob Tymczyszyn St. Catharines Standard



**MV Harvest Spirit
Capt. Adam Hagen
(right) and first
engineer, Gavin
Pink, on Sunday,
March 24, 2024
accept the
ceremonial top
hat, symbolic of
the first lake-going
vessel to arrive in
Thunder Bay to
open the shipping
season.**

(Leith Dunick,
tbnewswatch.com)

The MV Harvest Spirit, which arrived on Saturday evening, was loaded up with mostly canola, a load supplemented with soy beans.



Harvest Spirit enters the Port of Thunder Bay to open the 2024 shipping season.

Port of Thunder Bay supplied photo



'Spartan,' a ship that carries liquid salt, was the first ship into Goderich, Ont.'s port for the 2024 shipping season on March 25, 2024. (Scott Miller/CTV News London)



Cruise the Great Lakes expects to welcome 600 port calls and over 140,000 passengers in 2024. Passenger numbers have more than doubled in a decade while the economic impact is expected to increase by 50 per cent compared to 2022 Cruise and Ferry **Pearl Seas Cruises' Pearl Mist at Port Milwaukee on Lake Michigan**



ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE
GREENTECH

June 5 to 7, 2024 — Halifax, NS

Thank you for viewing our Monthly 2024 monthly Industry Update.

Hope you enjoy and find the information useful and educational

Master Mariners of Canada – Great Lakes Division

