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## South Shore Breakwater Repairs Near Completion

### Breakwater with Breaches Plugged— October 2023

Back in April we reported that the breakwater repairs would begin in just two weeks. Like everything on this project that timeline got pushed back multiple times this summer. At long last, the work began in October and was to be finished by November 6th. The pictures at the right show the barge in place and the crane lifting huge rocks into place to fill the gaps. There were seven breaches that needed to be filled and the largest one was the third one counting from the north end of the wall. It was the one which posed the greatest danger to the slips at South Shore Yacht Club when storms came through from the Northeast.



### Breakwater with Breaches Filled—October 2023



#### Special points of interest:

- Milwaukee Breakwater Repairs
- Three Locks Complete Repairs
- Great Lakes Waterway Project
- Tom Dogan—Wind Turbines and Wave Walkers—coming soon
- Invasive Species –Maple Leaves?
- Local Festivals on the Michigan Lakeshore

## Three Locks on Illinois River Complete Repairs

This summer the Illinois Waterway had three of its major locks closed for repairs for about 120 days. The repair work closed down Brandon Road Lock, Dresden Island Lock, and Marseilles Lock beginning June 1st and running through the end of September. The repairs were finished in time and on October 1st there was an expected traffic jam of Loopers, pleasure craft, and commercial cargo vessels which all wanted to get through those three locks to continue up or down the river. Commercial traffic gets the priority with lockages and this area has an

annual cargo flow of 140 million tons of commodities on their way to markets and storehouses up or down the river. This leaves only about one lockage per day for pleasure craft such as the Loopers to make it through this bottleneck.

Another problem which faced the Loopers was finding good places to anchor at marinas down the river from the three locks. There were 274 Looper boats that planed to make it through this passage and winter is coming soon right at their backs so they want to get moving. The AGLCA is an organization of Loopers which has tried to coordinate the flow of the

boats through the limited availability of lock time. They made some schedules for groups called Flotillas to transit together in groups of 16 boats leaving Jolliet and moving through the three locks in groups. With 274 boats needing to go through it was expected to take about 17 days for all the boaters to get through the three locks. There was significant pressure from commercial vessels that were all waiting for the same gates to open.

Reports from our yacht clubs in the pool below the locks was that the Looper's boats were flying past them on plane, ignoring the no wake bouys in front of their dockage areas. They were in a big hurry to get south.

## Great Lakes Waterways Project Gets Funding

The Environmental Protection Agency recently announced that part of the billion dollar bi-partisan infrastructure law will be cleaning up the Milwaukee River Estuary. This is the place where the three

rivers of Milwaukee come together, The new funds will go along with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative which is a federal program to clean p areas of concern. Milwaukee's Estuary is one of

the 25 areas of concern that have been targeted for clean up operations. The cleanup efforts will remove 2 million cubic yards of contaminated mud from the river bottoms and restore habitat

along 12 miles of the waterways of the three rivers. The pollution in this area is from PCB's which have settled into the riverbeds from industrial misuse over the years.

### LMYA Officers Elected for 2024

Our Post Office Box:

**LMYA Secretary**

**P.O. Box 631**

**Germantown,**

**WI, 53022**

Commodore: Thomas Dogan

Vice Commodore: Matthew Dogan

Secretary: Jim Mergener

Treasurer: Sally Mergener

Judge Advocate: Thomas Dogan



## Windmills Coming Soon To a View Near You?

Commodore Tom Dogan Gives Feedback From His NAVSAC Duties on Wind Turbines and Wave Machines

Commodore Tom Dogan reports from his meetings with the USCG NAVSAC (Navigational Safety Advisory Council) in Washington DC that he has been working with a committee which was tasked by the USCG as a NAVSAC sub-committee to work on and has now passed a NVIC, (Navigation & Vessel Inspection Circular) regarding “alternative energy sources.” That means windmills, and other non-traditional energy creation devices, (such as wave-powered devices, which have already been tested off the Oregon coastline in the Pacific Ocean.) This NVIC 02-23, involved navigational safety issues from “Alternative Energy Sources” being installed on the oceans and lakes, and covers “all waters under the regulatory auspices of the United States Coast Guard.” Boaters and commercial traffic must be able to navigate around these huge structures which don’t always show up well on radar units or AIS. Wind turbines are much like oil rigs in that they are anchored to the ocean floors but must be able to move up and down with the tides. Many are also floating devices, Tom reports. Recently a ship collided with a large windmill in the Irish Sea. “Manx Ferry Firm Concerned About Wind Farm Plans” was a recent article in an Irish newspaper. The windfarm platforms are constantly emitting sensory soundings to check their positioning. Most recently, these have been blamed for whale deaths, due to alleged confusion

of their sensory organs by the continual pingings of the depth sounding and other devices located on the wind powered energy gathering offshore structures.

