



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

Re: SEAWAY RADIO MESSAGE NO. 1 OF 2026

This is the first Radio Message for the opening of the 2026 navigation season.

The Montreal/Lake Ontario section and the Welland Canal will be open to navigation Sunday, March 22nd at 0800 hours.

Details on the maximum permissible drafts for both the Montreal-Lake Ontario Section and the Welland Canal are available in Seaway Notice no.1 of 2026.

MONTREAL-LAKE ONTARIO SECTION

There is broken ice present in the South Shore Canal. There is some ice below Beauharnois locks, in Beauharnois canal and on Lake St. François.

There is ice in the Wiley-Dondero Canal, one way navigation is in effect.

Further details are available through the local Traffic Control Centres.

Navigation may be restricted until the commissioning of lighted aids has been completed. Mariners are warned to exercise extreme caution in the use of winter markers as the position of the markers may have been affected by ice. Further information concerning this is available from the appropriate traffic control centre.

It is extremely important, for vessels transiting through all ice covered areas and the ice booms in the Beauharnois Canal, to proceed at the slowest safe speed in order not to disturb the ice fields.

The Galop ice boom G and the Prescott-Ogdensburg ice boom A have been removed from the navigation channel. Mariners are advised to exercise caution when transiting the area as the openings may not be clearly marked.

WELLAND CANAL

The Welland Canal is generally open water with broken ice present above lock 8. There is ice in Port Colborne Harbour. Mariners are cautioned that, at present, medium ice conditions exist in the eastern half of Lake Erie. Further information is available through the local Traffic Control Centre.

The next radio message will be issued Monday, March 23, 2026.

March 20, 2026