



# Port N' News

Volume 22, Issue 1

January 2020

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

## 2019 Shipping Season Saw Highest Total Since 2007

After breaking a 5-year tonnage record in 2018, shipping through the Port of Green Bay continued to grow in 2019. In fact, the 2019 shipping totals were the highest since 2007 during a period that saw the highest tonnage in the past 30 years; 2006 saw 2.55 million metric tons (mt) shipped through the Port. The common denominator during both periods of time is a robust economy. The recently-concluded shipping season saw **2,254,674** mt of cargo move through the Port, an 8% increase over the previous season.



Limestone Piles at Graymont Terminal

It is interesting how the port has changed since the 2006 and 2007 shipping seasons that saw 2.32 million mt and 2.55 million mt moved, respectively. The economy in 2006 and 2007 was also cooking along. In 2007, the port saw more than 1 million tons of coal moved. In 2019, with the low cost of natural gas, manufacturers and others have moved away from coal and coal shipments have shrunk to 407,000 mt a decrease of 62%. In 2007, the port was moving fuel oil, tallow, liquid asphalt and pig iron. Fuel oil was being used for home heating and industrial use while tallow, the animal fat from rendering animals was exported internationally for soap production, cosmetics and perfumes. Tallow now stays domestic for bio-diesel production. Liquid asphalt was imported for making asphalt cement. Liquid asphalt is still imported for the same purpose but is now moved by truck and train. In 2007, pig iron was imported from Canada and Brazil for our regional foundries in the production of metal

### Inside this Issue:

- 1st Ship Contest 2
- Renard Island Strategic Master Plan 3
- Ship Spotlight—John G. Munson 4

### Upcoming Events:

- Feb 10- Harbor Commission Meeting 10:30 am
- Mar 9- Harbor Commission Meeting 10:30 am
- Spring 2020- Annual Port Symposium Date TBD

### *2019 Shipping Season cont.*

products including Ford brake drums and Neenah Foundry manhole covers. While pig iron is still used in the region, recycled steel cans and scrap metal have lessened the need to import it from distant markets.

Changes in 2019 that contributed to the high tonnage include the import and export of petroleum products (gasoline, diesel and ethanol) that was not occurring in 2007. This is due to the closure of the West Shore pipeline and US Venture's original interest in exporting petroleum products to the east coast of North America. With the pipeline closure, the region is fortunate US Venture built their Port facility. US Venture continues exporting Wisconsin-made ethanol to the east coast, but they have switched from exporting to importing diesel and gasoline by ship to meet the regional demand. The low cost of moving goods by ship is keeping regional fuel costs lower than it would be otherwise if petroleum products were only moved by truck and trains.

Interestingly, the economy was as good in 2006-2007 as it is in 2018-2019. During both time periods, wood products (lumber, wood pulp, wetlap and others) moved by water into the region. In between these periods no wood products were shipped through the Port. There is a clear indication that shipments of wood products through the Port of Green Bay occur when the economy is doing well.

When comparing 2019 against 2018, shipment of petroleum products and limestone continued to be strong in 2019. Domestic petroleum product imports increased 55% over 2018 to 132,630 tons, while foreign imports of petroleum products were up 135% to 94,167 tons. Exports of petroleum products also increased significantly last year.

As for limestone, total domestic imports topped 608-thousand tons (up 60%), while foreign imports of limestone reached nearly 75-thousand tons (up 135%). Foreign salt imports were also strong during the 2019 shipping season, reaching 391,753 tons (up 42%).

"With the robust tonnage numbers from the just-concluded shipping season, we are looking forward to the 2020 shipping season with optimism that the economy will remain strong," Haen added.

Due to the high Great Lakes water levels, a total of 177 vessels moved through the Port of Green Bay this shipping season, three vessels shy of the total from a year ago.

## 1st Ship Contest



Each winter the Port of Green Bay must close its waterways to cargo vessels due to the ice. In the last few years the Port of Green Bay has remained open longer throughout the year due to a demand for petroleum products. Inevitably the waterway closes. With the end of the shipping season we are already looking forward to the opening of the next season which should just be a few months away!

Every year the Port of Green Bay hosts an annual First Ship Contest where we encourage people from across North America to participate. Last year, the 2019 shipping season kicked off on April 5, at 7:09 a.m. with the arrival of the Tug Samuel de Champlain.

Which boat do you think will arrive first this year? Will your answer be based on past ship arrivals? Will it be based on the farmer's almanac for weather predictions? Or will your answer come to you in a dream? Whatever your source is, we want to know!