*And, perhaps most importantly, some recreational boaters may not prefer their esthetics, and environmental impacts. We at LMYA feel that recreational boaters should have some voice in this controversial subject.*

Many wind-powered devices are now installed or planned off Rhode Island, New York, Delaware, Virginia, and North Carolina. Seventeen large wind-powered energy projects are scheduled to go online along the Atlantic coastline in the next decade. Also serving on the same committee as Tom were industry representatives who indicated that the West Coast of the US, and Great Lakes were planned new territories.

Another type of energy producing machine is the wave walker which draws its energy by capturing the force of wave movements. This would be an especially easy technology to employ on the west coast of the United States where wave action is generally more powerful. Tom predicts that both of these new devices will possibly eventually come to the great lakes. Large areas could eventually be “cordoned off” from navigational or other use.

Large stakeholders are being shut out from the process. Evidence of this is seen in recent articles, i.e. “Michigan House committee ad-

vances wind, solar, permitting bills,” as reported by Bridge Michigan, wherein it was reported that “the vote came after impassioned testimony from bill opponents, with one of them comparing the package to the emergency manager law that stripped towns like Flint Michigan and Detroit of the power to self-govern during times of financial crisis.” “Bill proponents, meanwhile, tout the package as a needed antidote to local conflicts that have doomed wind and solar projects across the state.”

The crux of all of this is the intent to create a “streamlined process” to speed up and enable proponents of windmills and other energy sources to install them without local input, which we at LMYA, as stakeholders in this arena on behalf of recreational boaters on Lake Michigan, intend to be vigilant about.

We at LMYA intend to remain vigilant for you, the recreational Lake Michigan boater, and to remain vested in this arena, just as we helped in the battle against the local steel mills “fish kill” and Lake Michigan water pollution issues recently. Please let us know your thoughts by sending your responses to [info@LMYA.net](mailto:info@LMYA.net) which is available on our website, [LMYA.net](http://LMYA.net).

Commodore Tom Dogan

## Invasive Species? How about Maple Leaves?

Looking out my window during the month of October I have a beautiful display of colored leaves of every size and shape. The only problem is that they all seem to fall down on my yard at the same time. The picture at the right is my back yard, where I am preparing to vacuum up, chop, shred, and bag all of these invasive leaves. I fill a 4 X 8 foot trailer to the top with chopped leaves and take them to the village dump—not just once, but as many as 14 times in one season. Now that’s Invasive for you.

This year has been the hardest in many years because it keeps raining on the leaves before I can get them all chopped and bagged and into that trailer. Even a good wind won’t do the trick because my neighborhood has many trees on both sides of my lot. October fun. Yikes.



## Local Events/Festivals Along The Michigan Lakeshore

Hopefully you have had a great summer on the waters of Lake Michigan and visited a few of the ports which had festivals or special events. In case you missed some, here is a listing of those which occur in Michigan annually. Maybe next year you might want to add some of them to your cruising schedule.

### Bar Harbor

Balloons over Bar Harbor: September

### Charlevoix

Summer Art Show: June

Charlevoix Venetian Festival: July

Charlevoix Apple Festival: October

### Grand Haven

Grand Haven Kite Festival: May

Grand Haven Arts Festival: June

Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival: July

### Holland

Holland Tulip Festival: May

Holland Waterfront Celtic Festival: June

### Ludington

Ludington Freedom Festival: July

Ludington October Fest: Sept/October

### Mackinac Isle

Great Lakes Pirate Festival: June

Lilac Festival: June

Fireworks: July 4

Mackinac Island Fudge Festival: August

### Muskegon

Lakeshore Arts Festival: June

Great Lakes Surf Festival: August

### Saugatuck

Saugatuck Venetian Festival: July

Saugatuck Pirate Weekend: September

### St. Ignace

St. Ignace Highland Festival: June

### St. Joseph

Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff: July