

Great Lakes Division

The Company of Master Mariners of Canada

July 2025



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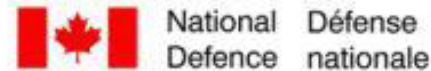
**Welcome all members, guests and visitors to
our Great Lakes Industry Update.**

Great Lakes and Marine Industry News Update

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

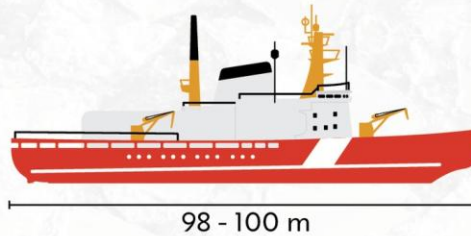
July 2025

Prime Minister Mark Carney announced new defence spending last week and vowed to integrate the Coast Guard.



CANADIAN MEDIUM ICEBREAKERS

Icebreaking in coastal and inland waters
to support commercial navigation.



Power
**10,142 -
16,080 kW**



31 crew members
and officers



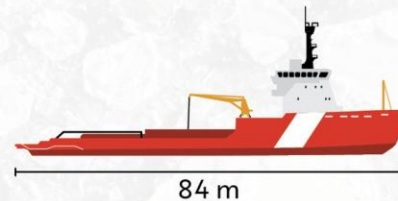
Home region
Central

CCGS Amundsen
CCGS Des Groseilliers
CCGS Pierre Radisson



Home region
Atlantic

CCGS Henry Larsen



Power
**13,440 -
13,652 kW**



19 crew members
and officers



Home region
Atlantic

CCGS Captain Molly Kool
CCGS Jean Goodwill



Home region
Central

CCGS Vincent Massey

Depending on time of year and/or operational requirements, vessels are deployed to other regions to ensure continued, year-round operations and delivery of Coast Guard services.



Canadian
Coast Guard

Garde côtière
canadienne

Canada

Canada playing leading role in validating digital hydrographic standards

By Maritime Magazine 2025-06-18

The Minister of Fisheries, the Honourable Joanne Thompson, has announced the launch of the S-100 Sea Trials on the St. Lawrence River. The S-100 data model is a new global standard created by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), which offers a new way of visualizing the marine environment using layered, interactive digital data that can be added to navigational charts. Unlike traditional paper or electronic charts, the new standard integrates real-time information – like depths, landmarks, tides, and currents into a single, dynamic format.

Until November 2025, Canada is offering S-100 digital navigation products and services free of charge to mariners, stakeholders, developers and other interested parties to test performance in real-life scenarios.



Fraser Shipyards

by Jean Basgen

The Oberstar had shifted from CN-Hallett Dock 5 for inspection/repairs after its grounding, while the Munson is nearing a return to service.

Michipicoten and Ryerson book ended the active lakers. Superior, and a new ferry continues fit out alongside.

WI - June 17, 2025

[David Schauer]
Newsclips 2025



**Classic Tug
Robinson Bay
upbound on the
St. Clair River,
delivery trip to
Traverse City for
service at the
Great Lakes
Maritime
Academy - June
17, 2025**

[Rod Burdick]





Robinson Bay heads for Traverse City

[Ethan Severson]

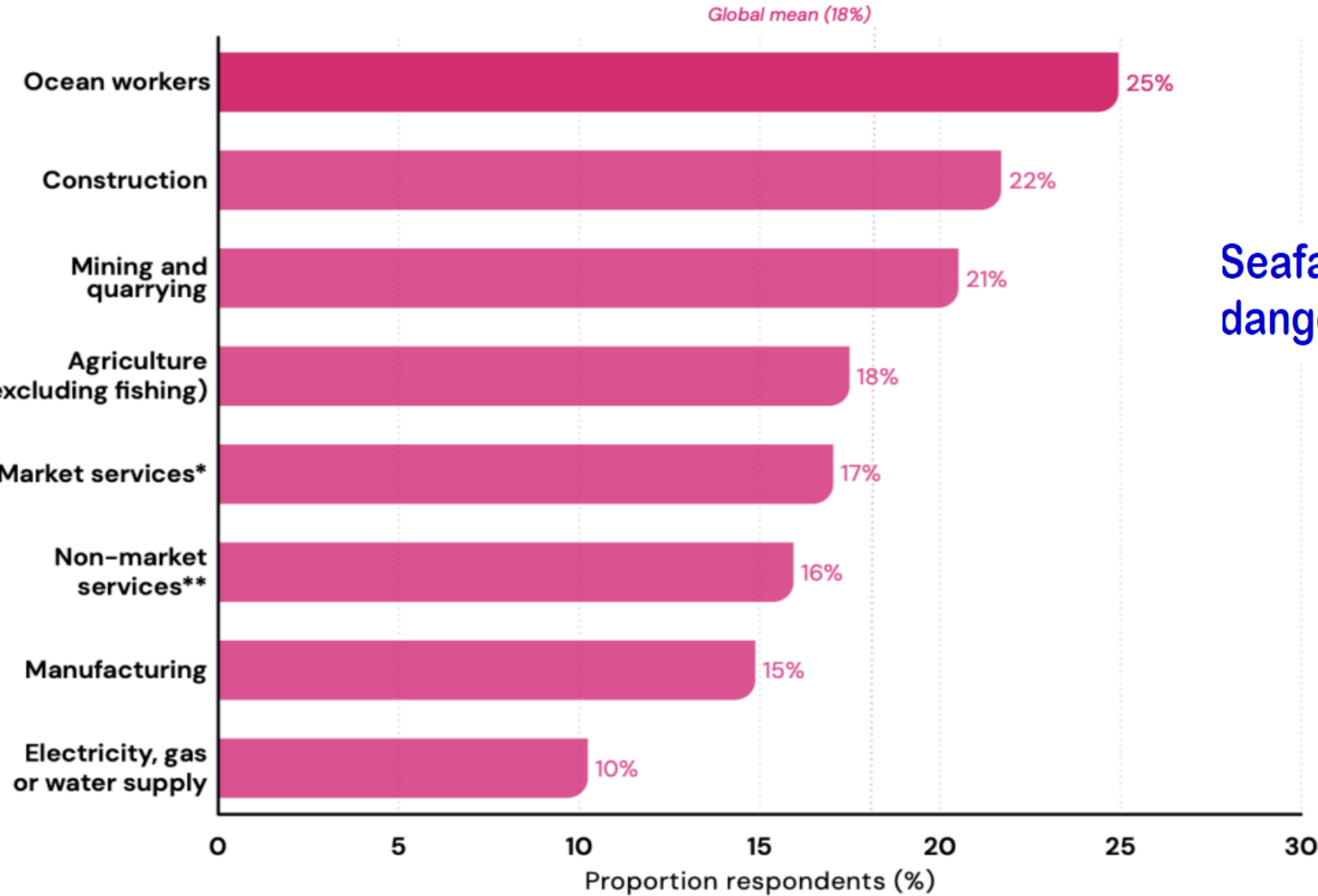
GLMA cadets to begin training on school's newest vessel, Robinson Bay

