Seaway Workers’ Memorial Ceremony

On June 3, 2016, a Memorial Ceremony to pay tribute to the workers who lost their lives during the original construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway took place at the Eisenhower Lock Visitors’ Center located in Massena, New York. The ceremony was open to the public. Several local elected officials, Assemblywoman Addie Russell, Massena Deputy Mayor Mathew LeBire, Massena Town Supervisor Joe Gray, Jim Reagen, Representative from Senator Patty Ritchie’s office, Dick Ashlaw, Representative form Senator Joseph Griffio’s office, Nathan Lashomb, Executive Director of the Massena Chamber of Commerce, and family members of the deceased construction workers gave remarks. A memorial plaque dedicated to the workers was unveiled.

Ogdensburg, N.Y. resident, Bonnie Pearson, brought to the attention of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) that there wasn’t a plaque to memorialize the fallen heroes that built the Seaway. Her father, David Hanna was the first American killed while working on the Seaway.

SLSDC’s Administrator Sutton opened the ceremony with remarks and an expression of heartfelt appreciation for the sacrifices of the Seaway workers whose memory was being honored.

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provide the keynote address at the 30th annual “Wings of Excellence” awards ceremony in Cleveland, Ohio. Sponsored by the Cleveland Federal Executive Board (CFEB), this program recognizes those Federal employees whose outstanding performances have served as an inspiration to others and brought credit to the Federal service.

A group of 77 awardees from 18 different Federal agencies were recognized through the “Wings of Excellence” program. It was an honor for me to be able to share with them my own experience about what motivated me to pursue public service. In my case, I made a conscious decision to work in public service because I learned early on that I was most fulfilled when I focused on making a difference for others. It’s clear that many other public servants also share that passion.

The federal employees honored at the award ceremony demonstrated extraordinary service to their nation, to their agency, and to their community. Each and every one of the awardees were exceptional in their contributions through service. Doing the good work of government is about working to fulfill the mission that defines each particular agency and about making a difference in people’s lives. Many people don’t adequately recognize the significant contributions that public servants make to their everyday lives. I was thrilled to be able to speak at the event to acknowledge these individuals’ accomplishments and successes and, by extension, to place a spotlight on the amazing work done throughout our communities and nation by public servants every day. To be in an arena where real change is possible and where you can impact the lives of millions of fellow citizens is, in itself, motivational. I congratulated these dedicated public servants and encouraged them to continue to find opportunities to be innovative in their service to the nation and their community.

In that light, I also had the good fortune to deliver the commencement address for the 2016 graduating class at the Maritime Academy of Toledo, Ohio. It was inspiring to see the hope and promise of this group of young people, who are only just beginning to identify their paths forward in life. I spoke to them about how they too, can make a difference in people’s lives. Many of the graduates were successful in spite of personal challenges and obstacles that they faced on the way to their graduation day. It was my pleasure to be able to speak to the graduates about how they can reach for the opportunities before them to build successful careers and futures in maritime or in service.

We are at a unique time in our industry. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs in the maritime industry will increase by 20 percent by the year 2020. The maritime field needs the skills and talents of the next generation of a well-trained, high-performing workforce. The impending retirement wave of the industry’s workforce, particularly in the Great Lakes, provides the opportunity to recruit and develop the next generation of leaders. We must not be complacent; it is incumbent on all of us in the industry to work to inspire young people to think about maritime careers. When possible, take the initiative and mentor a young person. I think you’ll find what I found at the Maritime Academy of Toledo. The energy and enthusiasm of these graduates was so compelling that I have a firm belief they will go on to make significant contributions as they complete their academic careers and enter the workforce. I have faith that the future is in good hands.

Seaway Domestic Trade Mission to Houston for Breakbulk Americas

Seaway Domestic Trade Mission to Houston for Breakbulk Americas

System stakeholders with an opportunity to gain insight on shipping in the Gulf Coast, reconnect with current system users, and introduce the system to prospective Great Lakes customers. The agenda will include a business session with worldwide customers, a port tour, and participation in the annual Breakbulk Americas Conference and Exhibition in addition to hosting a networking reception.

