Great Lakes Division
The Company of Master Mariners of Canada

June 2026



Great Lakes and Marine Industry News Update

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

June 2026



Paul Bird returns as new President and CEO of Montreal Port Authority

The Montreal Port Authority (MPA) today announced the appointment effective June 8 of Paul Bird as new President and CEO, reflecting a move towards renewed leadership stability following a period of turbulence this spring punctuated by the reported dismissal on April 3 of Julie Gascon.



A replica model of Toronto's new electric ferry | Aidan Chamandy/TorontoToday

Toronto Unveils New Island Ferry Names

The first new ferries in 60 years are planned for Toronto harbour and island service. The city's new fully electric vessels have officially been named Lady of the Quays and Toronto Islander.

About 1.4 million people visit the Toronto Islands each year, relying on workhorse vessels like the over 90-year-old 400 passenger William Inglis, and the over 60-year old 216 passenger Ongiara. Another ferry, the sidewheeler Trillium, laid up at Hamilton.

Built by the Dutch shipbuilder Damen at a facility in Romania, the new ferries are currently in their final stages of construction. Lady of the Quays is expected to be delivered in late 2026, while the Toronto Islander won't be ready until 2027.



The Town of Marathon’s ambition to build a new commercial port took a big step forward Tuesday with a $2-million funding announcement

The Peninsula Harbour Port Authority, comprising representatives of the town and nearby Biigtigong Nishnaabeg (formerly Pic River First Nation), wants to convert a former pulp mill site into the only commercial port between Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie.



Completing her Maiden Voyage up the Welland Canal and now Lake Erie bound for the first time.

BBC GENOA clearing Bridge 21

Nigel Hay – Ship Junkies



Minister McGuinty announces $816 million investment to strengthen Canada's maritime security

By Maritime Magazine 2026 May 22

Iqaluit – David J. McGuinty, Minister of National Defence, announced a foundational investment of $816 million over seven years to strengthen maritime security and expand the Canadian Coast Guard's role in monitoring Canada's waters.

US laker operators' body asks Trump's trade chief for fees on foreign-built ships

Trade group targets Canadian rivals' foreign-built ships on Great Lakes

The Lake Carriers' Association made the proposal, which primarily targets Canadian rivals' foreign-built ships, as part of probes by US trade representative Jamieson Greer into the manufacturing sectors of several nations.

The Lakes Carriers' Association cited concerns that China's manufacturing of ships affects bilateral trade between the US and Canada and the fleet of domestic vessels that operates in the waterway system linking the two countries.

The group, whose members operate 43 US-flag ships in the Great Lakes, is concerned that their American-built vessels are being hurt by Chinese-built lakers.

In a letter to Greer, group president James Weakley proposed that a tariff on foreign-built lakers should be deposited in a fund to reduce the cost of building and maintaining American-made vessels.



The American pusher tug GRACIE M. REINAUER is currently en route to the port of Sarnia, Ontario, marking its very first transit through the St. Lawrence Seaway soon. It is operating as an articulated tug-barge (ATB) unit and is pushing the RTC 109, a 413' petroleum tank barge with a 107,989-barrel capacity.

A NEW TUG/BARGE COMING SOON

Boatnerd Ship Junkies





President Given: Industry Must Unite to Fight New Threat to Canadian Shipping

May 27, 2026

SIU Canada President Chris Given sent a letter to a wide range of marine sector stakeholders across the country, including government officials, companies, industry partners and other labour organizations regarding a concerning proposal currently being considered as part of a Transport Canada consultation. If implemented, the proposal would permit foreign-flagged vessels to operate in Canada's domestic shipping trade during so called "emergencies" without a coasting trade license.



Its the end of the line for a portion of a once dominate local waterfront landmark. Demolition company Lanmar has removed over 400 feet of the once massive iron ore dock, erected over 80 years ago to transfer rail-delivered mined Atikokan iron ore to waiting ships. The dock is largely abandoned in the 1980s once mining concludes. Facility owner Midcontinent Terminals expects to use the freed up space to accommodate off-loading bulky cargo, such as wind turbines.

