



New shipping season kicks off at Port of Green Bay

Annual First Ship Contest winner announced

For Immediate Release

April 5, 2019

(Green Bay, WI) – The first ship of the 2019 shipping season arrived at the [Port of Green Bay](#) today, April 5, at 7:09 a.m. The Samuel de Champlain is the official first ship of the season, importing cement to LaFarge. Ice breaking occurred in the days prior to clear a channel for the ship to arrive. 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 and Visitors Bureau](#).



Samuel de Champlain Overall Dimensions	
Length	520'
Width	67'
Draft	21'

“The start of the 2019 season is nine days later than the 2018 season start date,” explained Dean Haen, Port Director. “But the 2018 shipping season also ended six days later than the 2017 shipping season did, so we still had an average length of time between seasons—just over two months. Despite the warm-up over the past few weeks, this was still a brutal winter and ice cover on Lake Michigan was extensive. With only one shared ice breaker for the entire lake, we were able to bring in the first shipment once it was available for ice breaking in the bay of Green Bay.”

As in years past, the Port of Green Bay has been accepting guesses for the first ship’s arrival through its annual First Ship Contest. The person who comes closest to the date and time of the first ship’s arrival wins a prize package from the Port of Green Bay. This year, two people tied for closest guess. Both Shaun Forslund of Menasha and Sandy Budzis of Green Bay guessed an arrival date and time of April 5 at 6 a.m.

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The prize package includes a free kayak tour with Door County Kayak Tours, a \$120 Gift Certificate to the Landmark Resort in Door County, a 200th Anniversary Brown County Monopoly game as well as two Port of Green Bay coffee mugs.

“We’re pleased to see that we had 132 guesses for our First Ship Contest, which represents an interest in the importance of the ships that come through the Port and the significance of shipping on local jobs and the economy,” added Haen. “Considering what a strong season we had in 2018, we’re excited to see the impact that the 2019 shipping season will have.”

The public is encouraged to view the ships from the Fox River Trail, the Green Bay Metropolitan Boat Launch or from the Port’s webcam on its 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 www.portofgreenbay.com.

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About the Port of Green Bay: The Port of Green Bay exists to enhance the prosperity of the people of Northeast Wisconsin by providing facilities and infrastructure able to effectively and efficiently move commodities and goods across the nation. As the western-most port of Lake Michigan, the Port of Green Bay offers a direct route for shipping from the Midwest to the rest of the world. The Port of Green Bay has 14 active terminal operators located along three miles of the Fox River involved in shipping commodities: Ace Marine, C. Reiss Coal Company, Construction Resources Management, Flint Hills Resources, Fox River Terminals, Georgia-Pacific, Graymont, GLC Minerals, KK Integrated Logistics, Lafarge Northern America, RGL, Sanimax, St. Mary’s Cement and U.S. Venture.

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