

SLSDC Regional Presence Continues To Grow

The mission of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) is more than just operating and maintaining the Seaway's lock infrastructure, it is committed to stimulating regional economic growth as well as increasing waterborne transportation and robust trade across the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System. In conjunction with the Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC), the SLSDC has worked tirelessly to accomplish this vision for the Seaway, its customers, and the North American community. In the last six months, SLSDC Administrator Betty Sutton has continued to share her vision of the North American heartland as the "Opportunity Belt" economic powerhouse: a thriving and influential destination for both business and recreation alike. The SLSDC's involvement has been significant in recent months, including efforts by both Administrator Sutton and by Adam Schlicht, the SLSDC's Great Lakes Regional Representative in Cleveland, Ohio, who assumed the post in February 2015, among other SLSDC personnel.

The SLSDC has participated in a number of important policy summits focusing on Great Lakes issues, including the Council of the Great Lakes Region's *Great Lakes Economic Forum* held in Chicago in April 2015, at which Administrator Sutton was a featured speaker. Similarly, SLSDC representatives participated in the Leadership Summit of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers, held in June in Quebec City. Both of these events focused on many of the SLSDC's top priorities: economic development, transportation, and the environment.

Administrator Sutton's speaking engagements have also been extensive and held throughout both countries. At the City Club of Cleveland in July 2015, Administrator Sutton provided the "State of the Great Lakes" address and reiterated the importance of the Great Lakes as home to one-fifth of the world's fresh water and the third largest economy in the world. In short, Administrator Sutton declared the state of the Great Lakes full of promise. Other speaking engagements include Administrator Sutton's presentation at the International

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ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Two Years of Progress



Betty Sutton
Administrator

It has now been over two years since I took over the job as Administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC). During that time, there have been many positive developments

in the Great Lakes Seaway System and I am pleased that our message is reaching a broader audience with each passing day. The contributions of maritime commerce in the Great Lakes Seaway System are becoming more fully understood and more

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GUEST COLUMNIST

Rear Admiral June Ryan U.S. Coast Guard, Ninth District

On June 3, 2015, I had the honor and privilege of assuming command of the U.S. Coast Guard's Ninth District. I have known my predecessor, Rear Admiral Fred Midgette, for most of my career and look forward to building upon his legacy. I share his deep appreciation for the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System, and his genuine respect for those dedicated to its prosperity.

Like Admiral Midgette, I became personally familiar with this district as the commanding officer of one of its cutters. In

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fully appreciated. I am confident that this is because we have a sustained collective effort underway to reach out, to share our success stories, and deliver a progressive forecast for the future of the System.

We have a good story to tell, our message is clear. Maritime transportation is the most fuel-efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly way to move goods. To make sure we get our message out, the SLSDC is part of a binational public education program launched earlier this year, which is working to tell the story of the importance of maritime commerce and the positive difference it makes in the lives of the citizens of our two countries. The program, called the Great Lakes Seaway Partnership, is a collective effort bringing together Americans and Canadians, the Great Lakes trades and the Seaway, ports and carriers, and the public and private sectors. Enabling the media, elected officials, and the general public to better understand commercial shipping in the Great Lakes Seaway System, and to better appreciate the relevance of the Great Lakes maritime community to their daily lives, is an ongoing and worthwhile

effort. The Partnership is fostering greater public awareness about what we do, and that, in turn, will help to stimulate increased use of our maritime sector and an appreciation of the region. We are getting the word out.

One of my priorities has been to raise the profile of the Great Lakes Seaway System and elevate the role of maritime transportation. I am working to further develop the SLSDC as a facilitator of commerce and economic growth across the Great Lakes Region, North America's "Opportunity Belt." Helping the Great Lakes region – our cities, states, and people – realize further economic growth and productivity via our binational waterway is the overarching point. That is why we began a Great Lakes Regional Outreach Initiative this year and instituted a new position, a Great Lakes Regional Representative, who is in the field. Through this initiative, our role is one of a facilitator, fostering the right networks, linking the right people and enabling them to look at the transportation opportunities of the Seaway System through a new lens. In that way, we are making an impact, encouraging greater economic development opportunities for the people and businesses throughout the region.

The vision of our region and our ports being players in global trade and economic activity is being realized, causing businesses to take a fresh look at our region and our Seaway System. One of the most promising developments has been the continued success of the Cleveland-Europe Express liner service, with its expansion to additional voyages and additional ports this year. Its success is multiplying, and the viability of the service signals encouraging signs of some new directions in shipping on the Lakes.