Coming into force of the Vessel Traffic Services Zones Regulations (SOR/2025-275)

SSB No.: 06/2026 ISSN No.: 3111-0975 Date (Y-M-D) : 2026-05-27

Scope

The Regulations apply to the following vessels that are about to enter, leave or proceed within a vessel traffic services (VTS) Zone:

(a) vessels of 300 gross tonnage or more;

(b) vessels that are engaged in towing or pushing another vessel, of combined gross tonnage 500 grt or more; and

(c) vessels with cargo a pollutant or dangerous goods, or vessels that are engaged in towing or pushing such a vessel.

- **Incorporating by reference the CCG's Radio Aids to Marine Navigation publication, thus enabling a more agile reporting system capable of quickly introducing urgent or time-sensitive reporting requirements;**
- **Lowering mandatory reporting threshold requirements to all vessels of 300 gross tonnage or more entering Canadian waters, therefore fully aligning with the standards established by the IMO;**
- **Introducing a mandatory 24-hour pre-arrival notice requirement for all prescribed vessels seeking to enter Canadian waters, including the Arctic;**
- **Improving regulatory transparency, modernizing Canada's regulatory system, and reducing the overall administrative burden on Canadians; and**
- **Introducing a new Administration Monetary Penalty (AMP) regime**

The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway System
Le réseau Grands Lacs - Voie maritime du Saint-Laurent

2026 - SEAWAY NOTICE #7

2026 - SEAWAY NOTICE #7 New Seaway Speed Restrictions and Limitations Summary Web Page

A new web page is now available that consolidates Seaway speed restrictions in a single location.

The page provides an at-a-glance overview of current speed restrictions, meet restrictions, and identified high spots, allowing navigators and stakeholders to quickly identify applicable limitations without having to search through individual Notices to Shipping.

