



# Port N' News

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

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## Upcoming Events:

April 3rd-  
2020 Port Symposium  
**CANCELED**

April 13th-  
Harbor Commission Mtg.  
**CANCELED**

May 11th-  
Harbor Commission Mtg.  
TBD

## Algoma Conveyor Grounded

In the early morning hours of Thursday, March 19th the Algoma Conveyor, a 740-foot cargo vessel transporting a load of road salt from Canada into Green Bay lost propulsion because of a mechanical failure. The ship attempted to anchor but then drifted aground, according to Lt. Phillip Gurtler of the U.S. Coast Guard. Nearly 600 feet of the freighter became stuck in the shallows outside the shipping channel with the remaining 140 feet partially blocking the shipping channel. The ship grounded five miles north of the mouth of the Fox River and was stuck for 10 days.



Tug boats working to pull the Algoma Conveyor free. Courtesy: U.S. Coast Guard

During that time the Coast Guard along with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Port of Green Bay and the ship's owner, Algoma Central Corp., worked out a salvage plan that included off-loading some of the ship's cargo in the hope that the ship could then be floated off the sandbar.

Crews were able to off-load roughly 3,000 metric tons of the 26,871 total tons of road salt carried by the Algoma Conveyor onto another ship, which allowed three tugs to pull the grounded ship free and back into the channel. Fortunately, the ship was undamaged, no one was hurt, and there was no resulting pollution spill from the accident.

## 2020 Shipping Season Underway

The first ship of the 2020 shipping season arrived at the Port of Green Bay on Sunday, March 15 at 12:46 p.m. The Michigan Great Lakes was the official first ship of the season, importing petroleum products to the U.S. Venture terminal. The arrival of the first ship also marks the end to the annual First Ship Contest put on by the Port of Green Bay and hosted by the Greater Green Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau.

“Given the relatively warm late winter weather, the start of the 2020 season is one of the earliest start dates in recent years,” said Dean Haen, Port Director. “After a strong 2019 shipping season, the early start is a good sign for 2020, although there are a number of other factors that could certainly impact waterborne transportation on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway.”

As in years past, the Port began accepting guesses for the first ship’s arrival through its annual First Ship Contest. This year’s winner was Nicole K. of Green Bay who guessed an arrival date and time of March 15 at 7:38 a.m. The prize package included *Intro to Sailing Lessons* for two from Green Bay Sail & Paddle, a \$25 gift certificate to Louie’s Lagoon, two Port of Green Bay drawstring goodie bags, and a 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Brown County Monopoly game.

“It’s great to see that we had 160 entries for this year’s First Ship Contest,” Haen added. “That demonstrates the interest there is in the importance of the ships that come through the Port and the significance of the Great Lakes shipping industry.”



Michigan Great Lakes. Photo Credit: Chuck Zentmeyer

Michigan Great Lakes Overall Dimensions	
Length	414'
Width	60'
Draft	20'

Those interested in shipping are encouraged to view the ships from the Fox River Trail, the Green Bay Metropolitan Boat Launch or from the webcam on the Port’s website. Port security requirements do not allow public access on any port property. You can also find more information about the Port of Green Bay and expected ship arrivals at [portofgreenbay.com](http://portofgreenbay.com).

## COVID-19 Updates at the Port

The Port of Green Bay has been identified as an essential County Department and has contingency plans to maintain operations during the current COVID-19 outbreak. Out of an abundance of caution, however; we continue to follow the advice of health experts by prioritizing the health and safety of everyone interacting with the Port. This means that in the interest of health and safety, the Port Offices have been closed to the public, the 2020 Port Symposium has been canceled, and all Harbor Commission meetings are canceled until further notice.

For all other matters regarding the Port, **business will continue as normal including the arrival of ships.**



## Breaking the Ice—Great Lakes Commerce

In Northeast Wisconsin our economy relies on the Great Lakes to ship goods from point A to point B. In fact, it's not just Northeast Wisconsin that relies on the Great Lakes. Businesses across this region use them as a means of trade. And this water-based commerce across the Great Lakes ultimately supports nearly 150,000 jobs and over \$20 billion in economic activity each year.

According to Congressman Mark Gallagher, last winter over \$1 billion and an estimated 50,000 jobs were lost because ports froze over and we lacked sufficient icebreaking in places like Green Bay. That's why Congressman Gallagher introduced the [Great Lakes Winter Commerce Act](#) during a meeting at Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding in early February. In an article from WBAY.com, it is suggested that the bill would clearly define the United States Coast Guard's icebreaking mission on the Great Lakes to better ensure these trade routes remain open for commerce year-round.

"It's important to point out that it's just not the economic lost, it's the risk to our sailors," President of Lake Carriers Association Jim Weakley said. "Last winter, in the Saint Mary's River, we had two casualties that were a direct result to inadequate ice breaking," he adds.

Rep. Gallagher also wants to add another ice breaker on the Great Lakes. "If you look at 1979, there was 20 ice breakers between the U.S. and Canadian fleet," Weakley said. "Right now there's 11 almost half of what we've had in previous years so it's a really big deal that we get this right."

Even amidst all the partisanship in Washington, this bill already has bipartisan support. This should come as no surprise given the Great Lakes produces nearly 28% of our country's GDP. As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Rep. Gallagher continues to work to get this bill passed. "My job now is to now push this through transportation and infrastructure committee and hopefully we can get it passed before this end of the congress," said Rep. Gallagher.



*Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding meets with Rep. Gallagher in early February  
Photo Credit: wbay.com*

# Ship Spotlight – Cuyahoga

This steel bulk freighter was built in 1943 at an approximate cost of \$1.97 million by the American Ship Building Co. She was the 10th of 16 such vessels built in a 2-year period during World War II to carry much needed iron ore to the steel mills who were mass producing tanks, artillery, aircraft, and other supplies for the war effort.



Overall Dimensions (metric)	
Length	620' 00" (188.98m)
Beam	60' 00" (18.29m)
Depth	35' 00" (10.67m)
Power (diesel)	3,084 b.h.p.

Photo Credit: BoatNerd.com

On September 10th, 1980, the Cuyahoga (then, the J. Burton Ayers) grounded at Stoneport, MI resulting in \$737,000 of extensive bottom damage requiring a 3-year lay-up. On September 23rd, 1989, the Ayers grounded off Bois Blanc Island resulting in extensive bottom damage to two starboard ballast tanks.

On August 1st, 1995; the J. Burton Ayers was sold to Canadian Lower Lakes Towing Ltd. (Black Creek Shipping Co.). The self-unloader was the first laker of the newly formed company. She was renamed Cuyahoga in November of 1995. The proud laker's new name honors Ohio's Cuyahoga River, an Indian word meaning "crooked river"; a winding river where some of her new owner's customers are located.

The Cuyahoga is the second oldest Canadian registered lake boat still in active service on the Great Lakes preceded only by her fleet mate the Mississagi.

Check Out Our Website:  
[www.portofgreenbay.com](http://www.portofgreenbay.com)  
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