

Soo Locks To Break Ground for New Poe-sized Lock Tuesday

By Jonathan Eppley

Fourteen shovels will be thrust into the ground in Sault Ste. Marie Tuesday, June 30, to signify the first dirt turned on a \$580 million project to build a new Soo Lock. Governor Jennifer Granholm, Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, Congressman Bart Stupak, and Sault Ste. Marie Mayor Anthony Bosbous will be among the diggers on hand to usher in the project, which is expected to take at least 10 years to complete, depending on funding. The new lock will be the same size as the 41-year-old Poe Lock and able to accommodate the largest ships traveling on the Great Lakes.

A public open house is planned for Friday, June 30, from 9 a.m. to noon at the locks to celebrate the groundbreaking. The actual groundbreaking of the new lock will start at 10 a.m. on the strip of land between the Poe and Davis Locks. About 300 people are expected to attend the open house and groundbreaking ceremony.

Funding for the new lock, which is unnamed, will be dependent on government appropriations year by year. About \$17 million was appropriated for the project this year, with the majority, about \$15 million, going toward design. The lock will be built in sections as subsequent

appropriations are accrued.

An estimated 15,000 jobs are expected to be created during construction of the new lock.

Almost \$2 million of the remaining 2009 appropriation was awarded, via the Detroit District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to T.A.B. Construction Company of Canton, Ohio, June 9, to begin construction on the project. The company will build coffer dams to block water flow into the Sabin Lock, which is the lock closest to the Canadian border, so workers will be able to construct the new lock in a dry environment. Construction and installment of coffer at both ends of

the Sabin Lock is expected to take about one year.

The new lock will replace the Davis and Sabin Locks, which are both inoperable, with one Poe-sized lock.

The 90-year-old Sabin Lock will essentially be widened 30 feet, from 80 to 110 feet, and deepened nine feet, from 23 to 32 feet. The distance between the lock gates will be shortened by 150 feet, decreasing from 1,350 to 1,200 feet in length.

Al Klein, area engineer at the Sault Ste. Marie Office of the Corps of Engineers, said the Davis Lock, which is the oldest of the four commercial locks, will be filled in,

increasing the amount of land between the Poe and newly constructed lock. The Davis, MacArthur, and Poe Locks were constructed in 1914, 1943, and 1968, respectively.

Groundbreaking on the new lock comes on the heels of the Locks' annual Engineering Day Friday, June 26, which is the one day out of the year the public is allowed to cross the gates of the locks onto the area between the MacArthur and Poe Locks to watch the vessels pass through, up close. The public will also be allowed to cross over the lock gates for the groundbreaking ceremony.

About 8,460 vessels passed through the locks last year, carrying 80.6 million tons of cargo, including iron ore, coal, and stone.

"This is a very significant day in the long life of this project as we now move to the actual construction phase," Corps Project Manager John Niemiec said.

Integral to the national and international transportation system, the Poe Lock is the largest in the Western Hemisphere and the busiest lock in the world. The only one capable of handling the largest freighters, the Poe lock handles two-thirds of all freight that goes through the Soo Locks.

Cedarville Postmaster Honored

Francis King Recognized for 36 Years of Service

By Jonathan Eppley

Cedarville Postmaster Francis King, 55, has worked for the U.S. government his entire adult life. He served aboard a destroyer in the U.S. Navy in the mid-1970s, and has worked for the U.S. Postal Service for three decades since. In his 33-year tenure with the postal service, he has worked at nine different post offices in northern Michigan.

Mr. King was recognized for his 36 years of combined governmental service Tuesday, June 2, at Cedarville post office, where he has been postmaster since 2003. Cris Hammer, the post office operations manager for northern Michigan, and Charles Howe, the manager of the Greater Michigan District, surprised Mr. King with a bronzed eagle statuette and certificate commemorating his dedicated service.

"I didn't know what they were here for until they actually told me," Mr. King said. "I knew they were coming up for something in the Soo for something that day, but when they came here they kind of caught me by surprise."

Mr. King, originally from Sault Ste. Marie, began his public service career when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1972. Four years later, a year after he was discharged, he returned to his hometown to work at the U.S. Postal Service branch.