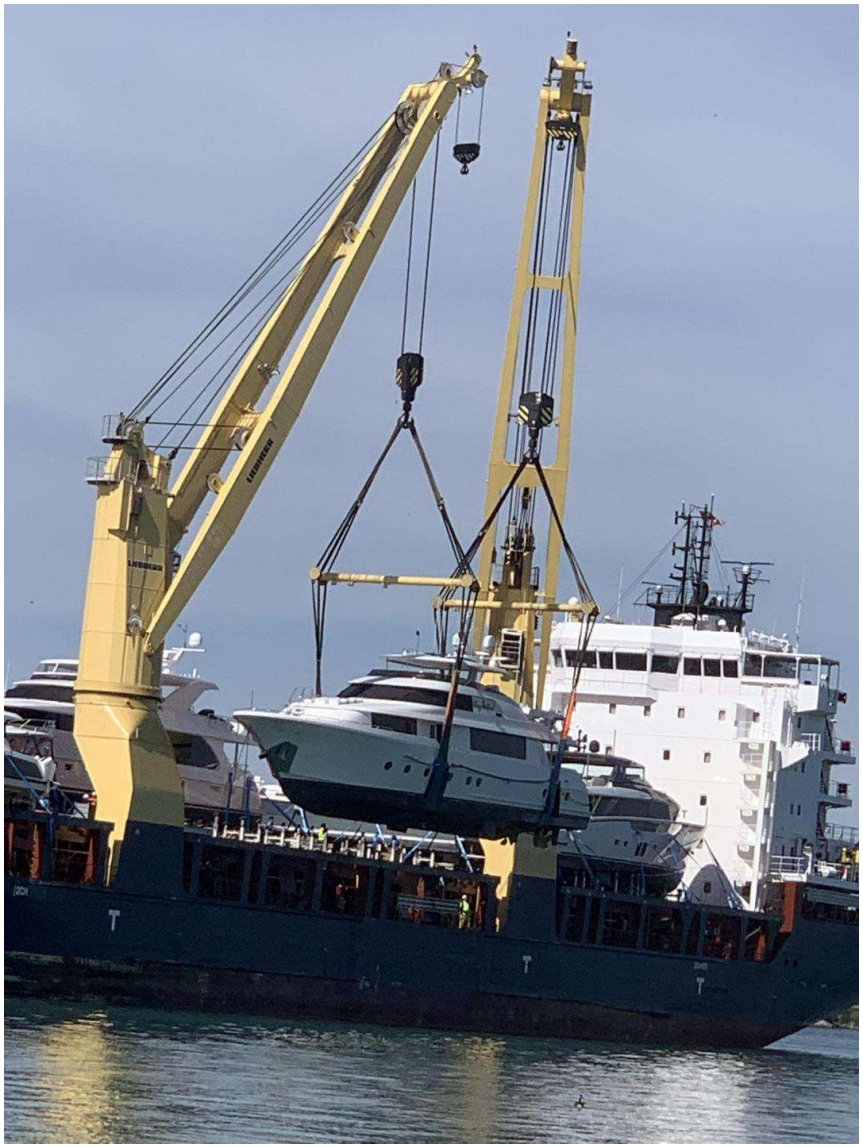


Yacht-carrying Vessel Due to Arrive at Sarnia June 3, 2026

Annette A. Desgagnes is expected to reach Sarnia, to offload a group of large yachts. The vessel is coming from Port Everglades, FL, with 17 yachts ready to spend their summer on the Great Lakes.

Annette A. Desgagnes with her cargo of yachts. {Michel Gosselin]

Janey Anderson – Ship Junkies



Yacht being loaded off the Annette A Desgagnes at Sarnia!



CSL Kuleana Joins CSL's Saltwater Fleet
June 3, 2026

On May 29, 2026, CSL took delivery of MV CSL Kuleana from YAMIC Shipyard, marking the latest milestone in the renewal of the