

Upper Lakes Shipping Ltd. fonds

1955-1990, n.d. (non-inclusive)

RG 75-52

Brock University Archives

Creator: Ontario Editorial Bureau

Extent: 50 cm textual material (1 1/2 boxes)
12 col. photos
8 b&w negatives
12 col. negatives
3 b&w contact sheets

Abstract: This archive contains materials relating to the Upper Lakes Shipping Ltd. The bulk of the materials are correspondence. The collection also contains some media releases.

Materials: Typed and handwritten correspondence, media releases, clippings, photographs.

Repository: Brock University Archives

Processed by: Jen Goul and Anne Adams

Last updated: April 2015

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Preferred Citation: RG 75-52 The Upper Lakes Shipping Ltd. fonds, 1966-1982, n.d., Brock University Archives.

Acquisition Info: This archive is part of the Ontario Editorial Bureau fonds, donated by Lou Cahill in November 1997.

History: In March 1931, Captain Bruce Angus was sent to Sarnia by Gordon C. Leitch, general manager of Toronto Elevators. He was sent to inspect the *Sarnian* to ensure it was still seaworthy.

Leitch was a savvy business man, who had been active in the business community for a number of years. Leitch began his career with a partner in the lumber business. When that went under he moved into graineries and worked for the Winnipeg Wheat Pool for 12 years. After Winnipeg he

moved to Toronto, which was closer to his home town of Ridgeway, Ontario. In Toronto Leitch became manager of the Toronto branch of the Canadian Wheat Pool. While managing the wheat pools in Toronto Leitch became aware of huge costs associated with shipping the grains from the prairies into the Toronto area. He felt that there was no need for such costs and decided to do something to make them better and cheaper for the business.

Originally the grain was loaded onto Lakers that would bring the grain from the prairies to Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. It was stored there until needed by the Toronto graineries and then hauled across land by either truck or train. The land journey was the most expensive and the one which Leitch wanted to eliminate. This was a fine plan except for 2 obstacles that were quickly overcome. First of all the Welland canals were not large enough to accommodate the large carriers that were bringing in the grain. This was changing as the expansion and widening of the canals was already underway. The second issue was the lack of storage in Toronto for the grain. The grain elevators had been destroyed by fire in the late 1880s and never replaced. Leitch proposed his company built its own storage elevators along the water front to allow not only for easier access to the grain, and more timely production of products. The elevators would also create a reduction in shipping costs and an overall more competitive price for the customers of the grainery. The company refused, so Leitch went elsewhere to friends and contacts within the grain industry. The elevators were built and Leitch quit his job with the Canadian Wheat Pool and became the general manager of the elevators.

Although the elevators were built and ready for storage the next issue was filling them. None of the carriers wanted to do business with Leitch because the competition in Georgian Bay threatened to cancel their contracts if they did. Leitch saw no way around this, but to provide his own transportation. This is when he sent Captain Bruce Angus to scout out potential ships.

The ship was purchased for \$37,000 and after another \$30,000 was spent to fix it up, it was ready for business. The need for transportation and the finding of a seaworthy ship, led to the beginnings of the Northland Steamship Company. The *Sarnian* proved to not be enough for the business underway. Leitch decided another ship was necessary. He joined forces with James Norris the owner of the Norris Grain Company. He proposed they join forces to create a more economical means of transporting their products.

Upper Lakes 1932-1982 by Wally Macht SPCL HE 945 U598 M33

Scope and Content: The fonds contain materials relating to the Upper Lakes Shipping Company Ltd. The materials included are media releases, clippings, correspondence, and promotional materials. The materials were placed in

alphabetical order within a series and chronological order within designated titles. Original folder titles were retained.

Organization: The records were arranged into four series:

Series I. Correspondence, 1958-1980

Series II. Press Releases, 1959-1965, 1967-1970, 1973-1976, 1978-1979, 1981-1982

Series III. Promotional Materials, 1955, 1958-1963, 1966-1967, 1973-1974, 1976, 1979-1982, 1990, n.d.

Series IV. Photos, 1962, 1973, 1981, 1987, n.d.