During his career, he has been transferred 12 times to nine different post office branches. He began his postal career in Sault Ste. Marie in 1976, and has worked at branches in Brimley, Cedarville, DeTour, Kalkaska, Petoskey, Pickford, Rudyard, and Traverse City, working at the branches in Sault Ste. Marie, Brimley, and Cedarville on more

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Francis King (left) is presented with an eagle statuette and certificate from Cris Hammer, northern Michigan Post Office operations manager for the U.S. Postal Service, for 36 years of combined governmental service. Mr. King has been the postmaster in Cedarville since 2003. (Photograph courtesy of Cris Hammer)

St. Ignace Workers Prepared To Share Fireworks Information

By Mark Tower

Employees from St. Ignace area businesses received short workshops last week that focused on speaking with visitors about this summer's festivals and fireworks programs. The workshops, which were hosted by St. Ignace Friends of Fireworks and offered July 16, 17, and 23, suggested ways for employees who have direct contact with visitors to promote the summer activities.

Workers from Arnold Transit and First National Bank took advantage of these workshops, which were offered free by Chris Shepler of Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry. Other business owners and managers who sit on the Festivals and Fireworks committee also gave their own presentations to employees.

The main purpose of the sessions, according to Mr. Shepler, was to be sure everyone in town is informed about weekly events this summer.

"We need to stay consistent with our message," he said, "so we're all speaking the same language."

That message focuses on making front-line employees in St. Ignace knowledgeable about the 10-week program of Saturday fes-

tivals, each wrapping up at dusk with fireworks over Moran Bay.

Questions these workers may be called on to answer, Mr. Shepler said, could include where to watch fireworks from, what time they start each night, how long they last, what else is going on each weekend, what to do in case of inclement weather, what costs may be included, and if pet owners need to be concerned about noise.

The fireworks will be launched from Shepler's freight ferry afloat on Moran Bay, starting each Saturday night at dusk. On July 4, the show is expected to last about 26 minutes, and each other show is expected to last about 18 minutes.

Anywhere in town overlooking the bay will give viewers a front row seat, and sites along the boardwalk, including Wawatam Lighthouse and Kiwanis Beach, would be especially good viewing points.

He also stressed the importance of informing visitors about other things they can do during the day leading up to the fireworks. The daytime festivals promoted alongside the fireworks include Fourth of July festivities, the Red Hacker Basketball Tournament, St. Ignace

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Godwin To Say Goodbye to Biscayne Bay



Three-year commanding officer of the U.S. Coast Guard icebreaking tug *Biscayne Bay* Lieutenant Cary Godwin is heading to his next assignment in New London, Connecticut. A Change of Command ceremony will take place Friday, July 10, when Lt. Matthew Walter will become the vessel's 14th commander. Also leaving the ship will be Lt. Godwin's dog, Boomer, who has traveled with the 19-man crew since he was six weeks old.

Commander Looks Back on Icebreaking Duty

By Karen Gould

In about two weeks, the Coast Guard cutter *Biscayne Bay* and its 19-man crew will have a new commanding officer. Lieutenant Cary Godwin will turn over the ship to Lt. Matthew Walter in a ceremony Friday, July 10,

"It's been a lot of fun," said Lt. Godwin of his three-year stint on the icebreaking tug. "I've loved every second of it, that's for sure. We've got a great crew and we've had some great times."

Lt. Godwin is the 13th commander of the 140-foot vessel that was commissioned December 8, 1979. He became commander in July 2006.

"Personal character is important to me," he said. "I remember my mom and dad telling me, 'Just tell the truth the first time. You might get in trouble, but it's not going to be as bad.'"

Doing the right thing, being honest, working as a team, and giving 100% effort in all tasks is required, he tells each new member. The ship, which is at the end of her service life, requires a lot of work, he said.

"We don't have the luxury of somebody not pulling their weight," said Lt. Godwin, "so it is vitally important that the guys give me 100% effort."

As commander, he said, he has

faced two challenges as a leader. Early on, he sought knowledge of when not to interfere, even when a crew member was about to make a mistake. When he first took command, he had to learn to know when to step in and take over a situation that was going well. People are always learning, and for people to learn, they have to make mistakes, he said. As commander, he has to be able to let them make some mistakes, he said.