CSL International Pool fleet. The vessel has now departed on her maiden voyage. CSL Kuleana is the fourth in a series of

CSL Kuleana. [Courtesy CSL]



CSL delivers world-first battery-powered self-unloader bulk carrier for Adbri operations

By Maritime Magazine 2026 June 15

This new purpose-built 11,000 deadweight tonne limestone carrier represents a major step forward in sustainable marine logistics. Designed to transport approximately 2.7 million tonnes of limestone annually for Adbri – an increase of 35% over its predecessor – MV Yampu.



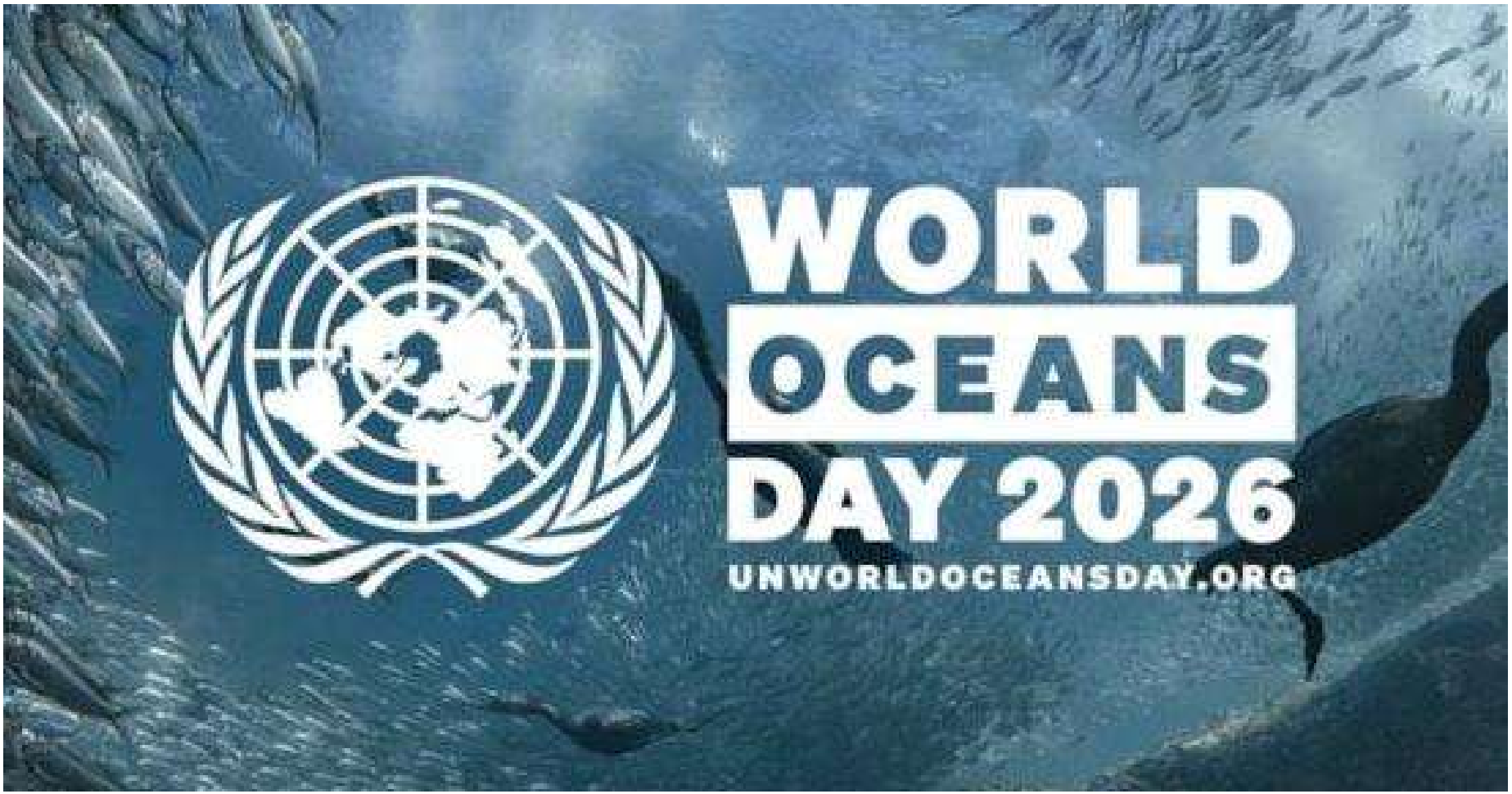
New Tug Puerto Rico Christened in Cleveland