Likewise, activity has been robust at many ports throughout the System. Eight U.S. ports in the Seaway System received Pacesetter Awards for their increase in international cargo during the 2014 season. Every port in our system has unique capabilities, unique geography, unique intermodal connectivity, unique cargo and commodity movement. The SLSDC will continue to work with all our ports to help them maximize their assets. We must continue to work together to find ways to more fully reach the potential or to fully utilize the potential of every port and to generate even greater use of our System. ■■■



SLSDC REGIONAL PRESENCE
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Longshoremen's Association convention of the Atlantic Coast District where the Administrator highlighted the contemporary importance of the maritime workforce.

Reaching out to new and more dynamic audiences is a particular priority of the Great Lakes Regional Initiative as executed by SLSDC personnel and Administrator Sutton. Representatives from the SLSDC exhibited at the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) Annual Convention in August 2015 in Montreal. Attendees and business leaders from across the globe learned about shipping on the GLSLS and its importance in the North American economy, many for the first time. Addi-

tionally, the Administrator has provided her perspective on the maritime transportation industry and its importance through several addresses, including: the Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Annual Great Lakes Opportunities Summit in October 2015; and the Young Presidents' Organization/World Presidents' Organization summit on Port of Cleveland in September 2015.

The impact of the SLSDC is real, substantial, and growing. More and more Great Lakes ports are leveraging the SLSDC's ability to provide up-to-the-minute trade data, statistics, and analysis to aid their decision making. Our regional footprint continues to expand as well, and Seaway customers and clients should continue to expect further engagement through the Initiative. We continue to seek new and innovative

ways to provide technical assistance, support business growth, educate interested stakeholders, advance the reach of the binational SLSDC-SLSMC "HwyH₂O" marketing program, assist Great Lakes ports, and be an overall reliable resource, trusted asset, and dependable partner to Seaway stakeholders worldwide. From supporting the Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) in Duluth and Superior and promoting the exciting economic potential of Western Michigan through the Port Muskegon to meeting with industry leaders at the Wisconsin Commercial Ports Association (WCPA) meeting in Milwaukee and attending "8 Great Tuesdays" events at the Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority, the SLSDC is dedicated to promoting economic growth, business potential, and outreach across North America. ■■■

North Country Emergency Responders and Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation Employees Honored at Appreciation Ceremony

On October 20, 2015, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and Administrator Betty Sutton, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) recognized North Country local and regional emergency responders as well as SLSDC employees who were part of the exceptional response effort in June when the *Saint Laurent*, a cruise ship with nearly 300 people aboard, hit a concrete bumper while entering Eisenhower Lock. Representatives from approximately two dozen emergency response organizations were presented plaques and honored during the ceremony for their outstanding service.

The response to the incident was immediate, coordinated, and effective. As a result, the safety of the passengers and crew was protected, the vessel was quickly stabilized, and navigation was resumed within 42 hours.

In addition to the Secretary and Administrator, a number of local elected officials including Massena Mayor Tim Currier, Massena Town Supervisor Joe Gray, and New York State Senator Joseph Griffo attended the ceremony. Letters from Senator Chuck Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Representative Elise Stefanik, and State Senator Patty Richie were also read as part of the program. ■■■



Over 57,000 People Visited the Dwight D. Eisenhower Visitors' Center



On September 7, 2015, the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) closed its Visitors' Center at the Eisenhower Lock after another successful season that hosted over 57,000 visitors that came to the locks from around the world. The visitors were introduced to the newest addition to our facilities; the newly opened security building and restroom facilities. The new building was extremely well received as many patrons commented on the fresh new building and restrooms. They thought it was a wonderful addition to the locks, and many asked if this was a first step in upgrading to a newer Visitors' Center. They commented

on how much more appealing and professional looking the building was since their last visit. The new security building also provided a place for the patrons to interact with our security guards who were more than accommodating in providing information on the locks as well as ships, and general information about the area. Many of the patrons were repeat visitors who considered the security guards and visitor guides to be friends, and considered them a huge part of the Visitors' Center experience.

This year, we hosted patrons from 43 different states and 17 different countries. We were a destination of choice for many of the schools who wanted to bring their students on field trips. We received comments from many of our patrons. Included are a number of those comments: A patron from Shushan, NY stated: "Waited a long time to see this, it was great, worth coming", from Lakeland, FL: "We study this in our 3rd grade standards. So excited to share pictures with my students", from Akwesasne: "Great! Used to bring my

boys when they were little. Now brought my grandson", from Leon, Spain: "Amazing surprise close to the Atlantic", from Box Elder, South Dakota: Grew up watching the Seaway being built. Memories.... Awesome!"

