

Port of Oshawa Kicks Off New Shipping Season

OSHAWA – It's the most celebrated season of the year at the Port of Oshawa. With the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway now open, the port is getting set to welcome the first overseas vessel of the 2016 navigation season with a special Top Hat ceremony. In anticipation of last week's opening, ships were lining up.

"As soon as the seaway opened, six ships were waiting to bring in up to 60-thousand metric tonnes of steel to the Port of Oshawa," said Donna Taylor, President and CEO of the Oshawa Port Authority. "It's a great way to start the season."

Steel continues to be the port's leading cargo with over 190-thousand metric tonnes shipped last year. In all, more than more than 378-thousand metric tonnes of cargo moved through the Port of Oshawa in 2015. That's up by almost 6-percent from the previous year.

Over the past two years, the port has made the kind of investments that help it meet the growing needs of its customers, including the \$2.5 million cargo pad on the east port lands that allows it to handle more cargo. The specially designed \$4.1 million rail spur now means the port can move cargo 24/7 and capitalize on the niche project cargo market. And there's more to come.

"The port plans to make the most of its strategic advantages," said Gary Valcour, Chair of the Oshawa Port Authority. "From highway expansion to nuclear power station upgrades, the port is well placed to support new infrastructure investments."

With the expansion of Highway 407 to the east from now to 2020, there's an opportunity for the Port of Oshawa to move more aggregate cargo. The rail spur is also well equipped to support a multi-billion dollar refurbishment of the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station by accommodating oversized components.

"We're excited by the opportunities that the coming year will bring," added Taylor. "We're also very proud of the role that the port continues to play in generating new jobs and keeping the local and regional economy moving." Visit: www.portofoshawa.ca.

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