June 4, 2026

CLEVELAND, OH – The Puerto Rico, the last of 10 new Damen tugs built at the Great Lakes Shipyard in Cleveland, OH, for the Great Lakes Towing Co. was recently christened

Designed by Damen Shipyards, the tug Puerto Rico measures 64′ x 24′ x 11′ and is powered by two Cummins QSK 38 1,000hp Tier III diesel engines.

Bill Kloss



World Oceans Day highlights shipping’s responsibility to protect the marine environment

2025 // Performance Report

GREEN MARINE

Ship owners

1.2
net average improvement per participant

45%
of participants have achieved at least one Level 5

6
participants achieved Level 5 for all applicable indicators

93%
of participants achieved an average of Level 2 or higher

3.6

3.4

The performance indicators for **Aquatic Invasive Species** and for **Underwater Noise** show the highest averages, at 3.6 and 3.4, respectively. They also had the highest averages in 2024, confirming the upward trend.

100%

The only group of participants to show an overall increase in the average across all 8 of its indicators!

NOx

+12 levels

The largest net improvement in **Air Emissions – NOx**, with a rise of 12 levels.

95%
Level 2 or +

Of the 344 indicators reported by the 46 certified ship owners, more than 95% are at Level 2 or higher.



Polsteam Adds New Polsteam Ros to Laker-class Fleet

The Polish Steamship Co. (Polsteam) of Szczecin, Poland, has added another new vessel to its Laker-class series of ships. Polsteam Ros (IMO 1027201) is the 11th vessel built as part of the Polsteam fleet renewal program in China which began in 2024 with the Polsteam Dabie as the first of the series. Polsteam Ros is 199.99 meters or 656 feet in length and 23.700 meters in width or 78 feet wide. The ship gets its name from a lake in Poland.

Denny Dushane



The Desgagnés fleet continues to expand

By Maritime Magazine 2026 June 11

Quebec City – Desgagnés announced the addition of another vessel to its fleet. Acquired from its German business partner, BBC Chartering–this vessel will serve remote communities and industries in the Canadian Arctic, including Nunavut and Nunavik, Canadian east coast, and other markets.
It is registered under the Canadian flag and will began its first voyage on June 12.

The ship is 147 meters long, deadweight tonnage of 12,395 mt, and over 17,600 m^3 of cargo hold capacity and over 24,000 m^3 when the main deck is included. It is equipped with two cranes, each with a capacity of 250 metric tons, With an ice class equivalent to 1A and powered by a 4,800 kW (6,436 horsepower) engine, it reaches a cruising speed of 13.5 knots.