Another addition to the Visitors' Center this year was the guided tour narration that was translated into eight different languages in order to accommodate many more of our international visitors.

Again this year, we hosted the Saint Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce who ran a gift shop at the Visitors' Center. They reported very good sales and attendance and they are already planning for next year and are extremely excited about reopening the gift shop for the 2016 navigation season.

Next time you stop by the Dwight D. Eisenhower Lock remember to 'check in' via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SLSDCEisenhower> or <https://www.facebook.com/USDOTSLSDC> to find out about exciting Seaway news. ■■■

Seaway Advisory Board Meets with Great Lakes Stakeholders in Duluth

On Monday, August 31, 2015, and Tuesday, September 1, 2015, representatives from the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) Advisory Board were on-hand in Duluth, Minnesota for their annual in-person meeting. The Board elected to host its 2015 in-person sessions in Duluth to emphasize the SLSDC's importance in contributing to shipping and economic development across the entire Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway (GLSLS) System, including at its most western corner in the United States.

The SLSDC Advisory Board currently consists of four members from across the Great Lakes region: Board Chairperson and Duluth resident David McMillan; William Mielke from Waukesha, Wisconsin; Dr. Arthur Sulzer from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Professor Wenona Singel from Michigan State University.

In addition to its regular meeting, the Board and Administrator Sutton also toured the Twin Ports. Activities included meetings with senior officials at the Duluth Seaway Port Authority, a tour of

both the CN Ore Docks and Fraser Shipyards, meetings with local elected officials including Minnesota State Senator Roger Reinert and Minnesota State Representative Jennifer Schultz, and participation in a number of informational and policy-related discussions on maritime education and the Twin Ports Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) model. Chairperson McMillan, as quoted in the [Duluth News Tribune](#), said hosting the Advisory Board in Duluth was significant as Board members saw "what the port is really made of, and it's pretty stunning." ■■■

GUEST COLUMNIST JUNE RYAN
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my case it was the *Neah Bay*. That tour reminded me of the tremendous value of Great Lakes commerce and provided me with my first direct interactions with the professional mariners that operate in and around the waters of the Great Lakes. While on *Neah Bay*, I was also exposed to the many challenges that these mariners and industry face to keep commerce and the ever present risk that these two great nations face if that commerce is ever disrupted.

In facilitating and protecting this indispensable maritime transportation system, I have asked our Great Lakes Coast Guard members to live by these watchwords: Honor the Member, Honor the Mariner, and Honor the Memory.

Honor the Member is a calling for Coast Guard members to honor each other and to take care of each other and our families. We must all be well trained, and thoroughly prepared, to serve at our very best. The Lakes can be unpredictable, unrelenting, and unforgiving. We must be ready to respond in these perilous conditions—with a highly-trained and well-prepared crew.

Honor the Mariner is the heart of my watch words. It means honoring the professional mariners who have been plying these waters for 50 years or more, and honoring the mariners whose first day on the water is today. Honoring the mariner also invokes our duties as stewards of this natural wonder.

Honor the Memory means honoring the rich heritage of our service, and honoring those who came before us in the long blue line that bonds more than 225 years

of U.S. Coast Guard history. We have the privilege, and the responsibility, to preserve this heritage in the Great Lakes region.

These watchwords are meant to inspire all Coast Guard members serving on the Great Lakes and serve as the cornerstone for engagement with our partners in the Seaway system. Primary among these partnerships is our essential relationship with the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. The many facets of our close coordination are detailed in a multipurpose Memorandum of Agreement renewed six years ago. During 2015, the tenets of this Agreement were instrumental in the successful joint response to the grounding of a bulk carrier in the Seaway and a cruise ship's allision with a Seaway lock. It is because of the longstanding relationships with our many St. Lawrence Seaway partners that each incident was resolved with minimal impact to the system.

Our relationships and renewed partnerships with various Canadian counterparts also play a key role in maintaining the safety and security of the Great Lakes Seaway System. We regularly engage with The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, Transport Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard in our binational management of our shared waterways. Our Joint Initial Verification Teams assess vessel security plans for compliance and our Ballast Water Working Group members inspect ballast tanks ensuring compliance with our countries' regulations preserving the critical freshwater ecosystem. Our longstanding aids to navigation and icebreaking partnership with the Canadian Coast Guard result in safe and secure waterways for our domestic and foreign-flag fleets. I



will ensure that our strong, collaborative approach continues for the benefit of Seaway stakeholders on both sides of the border.