Inventory:

Series I. Correspondence, 1958-1980

- 1.1 Correspondence, 1958
- 1.2 Correspondence including suggested notes to Mr. Churchill at the Christening and Commissioning of the *Seaway Queen*, 1959
- 1.3 Correspondence including *Seaway Problems* by Captain S.J. Tischart, an address by G.M. Schuthe regarding some aspects affecting the outlook for Canadian Great Lake shipping and a History of Upper Lakes Shipping, 1960
- 1.4 Correspondence including captains' and engineers' meeting – questions and answers, a summary of papers given at the senior officers' meeting, remarks of P.G. Kinsburgh at the senior officers' meeting and remarks of J.D. Leitch at the senior officers' meeting. Included in this file is a memo issued to employees regarding the “untrue statements” issued by the executive of the S.I.U. regarding an employee and the vessels the *Wheat King* and the *Northern Venture*. There is also a list regarding the picketing of ships, 1961
- 1.5 Correspondence regarding the Three Rivers space including a statement by William Dodge, a list of St. Lawrence Seaway Authority officials and an outline of the Upper Great Lakes Shipping Ltd. Project. There is also a commentary by Roy Jacques and an article on the Upper Lakes dispute, 1962

- 1.6 Included is the text of a commentary by Leslie Roberts and an announcement of the Jones Bardelmeier Clements and Company Ltd. for ocean bulk shipping. A speech by J.D. Leitch on Transportation of Coal by Water is also included. Other correspondence addresses the Great Lakes Maritime dispute, 1963
- 1.7-1.8 Correspondence regarding the Christening ceremonies of *The Cape Breton Miner* and *Hull 35*. Included is a supplementary statement of executive council on Maritime trustee developments and Hal Banks being removed from the presidency of the SIU. Jan Furst is appointed as Vice President and General Manager of the Port Weller Dry Docks. There is also an article entitled *How Upper Lakes Shipping Ltd. Met the Seaway's Challenge*, 1964
- 1.9 Correspondence, 1965
- 1.10 Text of remarks by George F. Bain on *A New Welland Canal* and information on Captain R. Bruce Angus, 1966
- 1.11 Correspondence regarding the commissioning of Hull 41 and *The History of Upper Lakes Shipping Ltd. and Some Remarks on the Early Canallers* by Captain R. Bruce Angus, 1967-1968
- 1.12 Correspondence including notes about the demise of three vessels: *The Victorious*, *Howard L. Shaw* and *Douglas Houghton*. Also included are *Activities in Great Lakes Research* and *The Good Old Days of Shipboard Engineering*, 1969
- 1.13 Includes a report by E. Curwain on the Users Conference of Great Lakes and Seaway, 1970-1971
- 1.14 Correspondence and clippings regarding the Upper Lakes buying 5 ships at \$25 million. Included is an article entitled *John Irwin Aboard the Quebecois*. There is also an announcement regarding the appointment of Captain James B. Hartford as vice president of vessel operations, Captain David N. Lamb as superintendent of traffic and William C. Gulbranson as shore captain, 1972-1973
- 1.15 Includes notes regarding a talk by Mr. Paul Normandeau, President of the St. Lawrence Seaway on the 150th anniversary of the turning of the sod for the Welland Canal at Allanburg (Thorold), 1974-1975
- 1.16 This file includes a copy of the *Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Newsletter* which deals with the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence. The Christening of the *Canadian Olympic* is also included, 1 b&w photo, 1976-1977

- 1.17 Much of the correspondence in this file regards *The Ship-Shore News*. There is also an article entitled *World War II at Sea*, 1978-1979
- 1.18 This file includes a long range public relations/communication strategy for Upper Lakes Shipping Limited, 1980