SEAWAY MONTHLY TRAFFIC RESULTS
May 2026

Traffic (in thousands of tonnes)	SLSMC - Combined Traffic			
	Year to Date		Change from 2025	
	2025	2026	Tonnes	%
Total Cargo	8 339	8 064	-275	-3.30%
All Grain	2 982	2 605	-377	-12.64%
Iron Ore	1 174	1 208	34	2.91%
Coal	266	254	-12	-4.56%
Dry Bulk	2 350	2 555	205	8.72%
Liquid Bulk	1 008	957	-51	-5.07%
General Cargo	558	485	-74	-13.17%

Vessel Transits	2025	2026	Transits	%
Total Transits	884	888	4	.45%

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation



Aragonborg

René Beauchamp

Desgagnés Charters Wagenborg Vessel to Replace 2 Stranded in Persian Gulf
June 13, 2026

Transport Desgagnés chartered the Dutch cargo ship Aragonborg to replace the vessels stuck in the Persian Gulf. Since June 10th, its port of registration has been Quebec City, and it has been in Trois-Rivières since June 7th. This ship has transited the St. Lawrence Seaway on several occasions since entering service in 2010.

René Beauchamp



Thank You to Our 2026 Sponsors!

Imagine Marine

CANADIAN MARINE CAREERS FOUNDATION | FONDATION DES CARRIÈRES MARITIMES CANADIENNES

The Imagine Marine Conference returns on September 22 & 23, 2026, in Ottawa, bringing together leaders from across Canada's public and private marine sectors to tackle the key workforce and skills challenges shaping the future of marine transportation. This year's theme, Future-Proofing the Marine Workforce: Skills, Tech, and Talent, will explore how our sector can adapt to emerging technologies, attract and retain new talent, and build a workforce ready for the challenges ahead.

