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## St. Lawrence Seaway records dismal season

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MONTREAL - The St. Lawrence Seaway suffered a dismal shipping season in 2001. Analysts are predicting a continued slump in cargo volumes next year as well.

Cargo volume was down 11.4 per cent in 2001.

Seaway president Guy Veronneau blamed the poor season on a slump in the steel industry, a poor grain harvest on the Prairies and low water levels on the Great Lakes.

Veronneau says the next five years will be "very challenging".

Coal was the only transport commodity to grow in volume over the previous year.

The seaway closed its locks on Monday after the final ship passed through the system at St-Lambert, Quebec.

The system is scheduled to reopen on March 26.

Written by CBC News Online staff

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