

BACKGROUND

Ontario, like many of our neighbours, is facing a crisis in transportation. As roads and borders become more congested, transportation, in terms of safety and its environmental consequences, are increasingly becoming political priorities. However, even with these concerns elevating in political prominence, marine transportation, a more environmentally and low-cost alternative to road and rail transportation, remains highly under-used.

As such, members of Ontario's marine community, including those from ports, carriers, and the St Lawrence Seaway, formed the Ontario Marine Transportation Forum (OMTF) in 2005 with the vision of developing a vibrant, efficient, safe, environmentally sensitive and fully integrated marine transportation system within the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence Seaway system for the benefit of the province of Ontario.

In order to achieve these goals, OMTF has developed three strategic priorities:

1. to increase understanding about Ontario's marine industry through education, increased awareness and research;
2. to integrate marine transportation within Ontario's transportation strategic planning and policy development; and,
3. to work with the Ontario Government to advocate Ontario's marine transportation interests at the federal government level.

Recent OMTF initiatives include:

□ Ontario's first Marine Summit was held on November 28, 2006 in Toronto. The summit was aimed at reviewing the province's marine transportation policy and discussing matters of strategic importance. Approximately 60 leaders from the marine transportation industry attended the Toronto summit, as well as senior officials from the Governments of Ontario, Canada and Quebec

□ An OMTF Ontario Inter-Ministerial group was formed to ensure the Summit's identified priorities were followed up and acted upon.

Members of this table include representatives from the following ministries: Public Infrastructure Renewal, Economic Development and Trade, Environment, Northern Development and Mines, Intergovernmental Affairs and Democratic Renewal, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Training Colleges and Universities.

□ An *Ontario Marine Transportation Advisory Panel* has been created by Ontario's Minister of Transportation, Donna Cansfield, with the goal of providing government with critical information and advice on marine freight movement in the Great Lakes St-Lawrence region of Ontario.

The panel, who will have their inaugural meeting this May, is structured to represent a broad cross-section of interests, including domestic carriers, international carriers, marine shippers, the seaway, major ports, regional ports and the environment.

□ The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation's HWY H2O project is focusing on marketing the Seaway as a transportation alternative. This initiative also involves incentives for new cargoes and an aggressive effort to bring containers into Ontario by

water instead of stopping in Montreal and Halifax and having those containers transported by rail and road to their Ontario destinations.

□ Ports and ship owners are studying the options of car and truck ferry services across the Great Lakes to ease highway and border congestion.

Despite addressing key concerns and taking steps toward promoting Ontario's marine sector as a viable mode of transportation, the marine industry still faces several challenges – not the least of which has been the reduction in scope of the Federal government's support of marine transportation infrastructure and services over the last ten years.

With this in mind, OMTF continues to work toward its objectives of promoting marine transportation and bring awareness to the under-utilized industry.

OMTF FACTS

□ The only association of its kind in Ontario that looks exclusively after Ontario's Marine Transportation sector, the OMTF can provide assistance to journalists looking for information on the province's maritime sector, which can include: story development, provision of resource materials, expert interviews, and industry perspective.

□ Founding Members of the Forum include; The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, Windsor Port Authority, Seaway Marine Transport, Hamilton Port Authority, Thunder Bay Port Authority, Chamber of Maritime of Commerce and the Toronto Port Authority, Federal Marine Terminals, McKeil Marine Limited and Canada Steamship Lines.

OMTF Executive

OMTF President

Wayne Smith, Vice President, Marketing
and Vessel Traffic

Seaway Marine Transport
20 Corporate Park, Suite 300
St. Catharines, ON L2S 3W2
Phone: (905) 988-2600

E-mail:

wsmith@seawaymarinetransport.com

OMTF Vice-President

Keith Robson, President & CEO
Hamilton Port Authority
605 James St. N., 6th Floor
Hamilton, ON L8L 1K1

Phone: (800) 263-2131 – Ext. 248

E-mail: krobson@hamiltonport.ca

OMTF Secretary/Treasurer

Michel Drolet, Vice President

St. Lawrence Seaway Management

Corporation
508 Glendale Avenue
St. Catharines, ON L2R 6V8
Tel: (905) 641-1932

E-mail: mdrolet@seaway.ca

OMTF Director

David Cree, President & CEO

Windsor Port Authority

502-251 Goyeau Street

Windsor, ON N9A 6V2

Phone: (519) 258-5741

E-mail: wpa@portwindsor.com

OMTF Director

Tim Heney, CEO

Thunder Bay Port Authority

100 Main Street

Thunder Bay, Ontario

Canada P7B 6R9

Phone: (807) 345-6400

E-mail: tim@tbport.on.ca

OMTF Director

Lisa Raitt, CEO & Harbourmaster

Toronto Port Authority

60 Harbour St.

Toronto, ON M5J 1B7 Canada

Tel: (416) 863-2000

E-mail: lraitt@torontoport.com

Ex-Officio

Raymond Johnston, President

Chamber of Maritime Commerce

350 Sparks St. Suite 704A

Ottawa, ON K1R 7S8

Tel: (613) 233-8779

E-mail: rjohnston@cmc-ccm.com

595 Bay Street, Suite 1202

Toronto ON, M5G 2C2

Tel. (416) 260-3274 Ext. 5274

Fax (416) 260-2708

www.omtf.org