The Greater Green Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau will once again host the First Ship Arrival contest. The person who comes closest to the date and time of the first ship's arrival will win an amazing prize package!

*1st Ship Contest cont.*

Last year more than 240 people entered the contest for a chance to win a prize package that included a free kayak tour, a gift certificate to the Landmark Resort in Door County, a Brown County 200th Anniversary Monopoly Game, and two Port of Green Bay coffee mugs.

**To enter your official guess of date and time and to find information on this year’s prize package,** watch for the link coming in mid-February on the Port of Green Bay website at [www.portofgreenbay.com](http://www.portofgreenbay.com) and Greater Green Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau website at [www.greenbay.com](http://www.greenbay.com).

The shipping season generally starts once ice has melted or ice breaking begins in the bay and the Fox River. Water conditions in other parts of the Great Lakes play a factor in determining when the shipping season will commence. **Good Luck!**

# Renard Island Strategic Master Plan

Renard Island is a 55 acre island that was originally constructed in 1978 by the US Army Corps of Engineers. It is currently owned by Brown County Port & Resource Recovery and was created as a confined disposal facility for dredged sediment coming out of the Green Bay Shipping Channel.

The Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department hired a team of design professionals to work with the community to envision the future of Renard Island. Throughout the fall of 2018, interested individuals were invited to contribute their thoughts and ideas for how the 55-acre man-made island could best serve the Green Bay region. The team led a National Charrette Institute process for community engagement which included a series of public outreach events and a multi-day charrette with the public and stakeholders for this important piece of land.

From this, three major island concepts were developed:

**Concept 1: “Eco Island”**

- Mix of native ecosystems
- Boardwalks and nature trails
- Naturalized shoreline

**Concept 2: “Exploration Island”**

- Overlooks and piers
- Iconic observation tower
- Flexible lawn spaces
- Artful landforms

**Concept 3: “Active Island”**

- Boater beach
- Marina slips
- All-season retail/ food zone
- Adventure play

On December 16th, 2019, the Harbor Commission met at the Brown County Neville Museum to unveil the *Renard Island Strategic Master Plan* to the public. The final master plan combines ideas from each of the major concepts.

Proposed ideas for the island include: a causeway for vehicular access, a boardwalk with concessions, retail and parking; an interactive plaza; a marina; a beach with boat access and a dog area; wetland habitats; flexible lawn space; picnic areas; yurt camping; fishing piers; an interpretive overlook; and a trail system among many others ideas.

For more information on the *Renard Island Strategic Master Plan* and to view the presentation, visit: [portofgreenbay.com/renard-island](http://portofgreenbay.com/renard-island)





# Ship Spotlight – John G. Munson

The self-unloading bulk freighter John G. Munson (2) was built in 1952 as hull # 415 by Manitowoc Shipbuilding, Inc. The new vessel was to be used in the stone trade, limestone in particular and departed on her maiden voyage August 21, 1952 bound for Calcite, MI and her first of many loads of limestone.

The John G. Munson was named after Mr. John Gephart Munson. Mr. Munson was elected president of both Michigan Limestone and its Bradley Transportation Division until 1939 when he became a vice president for the parent United States Steel Corp. He retained this position until his retirement in 1951. Mr. Munson died March 28, 1952.

The John G. Munson (2) set her first record cargo on September 9, 1952 with 20,871 tons of limestone from Calcite, MI to Buffington, IN. This load set a Great Lakes limestone cargo record. The vessel broke her own cargo record on July 4, 1953 with 21,011 tons of limestone from Calcite, MI to Gary, IN.

She suffered a fire in her forward end on Feb. 2, 1983 while in winter lay-up. The fire started in the ship's machine shop resulting in three people being hospitalized for smoke inhalation.

The John G. Munson's cargoes have traditionally been focused in the limestone, sand, stone and aggregates trade. Over the years, her cargoes have expanded into the iron ore, taconite pellets and coal trades.



Ship Particulars	
Length	768' 03" (234.17m)
Beam	72' 00" (21.95m)
Depth	36' 00" (10.97m)
Midsummer Draft	27' 04" (8.33m)
Unloading Boom Length	250' (76.2m)
Capacity	25,550 tons
Engine Power	7,000 bhp diesel

Photo Credit: BoatNerd.com

Check Out Our Website:  
[www.portofgreenbay.com](http://www.portofgreenbay.com)  
 Find us on Twitter @PortofGreenBay

Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Dept.  
 Dean Haen, Director  
 2561 S. Broadway  
 Green Bay, WI 54304  
 Phone (920) 492-4950  
 Fax (920) 492-4957  
 Email: haen\_dr@co.brown.wi.us

## Port N' News

