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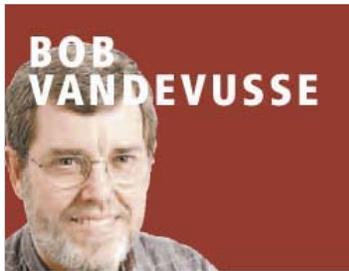
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E - Edition **Events** **Extra**

COLUMN - Construction on new lock in Sault Ste. Marie begins June 30

Photos



"Along the Waterfront" writer Bob VandeVusse is a Holland resident. Contact him through the Sentinel at newsroom@hollandsentinel.com or (616)546-4278.

By **BOB VANDEVUSSE**
Holland Sentinel columnist
Posted Jun 14, 2009 @ 04:30 AM

Holland, MI — We had a quiet week in Holland harbor, but that is about to change. We are expecting a return visit by the Herbert C. Jackson on Monday or Tuesday. Yesterday afternoon the Jackson was at the CSX coal dock in Toledo, waiting for its cargo to arrive by train. The run from Toledo to Holland takes roughly 48 hours for the vessel, so I expect we will see it here Monday evening at the earliest.

Then we will most likely wait close to a week for another vessel. We have a coal shipment from the KCBX dock in Chicago scheduled for late this week or early next week. We expect to see that load arrive on a Lower Lakes vessel.

We still have no word on when we might expect our first stone delivery. The stone trade continues to be very slow. The Lake Carrier's Association announced last week that the volume of stone moved in May was down 35% from the same period last year and 50% from May of 2007. It will likely stay at those levels until construction in the region picks up.

Speaking of construction, the Army Corps of Engineers has announced that the first phase of construction on the long-awaited new lock at Sault Ste. Marie will begin on June 30. There will be a public open house at the locks from 9:00 a.m. until noon that day. The formal ground breaking ceremony is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. for the \$1.9 million project, and the public is invited.

Tab Construction Company of Canton, Ohio will be constructing cofferdams at each end of the Sabin and Davis locks. This will allow for the eventual demolition of the two old and small locks to make way for a second lock capable of handling 1000-foot vessels. Currently only the Poe lock can handle vessels of that size. If it were out of commission for any reason, maritime commerce on the Great Lakes would come to a virtual stand still. The cofferdams will allow the construction to take place in a dry environment and allow the continued operation of the Poe and MacArthur locks while the new lock is built. He price tag on the complete project is \$580 million.

If you are looking for something closer to home next weekend, South Haven will be celebrating their Harbor Fest. As part of the festivities on Saturday, the Michigan Maritime Museum is sponsoring an antique and classic boat show. Other events include dragon boat races and cruises on the tall ship Friends Good Will.
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