On a personal note, as a former icebreaking Commanding Officer, I feel very fortunate to be back working in the Great Lakes Seaway region. I am committed to preserving the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System and I look forward to continuing our engagement and attending the cooperative forums that bring us together in this crucial endeavor. In the meantime, we remain *Semper Paratus*—Always Ready—as your Ninth District 'Guardians of the Great Lakes.' ■■■

SLSDC Participates in Emergency Response Exercise



The **Saint Lawrence** Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) works closely with local, tribal, state, and federal agencies to prepare for a quick and safe response to mitigate the impact of a vessel incident on the local environment and navigation on the Seaway. Annual exercises are practiced to ensure emergency response personnel are properly trained to guarantee an effective response. Most

training and drills are multi-agency led and attended by local response agencies and local stakeholder groups.

At the invitation of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environmental Division, the SLSDC, in coordination with U.S. and Canadian Coast Guards and other local county agencies, participated in a regional planning and boom deployment exercise on the St. Lawrence River.

The table top exercise was held on August 11, 2015, at the St. Regis Recreation Center, Akwesasne, and involved a fictional tanker accident that might impact marine commerce and have possible impact on Seaway International Bridge operations. The scenario challenged participants to prepare a response to a multifaceted incident.

The table top exercise was followed by hands-on oil boom deployment training on August 13, 2015, which provided local responders with practical training in boom handling, deployment, watercraft maneuvering, and testing of local response capabilities. SLSDC boom deployment boats were utilized to assist and enhance training efforts.

The exercise provided the SLSDC, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, and other response agencies, an opportunity to collaborate, network, and learn from one another about their response capabilities, tactics, and practical skills. ■■■

International Tonnage Award Presentations

Congratulations to the Port of Erie for receiving their fifth Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter Award. This award was created in 1992 to acknowledge the achievements of those U.S. Great Lakes Seaway ports that have achieved an increase in international tonnage shipped through the Seaway over the previous year.

During the 2014 navigation season the Port of Erie handled 5,500 metric tons of international cargo. The international shipments consisted of 27 GE locomotives destined for southwestern Africa and six transformers from The Netherlands headed to the New York Power Authority in Massena, NY.



Pictured L-R: Scott Rehder, Area Operations Manager, Carmeuse Lime Stone; Brenda Sandberg, Executive Director - Erie Port Authority; Betty Sutton, Administrator, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation; and Gary Lata, General Electric Co.

Congratulations to the Port of Milwaukee which had a 226 percent increase – more than 378,000 metric tons of cargo was handled on the port's dock during the 2014 navigation season. Because of the high demand across the country for road salt, this year marked the first time the Port of Milwaukee brought

in foreign salt. Shipments arrived from Morocco, Venezuela, and Egypt and accounted for more than 50,000 metric tons. The port experienced a 60 percent increase in foreign steel imports over 2013 which stayed local and supported the manufacturing industry.



SLSDC Administrator Betty Sutton presented the Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter Award plaque to Paul Vornholt (left), Port Director, Port of Milwaukee, and to Tom Barrett (right), Mayor of Milwaukee.

The Port of Duluth - Superior earned its 15th Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter Award for its increase of international cargo moving on the Seaway during the previous navigation season. More than 3 million metric tons of cargo moved through the port.

The most significant highlight for the port was the import of general cargo which consisted of generators, cooling towers, transformers, turbines, kaolin, steel structures, and equipment.

The overall increase in general cargo amounted to a 132 percent increase. Those shipments were handled at the Clure Public Marine Terminal.

Grain exports increased by 16 percent. Durum wheat made its way out of the port to the Mediterranean region, where it was used by pasta and couscous makers. Bulgur wheat also made its way to various European countries for flour, bread, baking, and cereal. Overseas grain exports go through Gavilon Grain and Riverland Ag-Duluth Storage; they represent two of the five grain elevators still moving products through the Great Lakes Seaway System.



Pictured L-R: William Mielke, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) Advisory Board Member; Captain Arthur Sulzer, SLSDC Advisory Board Member; David McMillan, Chairman, SLSDC Advisory Board; Betty Sutton, Administrator (center), SLSDC; Vanta Coda, Executive Director, Port of Duluth - Superior; Fred Shusterich, President, Midwest Energy Resources Co.; and Jonathan Lamb, President, Lake Superior Warehousing Co.