Series II. Press Releases, 1959-1965, 1967-1970, 1973-1976, 1978-1979, 1981-1982

- 1.19 Press releases including: The change of name from Upper Lakes and St. Lawrence Transportation Co. Ltd. to Upper Lakes Shipping Ltd; the election of L.R. Davidson as president of the Three Rivers Grain and Elevator Company; an announcement of the new superintending engineer, William Andrew O'Neil; Facts about the Upper Lakes Shipping Ltd; the formation of a General Freight Division designed to handle cargo on the Great Lakes; the appointment of 18 captains and 20 chief engineers for the 1961 navigation season; an announcement of a new type of container for shipping; the illegal picketing of the *Wheat King*; the appointment of W.W. Schurdell as the U.S. representative for Upper Lakes Shipping, Toronto and the dismissal of charges against Captain Clyde Clattenburg of the *Northern Venture*, 1959-1961
- 1.20 Press releases including: An investigation into the violence on the Great Lakes; construction on a two million bushel to grain elevator storage; the text of Mr. Jodoin's letter to the Prime Minister; draft of a story explaining the Upper Lakes position; the opening of Maple Leaf Mills in Port Colborne; the appointment of Lawson A. Kaake as vice president and general manager of Upper Lakes Shipping Limited; appointment of captains and chief engineers for 1962 and 1963 seasons; a new ship to transport Nova Scotia coal (*Hull 35*); a memorandum of procedures for the keel laying ceremony of *Hull 35* and *Transportation of Coal by Water* by J.D. Leitch, 1962-1963
- 1.21 Press releases including: an announcement of the Christening and commission of the *Cape Breton Miner*; a biography of J.D. Leitch; *Economic Problems of Canadian Shipping* by George F. Bain; information on the *S.S. Power* and *Features of the Ontario Power* by Jan Furst, 1964-1965
- 1.22 Press releases including: The arrival of *The Ontario Power* and *The Seaway Queen* at American Lake Erie ports; Janice Nicholls is the first woman to enroll in the new marine technology course at Georgian College; announcements of appointments of masters and chief engineers; ships' speed limits are reduced; address on the launching of the *Canadian Olympic*; facts about the *Canadian Olympic*; keel laying of the *M.V.*

Arctic, Duncan Maxwell is appointed executive vice president of Upper Lakes Shipping Limited; an announcement of the Christening of the *M.V. Pioneer* and *Partnership in the Ports* by Pierre A.H. Franche, 1967-1970, 1973-1976, 1978-1979, 1981-1982

Series III. Promotional Material includes pamphlets, informational booklets, clippings, 1955, 1958-1963, 1966-1967, 1973-1974, 1976, 1979-1982, 1990, n.d.

- 2.1 Naval and Marine special film list; *Upper Lakes and St. Lawrence Digest*; *The Journal of Commerce St. Lawrence Seaway* souvenir; *When the Seaway Comes.....the Dream and the Reality* by Allan Kent, 1955, 1958-1959, n.d.
- 2.2 Upper Lakes Shipping Ltd. Digest; clippings regarding the strike; Representatives Press Reports on the Great Lakes Shipping Inquiry; an extract from the Official Record of Industrial Disputes Commission as to Shipping in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River System; Representative Newspaper Editorials on the Norris Report into the Disruption of Shipping on the Great Lakes and Christening of the *M.V. Canadian Century*, 1960-1963, 1966-1967
- 2.3 New Year's card featuring the *M.V. Canadian Enterprise*; Upper Lakes Shipping – Ships of the Fleet; *Globe and Mail Weekend Magazine* featuring *The Rime of the Fledgling Mariner* by Al Purdy; Christening of the *M.V. Canadian Transport*, 1973-1974, 1976, 1979, n.d.
- 2.4 Information on the SSU 35 Self-Unloading Bulk Carrier; Upper Lakes Shipping booklet; Christening of the *M.V. Pioneer*; Canadian Ports Bill; CSSRA 1981 Annual Report; booklet on the *C.C.G.S. Des Groseilliers* and a booklet entitled *Marine Trade Fair '90*, 1980-1982, 1990, n.d.

Series IV. Photos, 1962, 1973, 1981, 1987, n.d.

- 2.5 Photos of ships including: *Gordon C. Leitch*, *Northern Venture*, *Wheat King*, *Seaway Queen*, *Red Wing*, *Hilda Marjanne*, *James Norris*, *Meaford*, *Col. R. McCormick*, *Canadian Century*, *Golden Hind*, *Valley Camp*, *Cape Breton Miner*, *Maunaloa*, *Canadian Ambassador* and *Arctic*, 52 b&w photos, 3 b&w contact sheets, 12 col. photos, 8 b&w negatives, 12 col. negatives, 1962, 1973, 1981, 1987, n.d.

Added Entries:	600	Leitch, Gordon C.
	600	Leitch, Jack
Subject Access:	610	Ontario Editorial Bureau
	610	Upper Lakes Shipping, Ltd.
	650	Shipping -- Ontario -- History.

- 650 Shipping -- Ontario -- Welland Canal.
 - 650 Shipping -- Saint Lawrence Seaway.
 - 650 Cargo ships -- Great Lakes (North America).
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