TRAVERSE CITY, MI — NMC Great Lakes Maritime Academy cadets will begin training this week aboard the donated tugboat Robinson Bay, the first vessel the Academy has acquired in more than 20 years.

By the end of the summer, up to 36 cadets will have completed a 30-day training program aboard the Robinson Bay, earning their mate of tow vessel license endorsement (TOAR). Most of the training in ship handling, watch standing and tow vessel operation.

Ocean workers have the highest personal experience of workplace harm compared with other sectors

One in four ocean workers (25%) report experiencing harm from their work in the past two years—compared to 18% of other workers, making it the highest of any employment sector surveyed.



Seafaring remains one of the world’s most dangerous professions [Sam Chambers](#) June 20, 2025

Centre for Marine Training and Research - Georgian College Centre for Marine Training and Research - Georgian College

Attention Small Commercial Vessel Operators

Spots are available in our upcoming Small Domestic Vessel Basic Safety (MED A3) and Small Vessel Operator Proficiency Courses, secure your place now!

 **What: Small Vessel Domestic Basic Safety (SDV-BS)**

 **When: July 21, 2025**

 **Cost: \$285**

 **Where: St. Catharine's, ON**

 **What: Small Vessel Operator Proficiency**

 **When: July 22 - 25, 2025**

 **Cost: \$690**

 **Where: St. Catharine's, ON**



SEAWAY MONTHLY TRAFFIC RESULTS

June 2025

Traffic (in thousands of tonnes)	SLSMC - Combined Traffic			
	Year to Date		Change from 2024	
	2024	2025	Tonnes	%
Total Cargo	12 187	12 684	496	4.07%
All Grain	3 307	4 231	924	27.94%
Iron Ore	1 980	1 863	-117	-5.92%
Coal	647	424	-223	-34.45%
Dry Bulk	3 753	3 874	121	3.23%
Liquid Bulk	1 463	1 429	-33	-2.29%
General Cargo	1 031	862	-169	-16.40%

Vessel Transits	2024	2025	Transits	%
Total Transits	1 326	1 335	9	.68%

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation

\$95.3 million awarded to complete Phase 3 of Soo New Lock

SAULT STE. MARIE, MI – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District's New Lock at the Soo project in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., has awarded a total of \$95.3 million for remaining Phase 3 options.

The remaining Phase 3 options include Option 4: Downstream Work (\$44.9 million), Option 5: Hands Free Mooring (\$24.2 million), and Option 6: Downstream Ship Arrestors (\$26.2 million).



A rendering of what the new Soo Lock will look like once it's up and running by 2030. Photo via U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District.



Eitzen Avanti plans to build world's largest battery-powered containerships

Written by Nick Blenkey Marine Log

Norway's Eitzen Group has plans to build what will be the world's largest battery-powered containerships. Its Eitzen Avanti unit is to receive NOK 200 million (about \$20.2 million) in support from the Norwegian Government's Enova innovation scheme to build two ships that will each have battery packs of over 100 MWh and be able to transport 850 containers. They will operate between Norway, Sweden and Germany.

Image: Enova/Naval Dynamics



Fure Viten is a Swedish flagged dual fuelled tanker having obtained a Coasting Trade Licence to work in the petroleum products delivery sector under contract with Desgagnes. The Fure Viten runs between several fuel docks in Quebec and Ontario from June 15 to October 15 before returning to the Atlantic and onward during our winter season. This environmentally friendly state of the art ship was built in 2021 and uses liquid natural gas as her main fuel source when operating here on our Great Lakes. Fure Viten downbound from Sarnia ON passes Detroit's downtown 6.22.25 in the morning. [Robert Phillips]

Day of the Seafarer 2025

The annual Day of the Seafarer (DotS) will be celebrated on 25 June.



DAY OF THE
SEAFARER
—25 JUNE—

International Day of the Seafarer 2025 promotes a culture of respect

By Maritime Magazine 2025 June 25



This year, the theme #MyHarassmentFreeShip calls attention to the urgent need to eliminate bullying and harassment in the maritime industry and to foster a culture of dignity, safety, and inclusion onboard every vessel.