Congratulations to the Port of Cleveland earning its 13th Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter Award. Last year the port shipped more than 463,000 tons of freight through the Seaway, a 35 percent increase over the 2013 navigation season. That's about 84 ships arriving from 10 countries with cargo of heavy machinery, presses, steel pipe, rods, plates, coils, and beams used for the shale gas industry in the tri-state region.

One commodity reflecting a significant increase is the arrival of steel pipe from Belgium. This commodity is essential to the fast-evolving shale gas industry that has bloomed in eastern Ohio over the past couple of years.

The tonnage increase was not coincidental—it resulted from carefully planned investment in port infrastructure, increasing the awareness of the ports capabilities worldwide and the establishment of the Cleveland Europe Express service. The 2014 navigation season marked the kickoff of the only container liner service in the Great Lakes Seaway System. This service represents a breakthrough for Great Lakes shipping. It is one of the most positive economic development initiatives in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System in many years.



Pictured L-R: Bob Smith, Port of Cleveland board member; Will Friedman, Port Director, Port of Cleveland; Harriet Applegate, Port of Cleveland board member; Chris Ronayne, Port of Cleveland Board Chairman; Betty Sutton, Administrator, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation; Jan Roller, Port of Cleveland board member; Paul Hoogenboom, Port of Cleveland board member; and Anthony Moore, Port of Cleveland board member.

Congratulations to the Toledo Port Authority for earning its 14th Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter Award.

Last year the port shipped more than 1,205,199 tons of freight through the Seaway, a 37 percent increase over the 2013 navigation season. That is about 55 port calls from ships arriving from 10 countries loaded with shipments of iron ore, aluminum, pig iron, sugar, salt, steel coils, wire rods, and fertilizer. The last time the port received this many ocean going vessels was back in 2005.

In 2014, the Port opened the new 180 acre Ironville marine terminal—over 277,000 tons were shipped through the facility in its first full season. The cargo tonnage was a mix of both interlake and international trade.



SLSDC Administrator Betty Sutton presents the Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter award plaque to Nadeem Salem (left), Board of Directors Chair, and Paul Toth (right), Port Director, Toledo Port Authority.

Congratulations to all the Great Lakes Port recipients! ■■■

Personnel News



The Port of Cleveland recently hired **Jade Davis** as Vice President of External Affairs. He will be responsible for implementing and managing the Port's government relations and communications efforts. The position will focus on local, state, and federal issues of concern to the Port; stakeholder engagement; and strategic media efforts.

Mr. Davis comes from the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity (ACCCE), based in Washington, DC, where he served as Senior Director of State Affairs and Outreach. During his tenure at ACCCE, Davis managed various state and federal legislative issues, as well as the development of strategic outreach initiatives, and lead the engagement of environmental and electricity regulators throughout the United States. His career path also included the roles of Legislative and Economic Development Liaison for the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and Policy Analyst for the Ohio Senate.

Welcome to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System!

Anita Blackman, Senior Advisor to the Administrator, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation is now working for the National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA). Anita worked 21 years for the Seaway Corporation. She will be greatly missed but we wish her well.



U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Anthony Foxx, pictured (L-R) with Sal Pisani and SLSDC Administrator Betty Sutton.

After almost 16 years as the Associate Administrator, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC), **Sal Pisani**, will be retiring at the end of November.

In 1980 Sal joined the NYS Port Authority System as the Director of Trade Development and in 1983 he was port operation director for the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority. In 1983 he was executive director of the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, operating rail, airport operations, industrial development, international bridge operations and port operations. In 2000 he joined the SLSDC.

Sal is excited to start his new life journey by traveling, spending time with his family and grandchildren, and of course catching up on his 'honey-to-do-list'. Sal, we wish you well and smooth sailings! ■■■

Upcoming Events

November

November 18-19, 2015

Hwy H₂O Conference 2015

Toronto, Ontario

Contact: Kelly DiPardo (905) 641-1932 (ext. 5377) or kdipardo@seaway.ca

December

December 3

Great Lakes Stakeholder Appreciation Reception

Montreal, Quebec

Contact: Kyle Savage (202) 366-0898 or kyle.savage@dot.gov

February

February 9-10

Great Lakes Waterways Conference

Cleveland, OH

Info: <http://www.maritimemeetings.com/great-lakes-waterways-conference.php>