All Seaway stakeholders are invited to join the SLSDC and SLSMC on the 2016 Domestic Trade Mission, which is certain to prove an informative and invaluable experience for organizations seeking to better understand and fully realize the economic vitality of the GLSLS. For more information, please contact the following:

- Adam Schlicht, Great Lakes Regional Representative, SLSDC, (216) 379-9106
- Kelly DiPardo, Administrative Assistant, Market Development, The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, (905) 641-1932 (ext 5377)
The Seaway Corporation’s Associate Administrator Thomas Lavigne said: “To think that construction of the joint Seaway and power projects began in 1954 and that the Seaway opened to deep draft navigation just five short years later, in 1959, is a tribute to those people whose extraordinary efforts made this possible, particularly under the extreme conditions they faced.”

It was an emotional event as family members delivered moving tributes about their loved ones. A few of the original construction workers also attended the ceremony and shared stories about their experiences while constructing the Seaway.

“We should never take for granted the many conveniences afforded to us by living in this great country, said SLSDC Administrator Betty Sutton. “Among the greatest of those conveniences is our transportation system. In the history of our country, the roadways, railways, airports, and inland waterways were each built through the skill, sacrifice, and sweat of countless individuals who gave their all to make America the most mobile and prosperous nation on Earth.”

Administrator Betty Sutton proudly stands with some of the original Seaway construction workers that were able to attend the Memorial Ceremony.

The Family of Martin and Floyd Pinkerton.

Memorial plaque located at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Visitors’ Center.

The Family of Leo Coolidge.
Great Lakes Stakeholders Participate in Breakbulk Europe

Each year, the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) and The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) co-lead a binational delegation of Great Lakes stakeholders at the Breakbulk Europe Conference, held the week of May 23, 2016 in Antwerp, Belgium. Breakbulk Europe, a companion conference to the Breakbulk Americas Conference held annually in Houston, Texas, is the “largest exhibit and educational forum in the world addressing the needs of traditional breakbulk and project cargo logistics professionals.” Over 8,500 participants attended Breakbulk Europe 2016, including over 350 international exhibitors, sponsors, and industry experts, representing a 15 percent increase from 2015. Organizations represented in the 2016 HwyH2O delegation to Breakbulk Europe included:

- Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC)
- The St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSMC)
- Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority (Cleveland, Ohio)
- Duluth Seaway Port Authority (Duluth, Minnesota)
- Port of Oswego (Oswego, New York)
- Thunder Bay Port Authority (Thunder Bay, Ontario)
- Quebec Stevedoring Company (Montreal, Quebec)

The SLSDC was represented by Deputy Administrator Craig Middlebrook and Great Lakes Regional Representative Adam Schlicht at the “HwyH2O” marketing and exhibition booth. Breakbulk and project cargo represents the fastest growing cargo sector for Great Lakes Seaway maritime traffic; all HwyH2O participants agreed that the Great Lakes booth received both an increase in new business and repeated customer inquiries from previous years at both Breakbulk Europe and Breakbulk America.

Seaway Corporations Meet for Semiannual Joint Strategic Meetings

Senior leaders of both the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) and The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) recently participated in a semiannual Joint Strategic Meeting (JSM) at the U.S. Seaway lock infrastructure near Massena, New York.

JSMs are held between the SLSDC and SLSMC to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway (GLSLS) System throughout the shipping and non-navigation calendar each year. Recently held on June 22–23, 2016, the latest JSM focused on a number of operational, policy, and organization updates focused on enhancing the customer’s utilization of the GLSLS, including:

- The Seaway’s continued implementation of Hands Free Mooring (HFM) technology at all U.S. and Canadian locks, including a currently anticipated system-wide implementation by 2018.
- North American implementation of ballast water regulations in both the U.S. and Canada, including ongoing and potential impacts to Great Lakes navigation.
- The recent release of the Strategy for the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Maritime Transportation System by the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers.
- Utilization of the binational HwyH2O marketing brand, including trade development and marketing initiatives in the U.S. and Canada in 2016 and beyond.
- And more!
The Illinois International Port District is focused on generating and expanding economic activity and employment for the benefit of the City of Chicago and State of Illinois.

The Illinois International Port District is committed to doing so in an environmentally responsible way and improving awareness, understanding and engagement with the surrounding communities and other government agencies.

The Port District will become more viable if we get back to what our mission statement reads. How do we do this? By PROMOTING, PROVIDING and PROTECTING for the PORT.

Promoting – committed to developing and maintaining a world-class port that operates as a modern, strategically driven facility.

The Port is open for business. We are open 24/7/365. We have an important backdoor; the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. We are the largest Port on the Great Lakes, 37th largest port (17,482,673 tons) in America and 6th if you look at state tonnage.