The campaign calls on everyone to stand together to build a maritime industry where every seafarer feels protected, valued, and respected; and where every ship is a harassment-free ship.



Peter R Cresswell [Janey Anderson]

Obituary Peter R. Cresswell

We would like to offer our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Peter Cresswell, who passed away peacefully at the Sault Area Hospital on Friday, June 20, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones. Peter had a long and distinguished 35-year career at Algoma Central Corporation, where he was a prominent figure in the shipping industry, serving as President and CEO for ten years and Deputy Chairman of the Board in his final year, 2001.

The *Algowest*, a self-unloading bulk carrier constructed at Collingwood Shipyards in Collingwood, was operated by Algoma Central Railway's Marine Division for Great Lakes and ocean operations from 1982 to 2001. The vessel was later renamed Peter R. Cresswell and served from 2001 until its scrapping in Aliaga, Turkey in 2016.

[Ship Junkies-Janey Anderson]



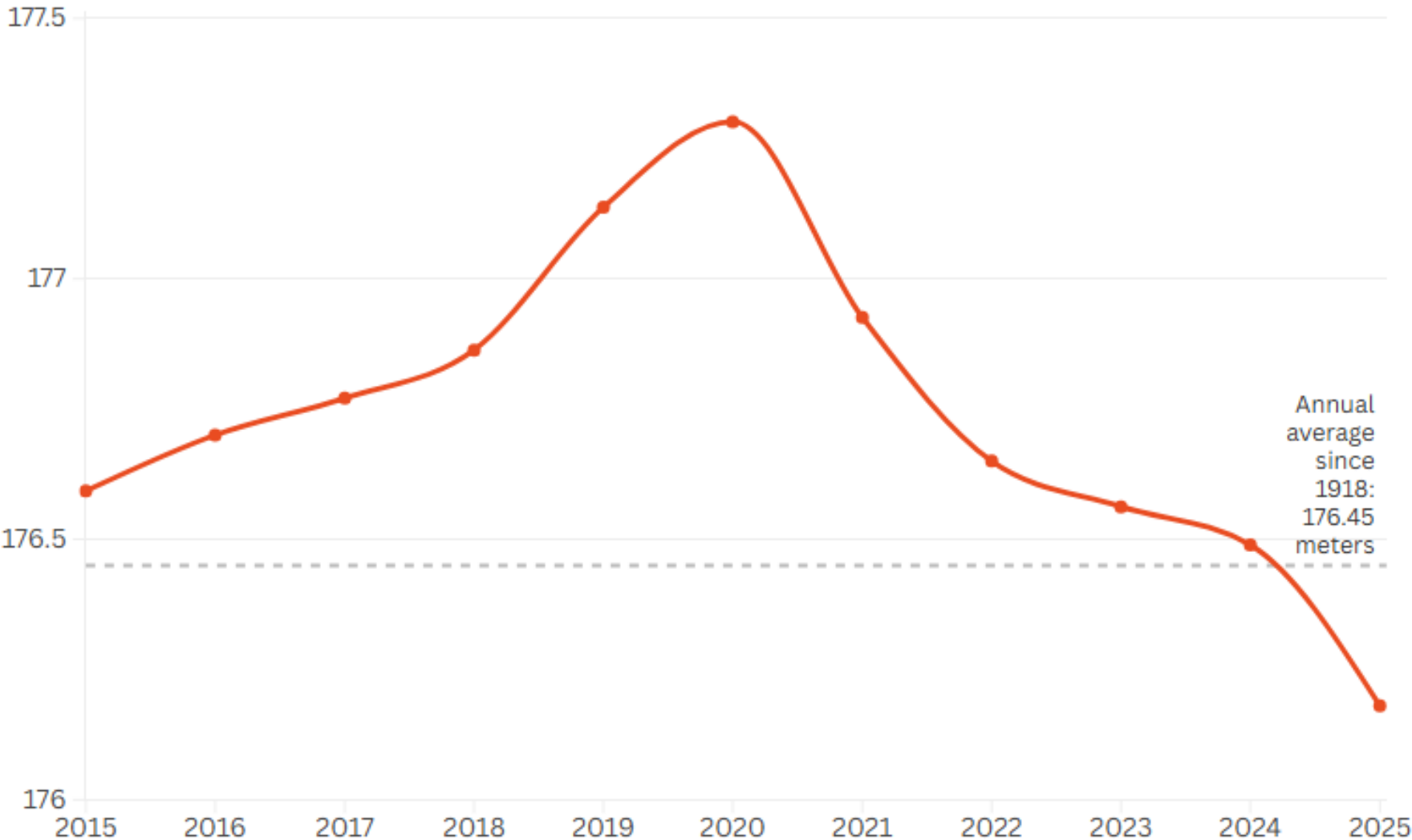
**Capt. George Adams
1937 - 2025**

George had a very distinguished marine career of 49 years. He was a great lakes Captain sailing as Master for Quebec & Ontario Transportation, and a long serving Welland Canal Ship's Pilot with the Great Lakes Pilotage Authority.

