

WATERFRONT HERITAGE



CELEBRATE OUR STORY

Vol. 14 No. 2
April 2026



Website
waterfrontheritage.ca
Facebook
Community Waterfront Heritage
Centre, Owen Sound

Art by Sue Allison

Spring 2026

The harbour is clear of ice and snow is almost gone, which means the next season at the museum is upon us!

We're excited to be gearing up for the coming summer and can't wait to get started!

Read on for updates about plans for the Chi-Cheemaun departure, new opportunities for volunteers, and more!

Zack McLean
Curator & Manager



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Ship Watch

The seasonal Seaway closure means that we haven't had any visitors to the harbour since our last newsletter. The St. Lawrence Seaway and Soo Locks are both open as of March 25th, so there may be some activity before too long.

The *Chi-Cheemaun* is scheduled to depart for the 2026 season on April 30. Before then, it will be hosting the Cruise and Connect and Sunset cruises.

The harbour's first shipment of the year often arrives in May, so we'll be keeping an eye out!

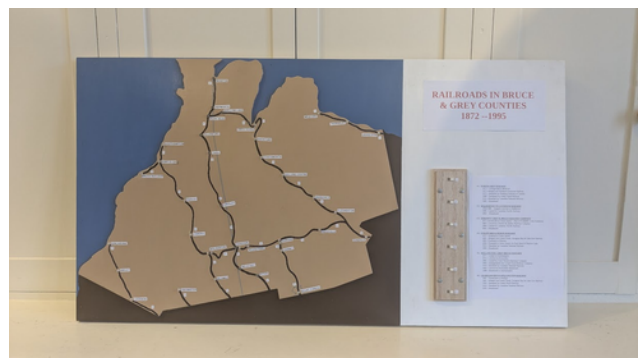


Railways of Bruce & Grey

We have a new addition to our Railway Gallery! "Railways of Bruce & Grey Counties" is an interactive display created by Robert Pawley. It shows the various lines that were present in the region.

The switches on the right light up the stations on different lines, indicating which communities were accessible on each route. Still to come is an accompanying booklet that will provide more information on each line and the stations they featured.

The materials for the project were donated by Miller Hardware in Sauble Beach.



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Chi-Cheemaun Departure

Join us in sending off the Chi-Cheemaun! The Big Canoe will be leaving to begin its 52nd ferry season on April 30 at 12:00pm.

Enjoy free admission to the museum as you wait to board the repositioning cruise or watch from the shore!

April 30

10am-1pm

Free

Email info@waterfrontheritage.ca to learn more.



PA Day

Visit the museum for the April 24th PA Day to enjoy crafts and scavenger hunts for the day off school!

Friday, April 24

Email info@waterfrontheritage.ca to learn more.



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See Yourself Here: Become Part of Owen Sound's Story

Join the CWHC Volunteer Team by becoming a member of one of our committees!

We are looking for volunteers interested in joining the following committees: Events, Fundraising, and Promotion committees. Help us plan and execute programs, find new donors and funding sources, or spread the word about the museum!

Interested in getting involved? Email info@waterfrontheritage.ca to find out about these opportunities and other volunteer roles!



Membership Renewals

It's time to renew your VIP membership! Sign up for your membership at the museum, online using the QR code, or by sending an e-transfer to info@waterfrontheritage.ca.

Memberships are \$25 for an individual or \$45 for a family.

Please make cheques out to the Community Waterfront Heritage Centre



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/community-waterfront-heritage-centre-vip-membership>

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Shipping Changes to Come?

There is a chance that our visitors to the harbour will change this year. The *Saginaw*, which delivers shipments of grain to Owen Sound, has its fate up in the air. Lower Lakes Towing, which owns the *Saginaw*, is being purchased by the Algoma Central Corporation. Algoma is one of Canada's largest shipping companies, and owns the *Algoma Compass* which is currently docked in the harbour.

The purchase of Lower Lakes could just mean that the *Saginaw* shows up with a new logo and maybe a new coat of paint. However, a lot of discussion online has theorized that Algoma is more interested in Lower Lakes' contracts than their aging fleet.

This theory is supported, according to some, by Algoma's sale of the *Manitoulin* to McKeil Marine. Many consider the *Manitoulin* to be the best of Lower Lakes' ships, making its sale odd if Algoma plans to operate the rest of the fleet.

While we enjoy the classic Laker design of the *Saginaw*, that design also shows the ship's age. Built in 1953, the freighter is only 11 years younger than the *Alpena*, the current oldest freighter on the Lakes.

What do you think? Is the *Saginaw* here to stay for a while longer? Or have we seen the last of this classic Laker?



The *Saginaw* arriving at night for the first shipment of 2023



The *Algoma Compass* during layup in 2025

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Become a VIP Member Today!

\$25 Individual

\$45 Family

\$55 Business

Thank You

Thank you to all those who have already shown up to the museum in 2026! Whether you've volunteered, visited, renewed your membership, or shown your support in some other way, we look forward to seeing more of you in 2026!

Follow us online!

Website: waterfrontheritage.ca

Facebook: Community Waterfront Heritage Centre, Owen Sound

Instagram: [waterfrontheritagecentre_](https://www.instagram.com/waterfrontheritagecentre_)

YouTube: Community Waterfront Heritage Centre



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