At the confluence of the Great Lakes connecting the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico via the Illinois and Mississippi rivers, access to the Chicago skyway, I90, I94, I57, I55 and I290 as well as five class one railroads and two international airports there is nowhere in the world that you can’t get to from the Port of Chicago.

With this unique accessibility it is incumbent on the Port to invest in ourselves through land acquisition and innovative thinking.

Providing – focused on generating and expanding economic activity and employment for the benefit of the City of Chicago and State of Illinois.

The Port District must institute a comprehensive, strategic solution that addresses, defines and maintains the viability of the Port District by growing.

To ensure that this happens we have already embarked on an aggressive academic curriculum meeting with all of our elected officials, community groups, government agencies, industry, environmental, conservational and recreational interest and started gathering all plans. The goal is to incorporate them into a viable overarching plan that addresses a sustained meaningful growth in and around the Port.

Protecting – committed to doing so in an environmentally responsible way and improving awareness, understanding and engagement with the surrounding communities and other government agencies.

Balancing industrial, environmental, conservational and recreational plans for the Port is not impossible as these uses are not mutually exclusive viable uses for the Port in spite of the fact that they may have mutually exclusive benefits. Viability must include the impact on the surrounding area be it economic impact, environmental awareness or community enhancement the Port has a responsibility to all of the stakeholders.

There is no reason why the Port of Chicago cannot be the most industry friendly Port in America by supporting the rail industry, tackling legislation which upgrades the infrastructure on our rivers, allows for increased funding for the Corps, or addressed heavy load corridors for truck traffic and supports vehicle miles traveled legislation.

There is no reason at all that the Port of Chicago cannot be the greenest Port in the world. I’ve already started talking about solar panels on our sheds so that we generate enough power for the Port to be self-sustaining. Windmills are next.

There is no reason that the Port of Chicago cannot be a destination Port with a marina, world class restaurants and family entertainment next to our world class golf resort. Let’s add a world class miniature golf course beside the hotel next to the marina.

There is no reason why one, some or all of these cannot be done if we have the vision which feeds into the strategy and is driven by our mission.

Sure these are stretch goals, but I have been tasked to making/keeping the Port viable and if we approach the stretch goals with smart goals and refine our collective definition of viability, it is all achievable. I’m excited about the ongoing potential here at the Illinois International Port District.
SLSDC Hosts Seaway Infrastructure Tour for U.S. Great Lakes Port Representatives

On June 21, 2016, the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) offered a first-of-its-kind tour of the U.S. lock infrastructure of the St. Lawrence Seaway in Massena, New York. The tour was attended by U.S. port authorities as well as other economic and trade organizations that are interested in and rely on the successful operation of the binational Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway (GLSLS) System. Participating organizations included the Ports of Indiana, the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority, the Village of Massena, New York, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, and numerous others.

The 2016 U.S. lock infrastructure tour included an overview of the St. Lawrence Seaway and an introduction to the SLSDC; a tour of the Maintenance Facility, including a discussion of the Asset Renewal Program (ARP), Hands Free Mooring (HFM), and other lock modernization initiatives in the United States and Canada; a tour and vessel transit of Eisenhower Lock; a tour of Vessel Traffic Control (VTC), including a discussion of Great Lakes vessel technologies; and a final discussion on U.S. Seaway economic and trade development integration and collaboration with U.S. Great Lakes ports.

Tour attendees expressed enthusiasm for the tour, particularly the ability to witness the operation of the Seaway first hand; the SLSDC handles thousands of transits, including commercial and non-commercial ships, tugs, barges, cruise vessels and pleasure craft, through Eisenhower and Snell Lock each year.

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers Release First-Ever Regional Maritime Strategy

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder and Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne recently met to discuss their ongoing partnership to grow the economy and create jobs. On behalf of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers, they released the first-ever regional strategy to jumpstart the Great Lakes St. Lawrence maritime transportation system. The strategy’s objectives are to double maritime trade, shrink the environmental footprint of the region’s transportation network, and support the region’s industrial core.