His son, Capt. Kerry Adams is a member and Corporate Member (Owen Sound Transportation Company) of the Great Lakes Division of the Master Mariners of Canada

Lake Level 2015-2025

Average Water Level (in Meters)

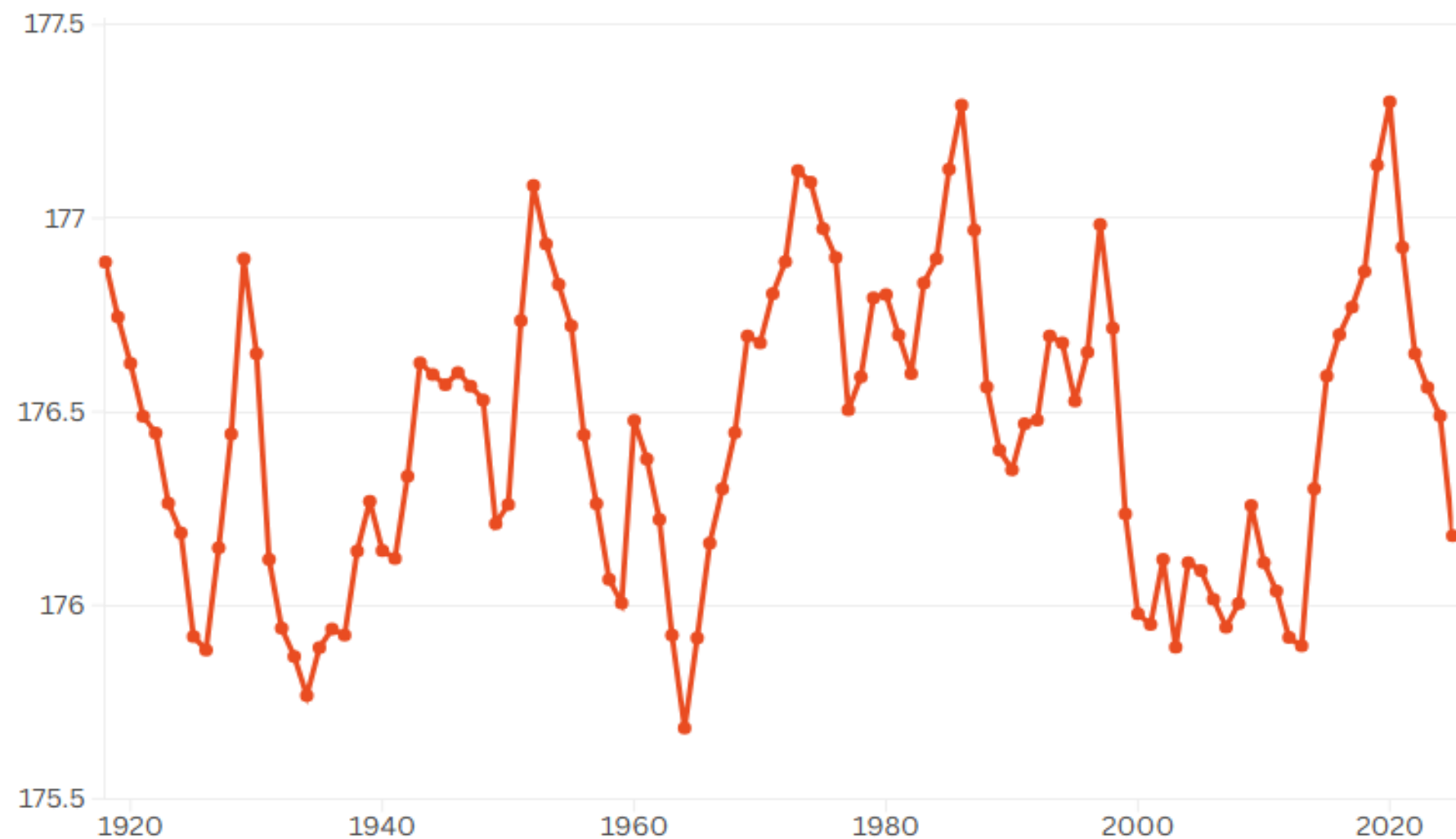


**Lake Michigan,
and also the
adjoining Lake
Huron Has Fallen
Nearly 4 Feet
Since 2020**

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Average Lake Level Since 1918

Water Level (in Meters)



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



The Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce and CAA Niagara are thrilled to honour Ian Hamilton, President & CEO of HOPA Ports, with the Innovative Leaders Award, presented by CAA Niagara.

Ian's global logistics background, paired with a transformative vision for Niagara's waterfront economy, has positioned HOPA as a leader in sustainable growth and multimodal development. Under his leadership, projects like the Thorold Multimodal Hub and Port Colborne revitalization are reshaping the region's economic future.



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 Jinling Shipyard.

Designed by Sweden's FKAB Marine Design in compliance with Bureau Veritas class rules, the 18,000DWT Fure Valö belongs to a series of ten ships. The first two vessels, Fure Vesborg and Fure Viken, were delivered earlier this year.

Swedish-Canadian joint venture FureBear welcomes new product tanker to fleet

Baird Maritime Jens Karsten

The new tanker has Finnish/Swedish ice class 1A notation, a hull form that ensures safe navigation even in harsh weather, an LOA of 149.9 metres, a beam of 22.8 metres, a draught of 9.36 metres, and a total cargo capacity of 20,306 cubic metres.



Picton Terminals welcomed the crew of Berthe A. Desgagnés on their first visit to Picton Terminals. The Heavy Lift Vessel, Berthe A. Desgagnés, was built in 2018 and is 147.01m long and 23.05 m wide. She was assisted to the dock by tugboat Sheri Lynn S.

Welcome Berthe A. Desgagnés

Photo by David Yateman
PT Times



June 25, 2025 (Mike McCoshen Sworn In as New Administrator of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation)

J.M. (Mike) McCoshen was sworn in as the twelfth Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS). GLS is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the U.S. portion of the St. Lawrence Seaway between Montréal and Lake Erie increasing maritime trade and economic development throughout the Great Lakes region.

Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway
Development Corporation

ST. CATHARINES — The Ontario government is investing \$215 million to support shipbuilding and the broader marine sector in the province, including through the establishment of a \$15 million Ontario Shipbuilding Grant Program (OSGP) to expand the province's shipbuilding sector. The support provided through the OSGP will ensure Ontario is positioned to support Canada's National Shipbuilding Strategy and support Ontario manufacturing businesses and workers in the face of U.S. tariffs and economic uncertainty. The OSGP will fund projects that support skills training, infrastructure improvements and the purchase of machinery and equipment in the shipbuilding sector.

Ontario Investing \$215 Million to Support Provincial Shipbuilding Sector



Port Weller Dry Docks – Ontario Shipyards

2/7/2025 James Tremblott Facebook



Plan to reopen a commercial port on Lake Superior gets a financial boost from Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corp.

SN Newswatch Garyh Rinne

MARATHON — The dream of turning Peninsula Harbour into a strategic shipping and receiving port on the north shore of Lake Superior is a big step closer to reality. The Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corporation, the Sustainable Forest Licence-holder for the Pic and White River forest management units, is making a \$1 million contribution to the ongoing development of the Peninsula Harbour Port.

Chamber of Marine Commerce Welcomes New Board Chair



The Chamber of Marine Commerce (CMC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Wesley (Wes) Newton, Executive Vice-President of Strategy and Business Development for Algoma Central Corporation as the new Chair of its Board of Directors. Mr. Newton's appointment was confirmed at the Annual General Meeting held on June 26, where he succeeded Allister Paterson, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Partnerships Officer for CSL Group after more than eight years of board leadership.





BUILD YOUR AMBITION

After more than 60 years helping build Canada, the name Lafarge Canada is transitioning into something new.

However, while the name is gone, the company and those who work there will continue, albeit under the new name Amrize.

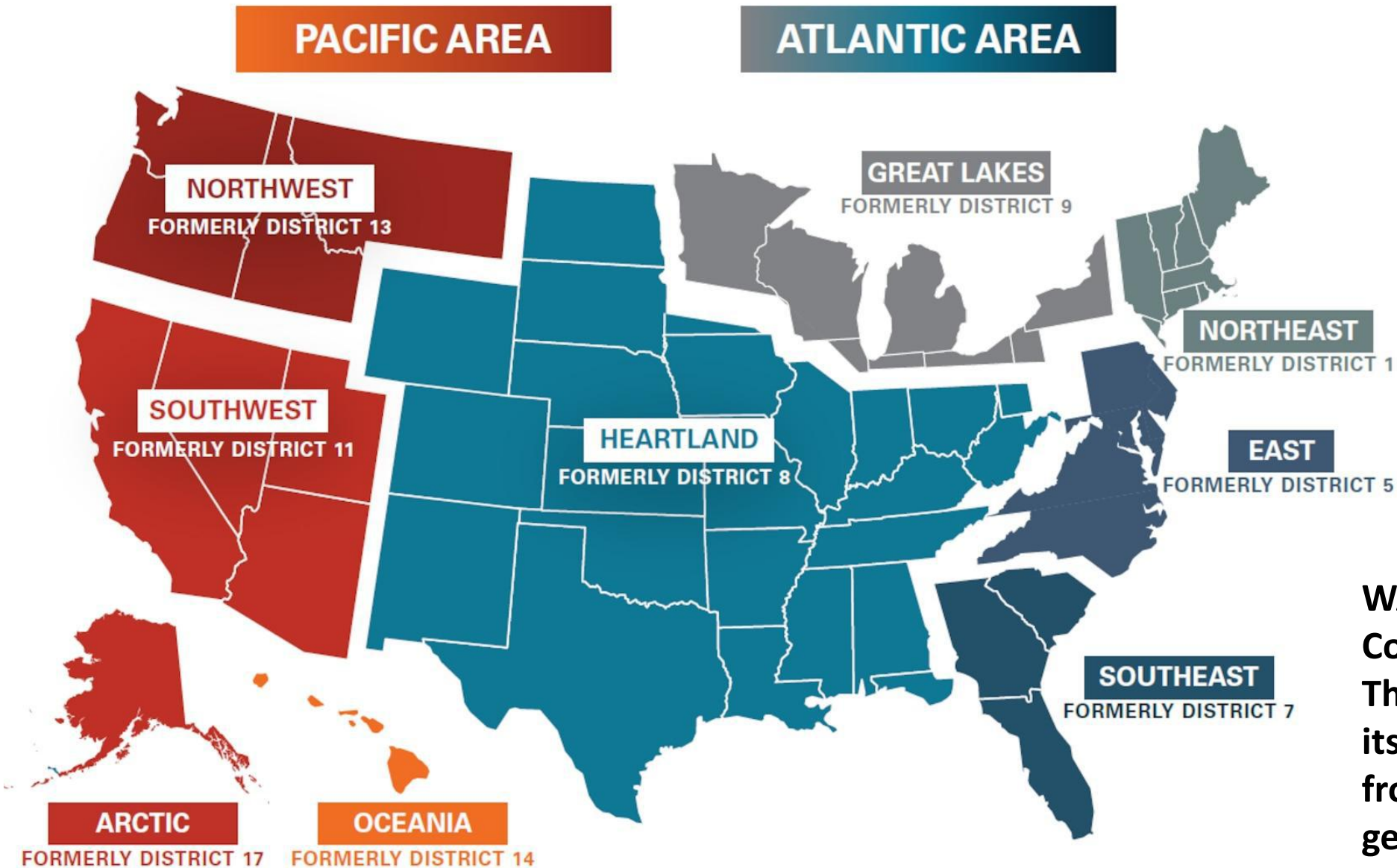
The new company has more than 1,000 sites and a distribution network across every Canadian province and American state. As well, its 19,000 employees serve every construction market from foundation to rooftop, from infrastructure, commercial and residential to new build, repair and refurbishment.





