

Issue #45 - October 2019

Name Announced for New Shepler's Ferry

Sept. 17- Shepler's new member to the fleet, a \$4 Million jet-ferry currently under construction, will be named *William Richard* in honor of Bill Shepler, son of Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry founder, Captain William Shepler. Though Bill is the CEO of Shepler's, the daily work is now run by Bill's children, with Chris Shepler as president.

The new ferry is being constructed by Moran Iron Works, a fabrication company out of Onaway, Michigan. The vessel will be 84 feet long and will be able to accommodate 210-passengers, being propelled by four Hamilton Jet water jets. The new jet-propulsion means a shorter and quieter trip for passengers.



House Authorizes \$922 Million for Soo Locks Project

Sept. 13- The U. S. House of Representatives passed the bill that authorized federal spending of \$922 Million to build the new lock at Sault Ste. Marie. Now, the bill must be approved by the Senate and President Trump. Then, money can be appropriated for the project. Since the 1980's, shippers and Great Lakes Shipping advocates have been pushing for a twin of the Lock. The Poe Lock is currently the only lock capable of handling vessels larger than 730', which carry the majority of the cargo on the Lakes. This makes the Poe Lock the lifeline of the Midwest, and even the national economy. Lock shutdowns mean the Midwest economy will shut down. **Continued on Back. See SOO LOCKS**

New Cruise Ship *Le Champlain* Arrives on the Lakes

Sept. 13- In mid-September, yet another cruise ship arrived on the Lakes. The French vessel *Le Champlain* was recently completed and has voyaged onto the Great Lakes for a few cruises before the end of the 2019 season. *Le Champlain* has made several port calls so far, including Montreal, Toronto, Mackinac Island, Sault Ste. Marie, Muskegon, and Traverse City.

Lake Michigan, Lake Huron to have higher water levels in 2020

Sept. 18- Great Lakes water levels will be higher in the beginning of the year in 2020 to start out than in 2019. This means there is high potential to have another record-breaking season. This is both good and bad news, as it means freighters can load to deeper drafts, carrying more cargo, but it also means heavy shoreline erosion and continued flooding of low areas.

Know Your Ships: Decades Released

Sept. 25- The most recent *Know Your Ships* book has been released, and it isn't the annual field guide, either. It is *Know Your Ships: Decades*, a compilation of the best photos from the past 60 years of *Know Your Ships*.

Continued from front-SOO LOCKS

The Poe Lock is the only way of passage for raw materials like iron ore, which is used to make steel that fuels the automobile manufacturing industry locally. It would have massive effects. With the government finally taking steps towards the final goal, we make strong headway towards preventing catastrophes such as that.

Algoma Announces Agreement with Croatian Shipyard

Sept. 19- Algoma recently announced they have reached a formal agreement with the 3 Maj shipyard to complete Hull #733 for Algoma.

Hull #733 is an Equinox River Class 650' self-unloading bulk carrier. Construction on the vessel was put on hold in 2017 as the shipyard was restructuring and experienced financial difficulties.

The original contract called for two 650' Equinox River Class self-unloaders, being amended later on to add three additional 740' Equinox Seaway Max self-unloaders. Only one vessel was completed under contract, the 650' *Algoma Innovator*. In 2018, Algoma cancelled the contract for Hull #733 and the three future hulls.

The shipyard has recently gained financial assistance from the Croatian government and has renewed the contract for Hull #733 with Algoma Central Corporation. Algoma announced that the vessel is to be named *Algoma Intrepid*.

New Tugboat coming soon for the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation

Sept. 25- After 60 years of service, St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) has decided it's time for their veteran tug *Robinson Bay* to be retired. Their newly-constructed tugboat, fittingly named *Seaway Guardian*, should arrive in Massena soon to prepare for her first season.

Seaway Guardian is 180' long and 45' wide, with over 5,300 horsepower. She was constructed by Gulf Island Shipyard in Houma, Louisiana. Added features include a crane for tending buoys and firefighting capabilities. SLSDC is in charge of managing the U.S. portion of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

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ISSUE CITATIONS:

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