The strategy includes a blend of policies, programs and projects to rejuvenate the regional maritime system. Ten-year implementation of the strategy is estimated at US$3.8 billion based on preliminary analysis. The States and Provinces will work with other levels of government, industry and other stakeholders to advance implementation of the recommendations over the longer term. Specific recommendations include:

- Constructing a second “Poe Class” Lock in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to ensure the movement of vital raw materials like iron ore and coal.
- Clearing the system’s dredging backlog to ensure transit for fully loaded vessels.
- Dredging the system’s critical chokepoint—the St. Marys River—to its authorized depth of 27 feet, while a longer-term, system-wide analysis of bottlenecks is completed to make sure dredging dollars are used most efficiently.
- Developing recommendations for a treaty or other binding agreement between the U.S. and Canada to cooperatively manage the regional maritime system, and harmonize regulations across levels of governments.
- Expediting the movement of goods and people across the U.S.-Canada border by streamlining the customs clearance process for cruise passengers and maritime cargo.

For additional details the report can be found: http://www.cglslgp.org/media/1815/final-regional-mts-strategy-june-15-2016pdf.pdf
2016 Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Cruise Season

This year’s cruising season has shaped up to be very similar to last year, with two foreign-flag cruise ships, two U.S.-flag cruise ships, and one Canadian-flag cruise ship sailing throughout the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System. One big difference to note is that the SAINT LAURENT now sails under the name of VICTORY I and has a new operator and itinerary. The PEARL MIST is returning for the third consecutive year and has added the Port of Muskegon to the itinerary. The three cruise ships in the Great Lakes, the GRAND CARIBE, GRAND MARINER and CANADIAN EMPRESS, continue with their itineraries. The HAMBURG conducted two 10 day voyages in the Great Lakes last year will not be returning for the 2016 season; however, owners of the vessel are anticipating a return in 2017.

The Great Lakes 2016 cruising season commenced in late May with the arrival of the PEARL MIST into Toronto placing her in the Great Lakes about a month earlier than the two previous years. The PEARL MIST will conduct a total of 10 voyages between May and late September. Each voyage is scheduled for 11 days, with visits to the Canadian ports of Toronto, Port Colborne, Windsor, Little Current, Perry Sound, Midland and Sault Ste. Marie Ontario and U.S. ports of Sault Ste. Marie, Mackinac Island and Muskegon, Michigan and Chicago, Illinois.

The VICTORY I departed the Great Lakes at the end of the 2015 season acquiring a new name, owner/operator and had several upgrades to both the interior and exterior of the ship. The new operator of Victory Cruise Lines is based in Miami, plans to cruise the Great Lakes between June and early October, and has developed itineraries for three to 11 day cruises. The vessel will visit the Canadian ports of Toronto, Little Current, Perry Sound and Sault Ste. Marie, Port Colborne and Port Weller, Ontario and U.S. ports of Sault Ste. Marie, Mackinac Island and Detroit, Michigan and Chicago, Illinois.

The U.S.-flagged GRANDE MARINER and the GRAND CARIBE, operated by Blount Cruises have been sailing the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway since the early 2000s. The GRAND CARIBE was constructed in 1997 and the hull for the GRANDE MARINER was laid the following year. Each ship berths 83 passengers and because of their smaller size, they can travel to places that larger ships cannot. With unique itineraries, both are the only cruise ships that leave the Great Lakes to continue through the Erie Canal, ending in Rhode Island. They are also the only cruise line that calls exclusively in U.S. Great Lakes ports. They offer the longest itinerary by any cruise line in the Great Lakes – 16 days/15 nights. A shorter itinerary is also available for the GRAND MARINER and offers port visits in various Lake Michigan ports.

Based in Kingston, Ontario, the 60 passenger CANADIAN EMPRESS is operated by Saint Lawrence Cruise Lines. The vessel was built in 1981 and has sailed the Canadian waters of the St. Lawrence River and Seaway, Thousand Island region and the Ottawa River ever since. Cruises range from five to seven nights, and run from mid-May to mid-October.

The outlook for Great Lakes cruising is encouraging. The total number of berths available for the five ships sailing the Great Lakes Seaway System is approximately 5,740 passengers. Based on feedback from the vessel operators each voyage is sold out or is close to being sold out. That sends a strong message to the cruise line industry that if you bring your ship to the Great Lakes, you have a great opportunity for success. That’s just one of the messages we deliver to the cruise industry—if you bring it, passengers will come. The 2017 navigation season for cruising is looking very promising with the potential of adding two more foreign flag ships. We are hoping that the total number of cruise ships sailing the Great Lakes reaches seven, which would be an all-time high in more than two decades.
Pacesetter Presentations

During the July 13-14, 2016 American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) summer meeting the following ports were presented with the Robert J. Pacesetter Award recognizing increases in international cargo tonnage shipped through their port during the 2015 navigation season compared to the previous year.

Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority (Mich.): Received its 8th Pacesetter Award

Port of Monroe (Mich.): Received its 2nd Pacesetter Award

Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority (N.Y.): Received its 8th Pacesetter Award

Port of Oswego Authority (N.Y.): Received its 14th Pacesetter Award

Port of Cleveland (O.H.): Received its 14th Pacesetter Award

Administrator Sutton (center) presented the Robert J. Pacesetter Award to Port Board Chairman Chris Ronayne (left) and Port President Will Friedman (right) as part of the Port’s 2016 shipping season kick-off festivities. This is the Port of Cleveland’s 14th time receiving this prestigious award.

Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation Earns Green Marine Certification for Environmental Performance

The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) was recently honored for its environmental performance results for 2015 by Green Marine, a North American environmental certification program.

“The men and women working in every mode of transportation at DOT have a deep commitment to improved sustainability,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. “We are proud to see the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation earn this year’s Green Marine certification, and look forward to their continued leadership and progress in this area.”

Green Marine is a voluntary organization which certifies environmental stewardship among the North American marine industry. Participants include shipowners, ports, terminals, and shipyards based in the United States and Canada, as well as U.S. and Canadian Seaway corporations.

The program encourages participants to reduce their environmental footprint by taking concrete actions in twelve different areas, including air pollution emissions, greenhouse gases, aquatic invasive species, waste management, and community impact. This year’s Green Marine Performance Report is based on information from 100 different participants, a record for the report’s 8-year history.

Accepting the 2015 Green Marine Certificate is Thomas Lavigne (left), Associate Administrator, SLSDC, and David Bolduc, Executive Director, Green Marine.
“The sustainability advantages of maritime shipping add up to a significant benefit for shippers and the public,” said SLSDC Administrator Betty Sutton. “We are so pleased to have earned this certification of our environmental performance efforts during the 2015 shipping season.”

The SLSDC and its Canadian counterpart, the Saint Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, chose to have their 2015 results published as a single entry in the Green Marine Performance Report, reflecting the bi-national nature of the Seaway and the two agencies’ close working relationship in pursuit of environmental excellence. The partnership earned scores of 4.1 for Greenhouse Gases, Spill Prevention, and Community Impact, and earned a perfect 5 for Environmental Leadership.

**Personnel News**

Clayton Harris, III, has been named the new executive director for the Illinois International Port District. He is replacing Anthony Ianello, who has retired.

Previously Mr. Harris was chief of staff at the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Chicago Department of Transportation, and was an assistant in former Mayor Richard M. Daley’s intergovernmental affairs unit, among other government jobs.

He has a bachelor’s degree in aerospace technology from Middle Tennessee State University and a law degree from the Howard University School of Law.

Welcome to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System!

Guy Yelle, Vice President, The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) retired in June after an exemplary career spanning 30 years at the Seaway. We wish Guy a happy, healthy retirement and thank him for all his hard work and dedication while at the Seaway.

Stephen Brooks, President, the Chamber of Marine Commerce announced his retirement in October 2016. Mr. Brooks will be taking a mid-career sabbatical to spend more time with family, to travel and to pursue other personal interests. We wish him well.

**Upcoming Events**

**August**
- August 22–24, 2016
  - Ohio Conference on Freight
    - Contact: Christine Connell, (419) 241-9155 (ext. 119); connell@ohiofreight.org
- August 30–September 1, 2016
  - Midwest Specialty Grains Conference
    - Indianapolis, IN
    - Info: http://www.grainconference.org/
- August 30–September 1, 2016
  - NOAA Hydrographic Services Review Panel
    - Cleveland, OH
    - Contact: Lynne Mersfelder; lynne.mersfelder@noaa.gov; (301) 713-2750 (ext. 166)

**September**
- September 26–29, 2016
  - Seaway Domestic Trade Mission to Houston for Breakbulk Americas
    - Houston, TX
    - Contact: Adam Schlicht, SLSDC, 216-379-9106 or Kelly DiPardo, SLSMC (905) 641-1932 (ext 5377)

**November**
- November 16–17, 2016
  - HWY H2O Conference 2016
    - Ontario, Canada
    - Info: http://hwyh2o.com/home/
- November 16–17, 2016
  - 2016 Indiana Logistics Summit
    - Indianapolis, Indiana
    - Info: http://www.indianalogistics.com/summit/