U.S. Coast Guard renames geographic operational districts

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Coast Guard announced Thursday the renaming of its operational districts from numerical to geographic designations, a key initiative under Force Design 2028 (FD2028).





— SAVE THE DATE —

Imagine Marine CONFERENCE

Solutions and Actions: Building Our Future Marine Workforce



OCTOBER
7th & 8th 2025



ROGERS (FORMERLY SHAW)
CENTRE - OTTAWA, ON

PRESENTED BY



CANADIAN
MARINE
CAREERS
FOUNDATION

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

Difficulties and best practices for detecting radar search and rescue transponders (SARTs) - SSB No.: 12/2025 From: Transport Canada

Date (Y-M-D) : 2025-07-04



Purpose

This bulletin informs ship owners, masters, and navigational officers that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) recently released IMO Circular SN.1/Circ.345 about correctly operating marine X-band radars to detect and display Radar Search and Rescue Transponder (SART) signals.

Background

Radar SARTs are emergency devices that help locate survivors or distressed vessels by transmitting a radar signal when interrogated by an X-band radar (9 GHz). Standard radar settings for navigation and anti-collision might not properly display Radar SART signals unless operators adjust settings such as range scale, gain, clutter controls, and tuning. When a radar is detuned or the range scale changed for better SART detection, normal radar targets may appear weaker or be less discernible.

Continuous training and operational readiness for radar search and rescue detection

Modern marine radar systems are complex. Ship owners should develop training strategies that prepare crews for search and rescue operations. Training programs should challenge the traditional “set and forget” approach by encouraging a deeper understanding of advanced radar features and detection modes.

Practical skill development is crucial. Crews should practice training scenarios that focus on rapid radar mode transitions and adaptive search techniques. Training should emphasize active monitoring during potential rescue situations.

Port of Thunder Bay sees strongest June 'in decades'

Penny Robinson TB Newswatch

This surge was led by a wide variety of cargoes, including grain, potash, coal, dry bulk, aggregates, phosphates, and steel, he said. So far this year, total shipments have reached 3.81 million tonnes, which is over 150,000 tonnes ahead of last year at the same point. Shipments are expected to remain strong into July.

Grain continues to be a major contributor to the port's success, said Heikkinen. Nearly 3 million tonnes of grain have been shipped since the start of the season, also about 14 per cent above the five-year average.





Preponderance of potash passes through port

Northern Ontario Business
Staff

**Thunder Bay experiences
monster month or cargo of
June**

**Potash shipments through
the Port of Thunder Bay
are on pace to beat a 40-
year record. The port
authority reported strong
cargo volume during the
month of June, including
recording 202,783 tonnes
for this past month,
besting the 157,283-tonne
mark set in June 2024.**

Port of Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay Port Authority Handout



**July 14, 2025 - CCGS
GEORGE R. PEARKES
departed Ontario
Shipyards in
Hamilton, ON, for
her home port - (St.
John's, NL), after
extensive life
extension work
since November
2022**

[Janey Anderson-Ship
Junkies]



The **2026 International Ship Masters' Association Grand Lodge Convention** will be held in Duluth, MN, from Wednesday, January 28 through Sunday, February 1.

The convention is being hosted by
Twin Ports Lodge # 12.

Lodge # 12 has announced that sponsorships and convention book advertising are now open. For more info about sponsoring or advertising, please visit their website at <https://ismalodge12.com>



Inaugural Huron Marine &
Economic Forum to Highlight
Impact of Port on Local Economy



PORT OF GODERICH, ONTARIO
October 2, 2025 | Beach Street Station

The Huron Chamber of Commerce is launching a major new event this fall to spotlight the strategic importance of the Port of Goderich in Huron County's economic future. The inaugural Huron Marine & Economic Forum will take place Thursday, October 2, 2025.

Cuyahoga scrap tow set for July 28

The final voyage of the M/V Cuyahoga is scheduled for July 28, 2025 (weather permitting). She will depart the shipyard in Ashtabula under tow, bound for Marine Recycling Corp. in Port Colborne, Ontario, where she will be dismantled.

The tow will be handled by McKeil Marine tugs Molly M1 and Wyatt M.

Janey Anderson

Cuyahoga in December 2021 [Ethan Severson]





Year-round Hudson Bay shipping gains momentum

Sam Chambers • July 16, 2025 Splash

The once-seasonal port of Churchill is positioning itself at the forefront of a potential shipping revolution as climate change and geopolitical shifts accelerate interest in year-round trade routes through Hudson Bay.

At a press conference this week, Chris Avery, CEO of Arctic Gateway Group — the Indigenous and northern community-led consortium that owns and operates the port — said Canada must prepare for the real prospect of year-round navigation through Hudson Bay within a generation.

Great Lakes History

July 2025

1855: The Soo Locks opened for their first season on 18 June 1855. The first vessel through the locks was the steamer ILLINOIS of 1853.

