



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

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SEAWAY NOTICE NO. 1 - 2017

**Opening of the 2017 Navigation Season and Maximum Allowable Drafts**

The opening of the 2017 navigation season is scheduled to take place on the following dates and times:

- Welland Canal: March 20, 2017 - 0800 hours (D.S.T.)
- Montreal / Lake Ontario Section: March 20, 2017 - 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**

Opening of the Sault Ste. Marie Locks (U.S.A.) is currently scheduled for March 25, 2017. Please note the Notice to Navigation Interests released by the USA Army Corps of Engineers for further information.

**Allowable Draft**

In the Montreal / Lake Ontario Section, the maximum allowable 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 maximum 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").

Vessels equipped with an approved and operational draft information system will be permitted to transit at a draft of up to 7cm above the maximum allowable draft.

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 17, 2017