Great Lakes History

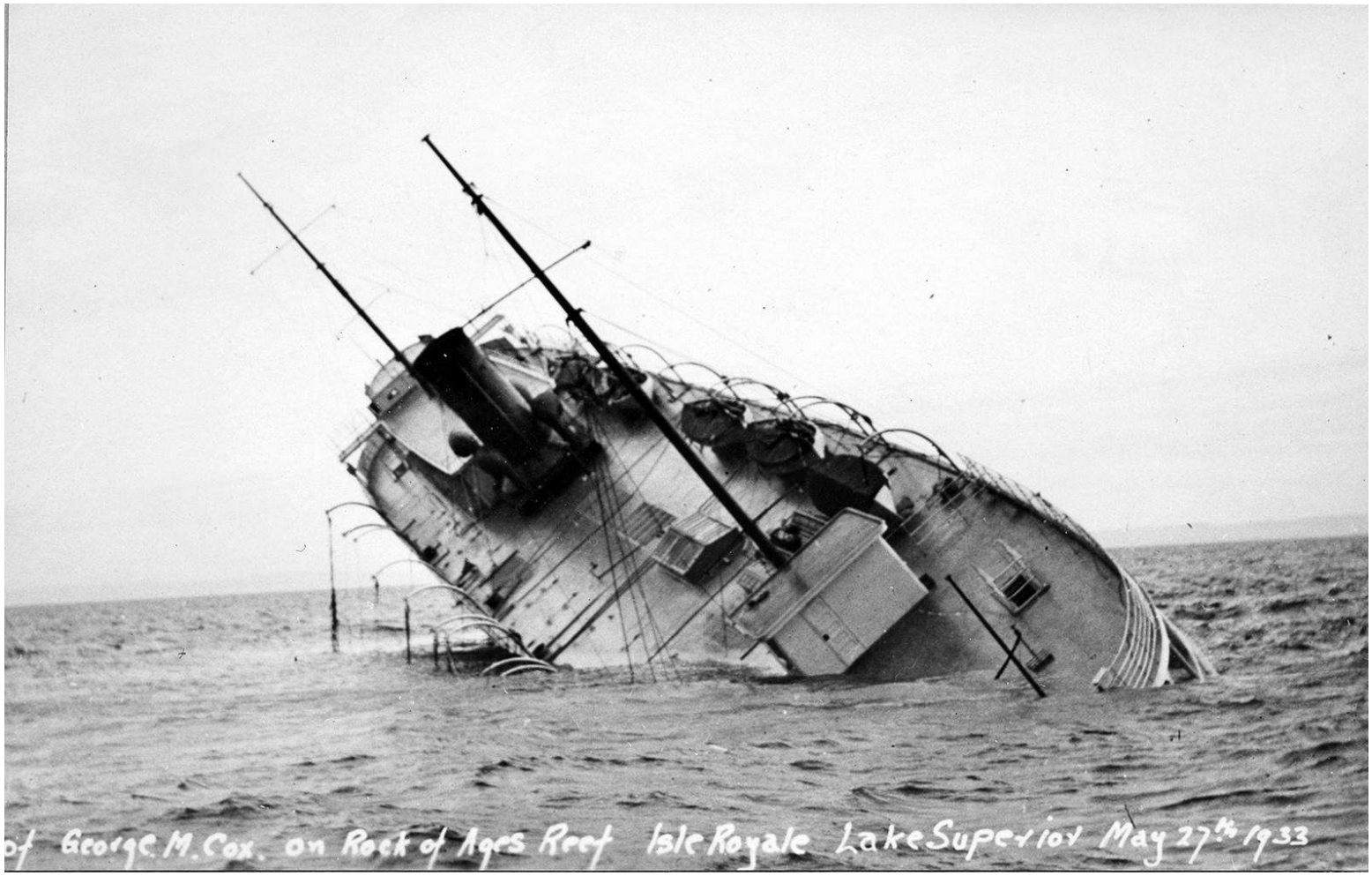
June 2026



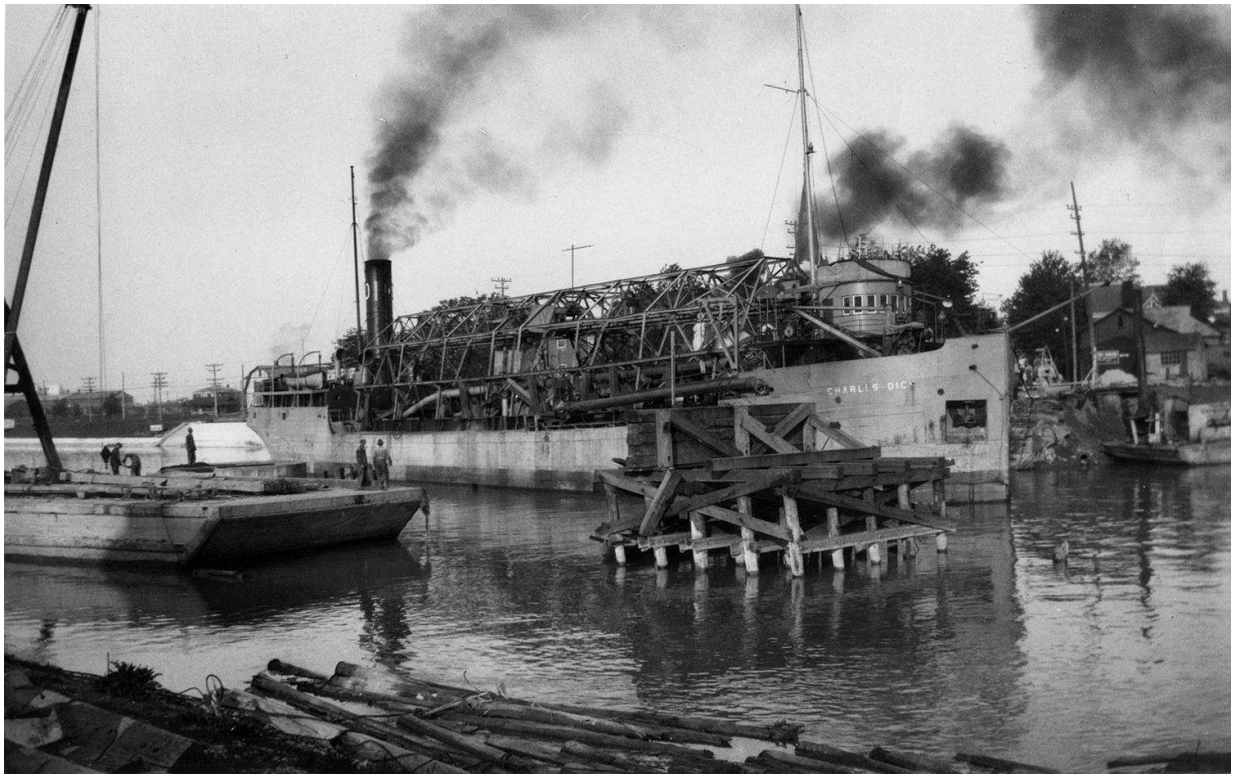
Ontadoc (1) in the Welland Canal. August 12 1964. Built in 1903 as the R L Ireland. Renamed Sirius in 1913. Sold Canadian and renamed Ontadoc in 1926. Scrapped in 1972 in Turkey. **Paul Sherlock photo**
Terry McCullough