Historical Pictures - The First Soo Locks - The State Lock - Mikel B. Classen On The Road



1943: The new MacArthur Lock was formally opened to traffic. The first boat to lock through during the ceremonies was the upbound **CARL D. BRADLEY under the command of Captain F.F. Pearse. There were 250 dignitaries and passengers aboard the Bradley during the lockage. The first downbound vessel was the new **LEON FRASER** of the Pittsburgh Steamship fleet.**



Carl D. Bradley in the MacArthur Lock. USACE

**Pieces of James Whalen tug
donated to Thunder Bay
transportation museum
Historic tugboat was scrapped
by city, but stack, wheelhouse
and other parts will be put on
public display**

**The vessel was built in
Toronto in 1905, and was a
fixture on the Great Lakes for
decades, even playing a role
in the construction of the St.
Lawrence Seaway.**

**Port Colborne-based Marine
Recycling Corporation, the
company hired to scrap the
vessel, provided the pieces
donated.**





1959: On June 20, 1959, the SEAWAY QUEEN began her maiden voyage. The vessel was appropriately named, as at the time she was the largest Canadian vessel on the Great Lakes, the 2nd largest on the Great Lakes overall (behind the EDMUND FITZGERALD), and she entered service the same week that Queen Elizabeth II and President Dwight D. Eisenhower formally dedicated the St. Lawrence Seaway. She was one of the more popular and classic looking vessels on the Great Lakes.



Ralph Misener with her unique Conflow self-unloading equipment on deck. [John Vournakis]

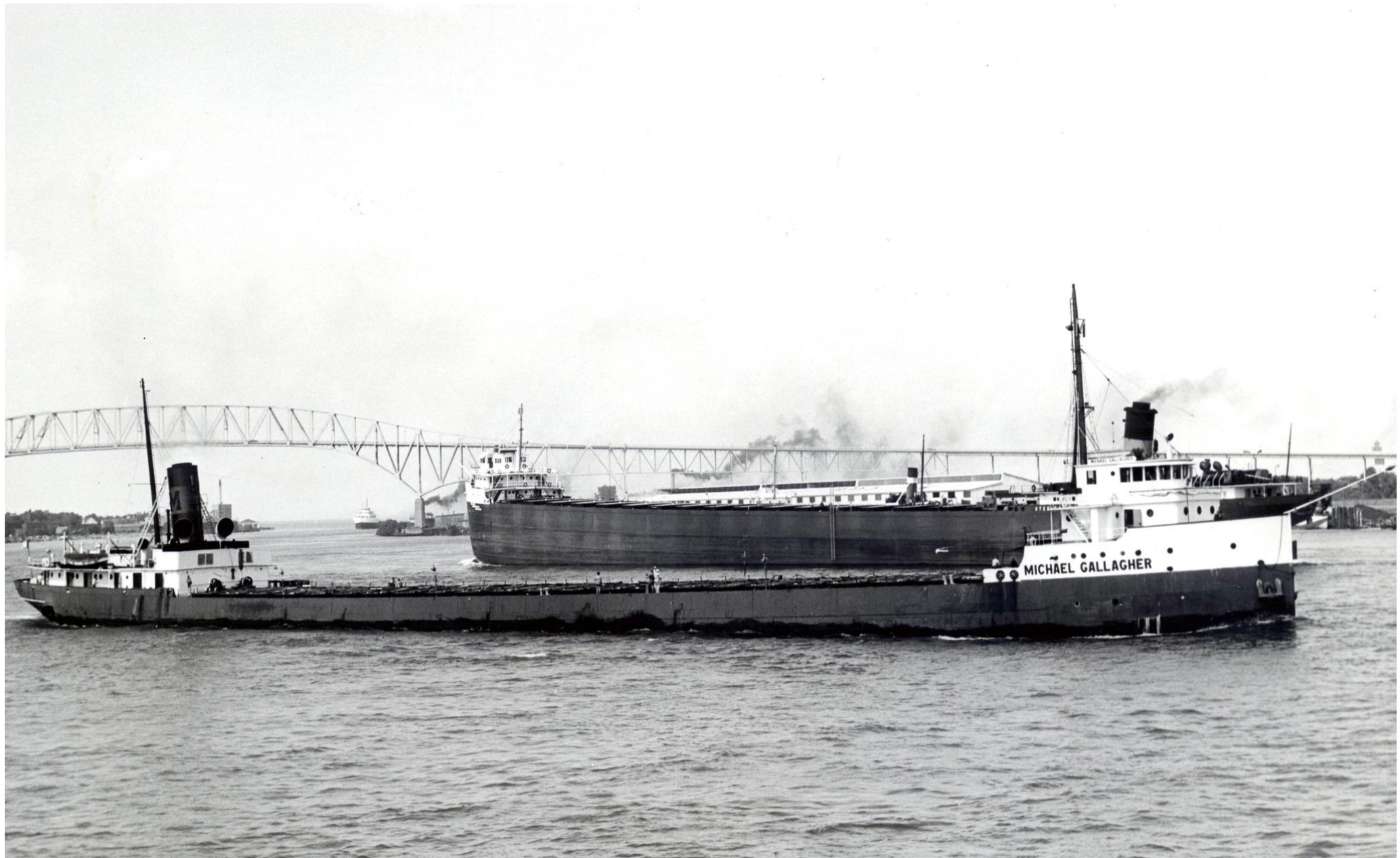
1969: On 23 June 1969, RALPH MISENER (steel propeller bulk freighter, 730 foot, 19,160 gross tons, built in 1968, at Montreal, Quebec) transited the Soo Locks upbound for the first time. She had an innovative self-unloading system with twin booms. The movable crane was equipped with a chain of buckets so it could discharge cargo from either side. This unloading system only lasted until 1976, when it was severely damaged in a squall on Lake Michigan. The vessel was then converted from a combination self-unloader/bulk carrier to a bulk carrier. She was renamed b.) GORDON C. LEITCH in 1994.



