

**APRIL 2013**

**Current Port, Maritime & Transportation  
Topics at the Port of Green Bay**

# ***Port 'n News***



## **PORT EARNS 10TH SEAWAY PACESETTER AWARD**

The Port of Green Bay was presented with the Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter Award for its increase in international tonnage during the 2012 shipping season. The award was given to the Port at the annual Port Symposium by the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC), an agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation. SLSDC Acting Administrator, Craig Middlebrook, presented the award.

This is the Port's 10<sup>th</sup> Pacesetter award. The Port also earned the prestigious award in 2011. "The Port of Green Bay had the highest international tonnage increase of all U.S. Great Lakes ports in 2012," said administrator Middlebrook. "Given the fact the Port of Green Bay has won this award for



L-R: Neil McKloskey, Harbor Commission President, Dean Haen, Director, Craig Middlebrook, SLSDC Acting Administrator, Troy Streckenbach, Brown County Executive and Congressman Ribble.

a second straight year only shows how important the Port and shipping continues to be the region's economy."

The Port of Green Bay moved 82,727 metric tons of international cargo through the Seaway, a 36 percent increase over last year's tonnage numbers.

"The Port of Green Bay is honored to receive the Pacesetter award," said Port and Solid Waste Director Dean Haen. "The Port continues to see steady growth in petroleum product tonnage which was a contributing factor to the increased numbers for 2012. An award like this shines a light on the

value of commercial shipping and the growth opportunities the Port has to offer businesses."

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The Pacesetter Award is presented annually to U.S. Great Lakes Seaway ports that register year-on-year increases in international overseas cargo tonnage shipped through the Seaway.



## LOW WATER CONDITIONS by Nathan Phelps, Green Bay Press Gazette

Water levels on the Great Lakes are so low that shippers are being forced to leave as much as 15 percent of their cargo behind, said industry experts who are working to find ways to alleviate the problem. Lakes Michigan and Huron are about 26 inches below their long-term monthly averages, and Lake Superior is about 13 inches lower, the U.S Army Corps of Engineers has said. Even though the lakes are expected to rise 2 to 4 inches in the next month, that's small consolation for shippers who are finding the waterways difficult to navigate.

Officials gathered this week in Green Bay to discuss the issue and consider solutions. "One of things we're looking at is: What are all these economic impacts and what are the costs of low water?" said Ray Johnston, president of the Chamber of Marine Commerce. "And are there any viable engineering solutions or infrastructure investments that can be made?"

Concerns about low water levels have been growing for years among commercial and recreational lake users. Commercial users are especially concerned because heavily laden ships need a minimum volume of water. Without enough water, loads must be reduced.

Dean Haen, the director of Brown County Port and Solid Waste, said each inch of lost water translates to about 100 tons of cargo being left behind. "If we're operating vessels 10 to 15 percent below capacity, that's an additional cost for those commodities on board, which translates into additional costs for consumers," he said. Haen said continued dredging is helping to keep the port open. "All we can do is advocate for whatever dredging dollars we need to keep the port open and viable. You have to operate within the conditions as they are."

Earlier this week, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder signed legislation providing \$21 million in emergency funds to dredge state harbors that are in danger of becoming impassable because of low water levels. The legislation sets aside money for 58 dredging projects. Diminished water levels have also been observed on the St. Lawrence Seaway, but not to the same degree as with some of the Great Lakes, said Craig Middlebrook, acting administrator of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp. "It hasn't been as acute, but we're still affected by low water," he said. "I was talking with one of our major carriers last week who ... calculated last year it translated into leaving 9 percent of their cargo on the dock."



In this Nov. 2012 photo, white streaks on a steel breakwall show the normal water level on Portage Lake at Onekama, Mich., which is connected by a channel to Lake Michigan. Two of the five Great Lakes – Michigan and Huron – are at their lowest level on record. Photo taken by John Flesher

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**HARBOR COMMISSION**  
May 13, 2013  
Clarion Hotel @ 11:30am

**HARBOR COMMISSION**  
June 10, 2013  
Clarion Hotel @ 11:30am

## **DIRECTOR OF PORT APPOINTED TO GREAT LAKES COMPACT COMMISSION**

Dean Haen, Brown County Port and Solid Waste Director, was recently appointed to the Great Lakes Commission by Governor Scott Walker to serve as one of Wisconsin's Commissioners.



The Great Lakes Commission (GLC) is a public agency established by the Great Lakes Basin Compact in 1955 to help its Member states and provinces work collectively towards a vision for a healthy, vibrant Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River region. The GLC promotes the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use and conservation of the water and related natural re-

sources of the Great Lakes region. Its members include the eight Great Lakes states with associate member status for the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Québec. Each jurisdiction appoints a delegation of three to five members comprised of senior agency officials, legislators and/or appointees of the governor or premier. The Commission addresses a range of issues involving environmental protection, resource management, transportation and economic development.

## **2013 PORT SYMPOSIUM**

Brown County Port & Solid Waste Department hosted the 2013 Port of Green Bay Symposium on Thursday March 28 at the Clarion Hotel in downtown Green Bay, the center of the Port district. The meeting provided information on timely issues concerning the Green Bay Harbor, and drew more than 80 people from the local and regional port community, including Washington D.C. and Ottawa, Canada.

The Symposium is the annual industry gathering offering excellent educational and networking opportunities for attendees. Guest speakers included Congressman Reid Ribble; Craig Middlebrook, Acting Administrator of the St. Lawrence Seaway Corp., County Executive Troy Streckenbach; Ray Johnston, President Chamber of Marine Commerce, Amy Moore, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Harbor Commission President Neil McKloskey.

The Port Symposium serves as a great opportunity for terminal operators, federal, state and local agencies, elected officials, harbor commissioners and others interested in the Port of Green Bay to meet and discuss current issues. This year's topics included low water conditions, Cat Island chain, environmental and social impacts of Great Lakes shipping, 2012 accomplishments and goals for 2013.



2013 Symposium



## 2013 SHIPPING SEASON BEGINS

The first ship of the 2013 shipping season arrived in the Port of Green Bay Tuesday, April 2, 2013. The SS *Alpena* arrived at 4:05 p.m. at the LaFarge North America Corporation's terminal carrying cement from Alpena, MI.

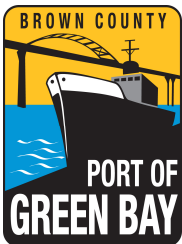
The First Ship Contest, sponsored by the Port of Green Bay and hosted by the Greater Green Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau, was won by Sue Campshure of Green Bay, WI. She guessed April 3 at 2:30 p.m. Campshure will receive a prize package that includes one (1) night's stay at the Clarion Hotel with breakfast for two (2), \$25 gift certificate for a cruise on-board the Foxy Lady and a \$20 dinner certificate at Tiletown Brewery. A special thanks to the prize package sponsors.

The Port of Green Bay expects the arrival of more than 200 vessels during the 2013 shipping season. The *Green Bay Press-Gazette* "port of call" feature will highlight each ship's arrival and include information on the ship's size, cargo, arrival date and flag. The port's webcam is a portal into the Port of Green Bay. The public is encouraged to view the ships from the Fox River Trail, the Green Bay Metropolitan Boat Launch or from the port's web cam off on its website ([www.portofgreenbay.com](http://www.portofgreenbay.com)).

Overall dimensions	
Length	519'
Beam	67'
Draft	25'4"
Capacity	14,000 (tons)



Photo courtesy of [www.boatnerd.com](http://www.boatnerd.com)



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