Ontadoc at the Sarnia grain elevator. July 1984. Built in 1975. Renamed Melissa Desgagnes in 1990. Sold off lakes as Ethan in 2016. **Terry McCullough photo**





GEORGE M. COX hit Rock of Ages Reef in Lake Superior on its first trip after previous service as PURITAN. The vessel had 121 passengers and freight on board when it struck the reef in the early morning in fog. The ship hung at a precarious angle until all were rescued and then, during an October storm, the vessel slid back into deep water.





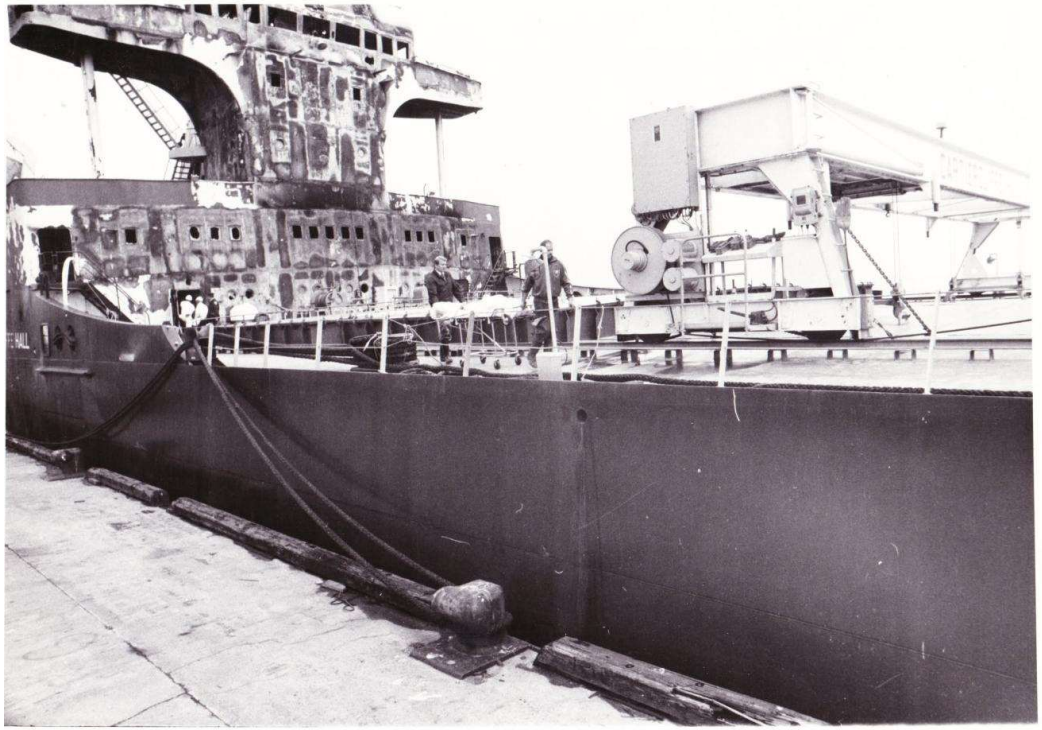
1922

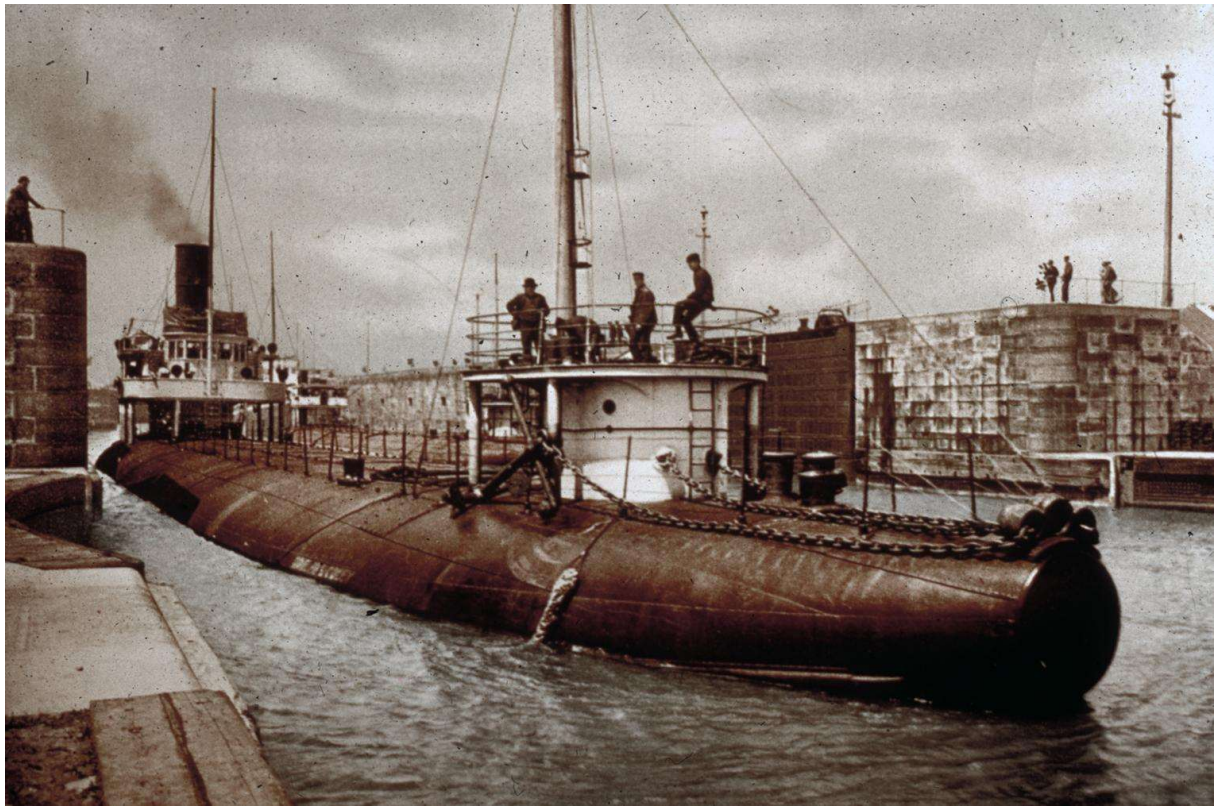
CHARLES DICK (Hull #71) was launched at Collingwood, Ontario, by Collingwood Shipbuilding Co. Ltd. for National Sand & Material Co. Ltd. on May 27, 1922.



Six Sailors were missing and believed trapped on a burning Canadian Great Lakes Freighter on Lake Superior 300 km. northeast of Sault Ste. Marie. Another 20 crew members, at least four injured abandoned the 720-foot Cartiercliffe Hall, which was continuing to list with the aft section on fire above and below decks.

The Cartiercliffe Hall owned by Hall Shipping Corp of Montreal, was carrying a cargo of corn from Duluth to Port Cartier, Que. A former saltwater vessel, the ship was converted to a bulk carrier in 1977.





Whaleback Joseph L. Colby.

Boatnerd Files

1891

Alexander McDougall himself took his brand-new whaleback steamer JOSEPH L. COLBY (steel propeller whaleback freighter, 265 foot, 1,245 gross tons, built in 1890 at West Superior, Wisconsin) down the St. Lawrence River to the sea. The double-hulled COLBY left Prescott, Ontario at 3 p.m., drawing six feet nine inches aft and five feet six inches forward and started on her wild ride through the rapids. The whaleback freighter plowed through the Galops, Iroquois, Long Sault, Coteau, Cedar, Split Rock and Cascade Rapids. She grated the bottom a number of times and had a number of close calls. The COLBY was the first screw steamer to attempt running the rapids.

Salute/Thank You - Corporate Members

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Great Lakes Pilotage Authority / Administration de pilotage des Grands Lacs

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

Master Mariners of Canada – Great Lakes Division