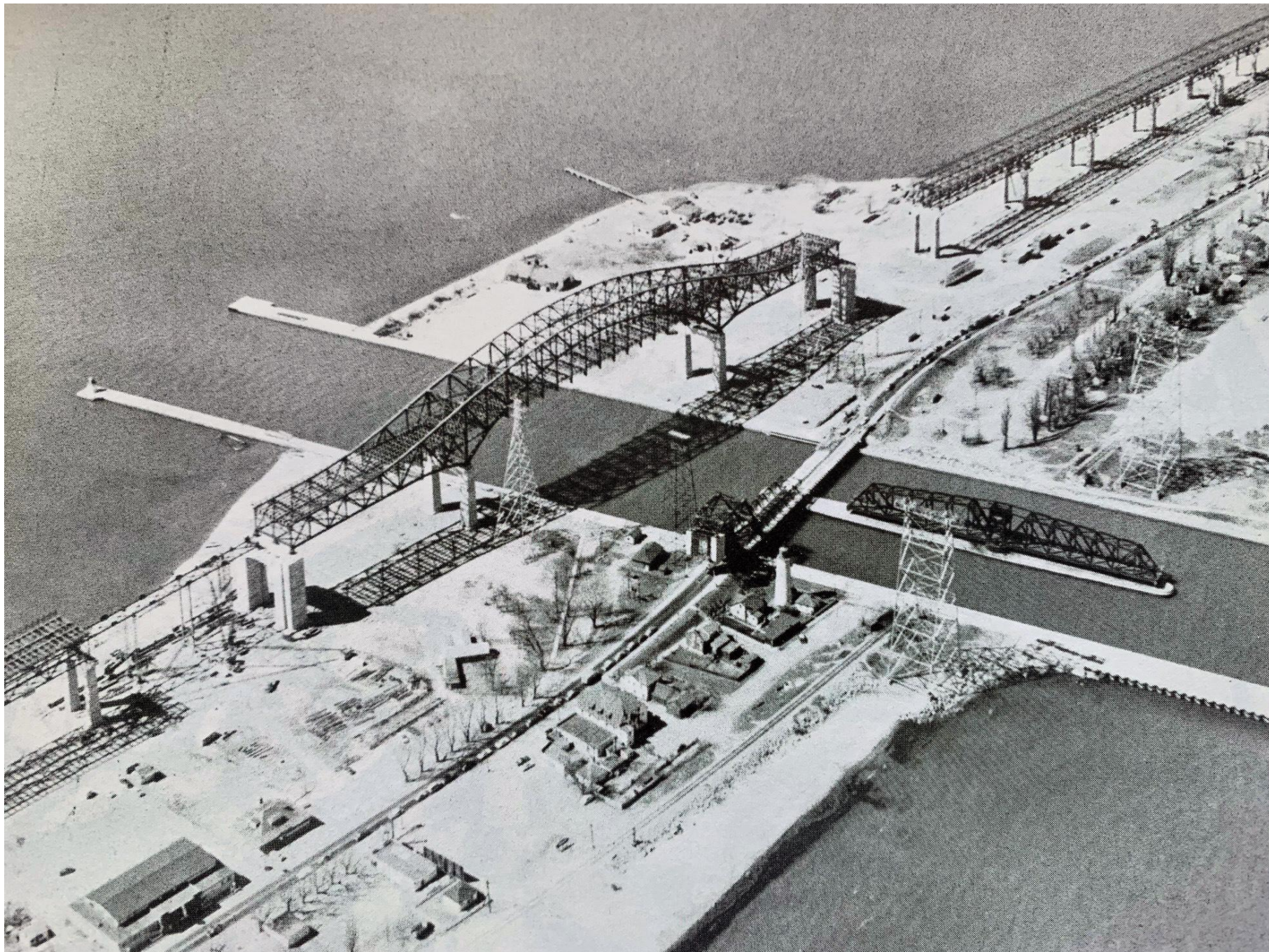
This vessel was built at Wallsend, England, and came to the Great Lakes as Glenledi in 1925. It carried a cargo of steel and when the ship arrived at Collingwood, the cargo was used to lengthen the vessel to 119.0 metres for work as a package freight carrier.

The ship joined Canada Steamship Lines in 1926 and was renamed Renvoyle in 1927. It served company freighter terminals at Toronto, Hamilton, Thorold, Leamington, Windsor, Sarnia, and Sault Ste. Marie on the way to the Canadian Lakehead ports of Fort William and Port Arthur. Downbound, the ship often carried cargoes of grain to Kingston.

CSL Package Freighter S. S. Renvoyle traded in the upper lakes including the transportation of automobiles as shown in this photo in the Welland Canal.



S.S Michael Gallagher downbound at Port Huron passing S.S. Steelton with another downbounder at Buoys 1 & 2 in the early 1950s when two way traffic was the norm under the BlueWater Bridge in Sarnia Father Peter J Van der Linden,



**Public Archive of
Canada**

**Burlington Bay
Skyway under
construction in
June/July 1958**



1932 building of the Rock Cut (left photo) and Rock Cut today (right upper photo)

USACE

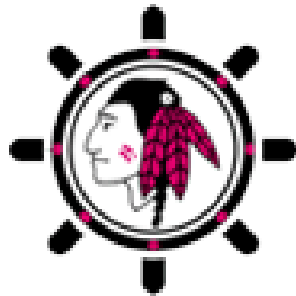
1962: The EDWARD L. RYERSON carried a record cargo of 24,445 tons of iron ore through the newly opened Rock Cut Channel. The new channel increased allowable depths by 26 inches to 25 feet 7 inches.



Salute and Thank You to our Corporate Members Support



CHAMBER OF
MARINE COMMERCE



**LOWER LAKES
TOWING LTD.**



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

