



**The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway System**  
***Le réseau Grands Lacs - Voie maritime du Saint-Laurent***

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SEAWAY NOTICE NO. 1 - 2008

**Opening of the 2008 Navigation Season  
And Maximum Allowable Drafts**

The opening of the 2008 navigation season is scheduled to take place on the following dates and times:

- Montreal / Lake Ontario March 22, 2008 - 0800 hours (D.S.T.)
- Welland Canal March 20, 2008 - 0800 hours (D.S.T.)

Vessel transits will be subject to weather and ice conditions. Restrictions may apply in some areas until lighted navigation aids have been installed.

**Sault Ste. Marie Locks and Canals**

United States Soo Locks will open March 25.

**Allowable Draft**

In the **Montreal / Lake Ontario Section**, the draft will be **80.0 dm** (26' 3") until the South Shore Canal is ice-free or April 15th, whichever occurs first, at which time, if water levels are favorable, the draft will be increased to **80.8 dm** (26' 6") for **all** vessels. In addition, there will be **zero tolerance** for ship's draft in excess of 80.8 dm (26' 6").

Mariners are reminded that for ships loaded to a draft greater than 80.0 dm (26' 3"), speeds will be monitored carefully between St. Lambert Lock and St. Nicolas Island.

In the **Welland Canal**, a maximum allowable draft of **80.8 dm** (26' 6") will be in effect from the start of the navigation season for **all** vessels. In addition, there will be **zero tolerance** for vessel drafts in excess of 80.8 dm (26' 6").

Please note that, for vessels loaded to a draft greater than 80.0 dm (26' 3"), speeds will be monitored carefully between the upper entrance to Lock 7 and former Bridge 12 in order to reduce bank erosion in this area.

February 21, 2008