Becoming complacent in the task is the second challenge he has faced as commander. During the end of icebreaking season, he said, it is easy to become used to the daily dangers of icebreaking

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Zike Leaving; Ship Gets New Executive Officer

By Karen Gould

Lieutenant Joshua Zike, executive officer aboard the St. Ignace-based Coast Guard cutter *Biscayne Bay*, is trading in his foul weather gear for textbooks. The Coast Guard will send him this fall to Indian University's Kelley School of Business, where he will pursue a master's degree in business administration. He aspires to work in financial management at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C.

"I'm very excited," he said of his college assignment. "It's something I've always wanted to do."

For the last two years, Lt. Zike, 27, has been assigned to *Biscayne Bay*.

"I've really enjoyed the icebreaking job," he said. "We've had a great crew. It's just been a great experience all the way around. I've enjoyed living in St. Ignace and experiencing northern Michigan."

He grew up in South Dakota and entered the service in 2001. Before coming to St. Ignace, he was stationed on the cutter *Aspen*, a sea-going buoy tender based in San Francisco.

"I've enjoyed it up here," he said. "It puts things in a different perspective, coming from San Francisco to St. Ignace. It makes

me appreciate the things that St. Ignace has a lot more, coming from a larger city."

He has appreciated the safety of the area, the low crime rate, and the absence of traffic gridlock. He also values the warmth of the community and the friendships he has made in the neighborhood where he lives when the ship is in port.

He will miss the small town atmosphere, he said, where people offer a greeting at the grocery

store or when driving by.

"It's good to be in a small town where you can wave to people and they wave back," he said.

When the *Biscayne Bay* is underway, Lt. Zike's onboard roommate is Chief Warrant Officer John Ellis.

The crew on the boat is like a family, and he will miss most the teamwork and close friendships

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Lieutenant Matthew Saldivar (left) began his first day of training aboard the Coast Guard cutter *Biscayne Bay* Thursday, June 18. He is replacing Lt. Joshua Zike (right) as executive officer of the 140-foot cutter, whose primary mission is Great Lakes icebreaking. Lt. Zike has been selected by the Coast Guard to attend graduate school. His last day onboard the ship was Wednesday, June 24.

Missing Boy Found in Moran

Police have found a 13-year-old boy who was reported missing at 6 p.m. Monday, June 22, in Moran. William Pierce Miller was found Tuesday, June 23, at a residence, the Michigan State Police reported, and no foul play was involved in his brief disappearance.

Mr. Miller is from Linden and has been visiting his grandparents, who reported him missing when they returned to their home and could not find him.

State and local police searched for the boy all night, June 22, around his grandparents' home and the nearby woods with helicopters, canine units, and ground units, reported Lieutenant Dave Hopper of the St. Ignace Post.

He was found at a nearby friend's house around 11 a.m. Tuesday. The friend was not well-known to his family. He told his friend's family that he had received permission to sleep over.

The family contacted the Michigan State Police when they heard the youth had been reported missing.

More EAB Traps Put Up in St. Ignace

Michael Ayala

Research is advancing on infestations of the emerald ash borer in St. Ignace and Moran, and researchers are already learning that the insect's patterns are different in the U.P. than in lower Michigan, perhaps owing to cooler weather here. For two different studies, they have placed more purple insect traps in trees around St. Ignace in the past two weeks, and want to learn if a different combination of bait oil will increase the effectiveness of the traps.

Also, insecticide will be injected in ash trees at the St. Ignace Straits State Park and in Moran during the week of June 22, said Bernard Hubbard, president of the Society of American Foresters. The injections are part of an ongoing effort to prevent the emerald ash borer, an insect that infests and kills ash trees, from growing in number. Of 115 trees that will be treated in St. Ignace, 50 will be in Straits State Park. One hundred more trees will be injected around Moran.

Small holes are drilled into the base of the trunk into which a pesticide called TREE-age (*emamectin benzoate*) is injected. The tree absorbs the poison in its xylem tissue and spreads it through its vascular system up into its leaves. The poison does not harm the tree, nor does it harm other animals, but the ash borers that eat the leaves ingest the poison and are killed. Eggs laid in the bark of the tree will be destroyed by the pesticide, as well.

Infestations were found in Straits State Park several years ago, and another infestation was found in an ash tree near the St. Ignace Tiki RV Park and Campground last fall. With research continuing, no new infestations have been discovered in St. Ignace, Mr. Hubbard said.

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