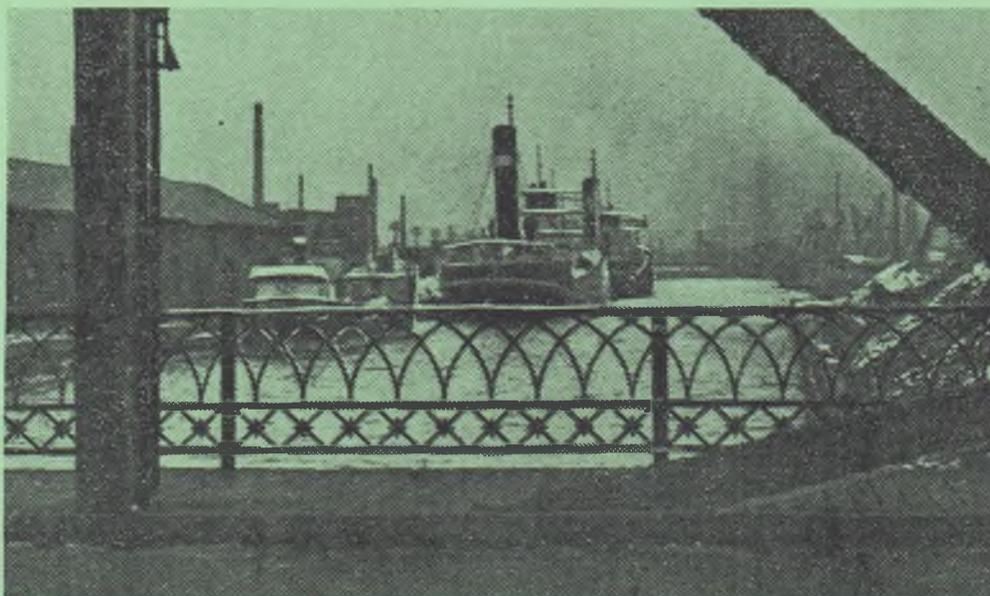


GREAT LAKE MEMORIES

And so to bed, with empty stomachs and hearts that are cold. What strange bed-fellows, these ships that pass in the night and yet are no strangers to almost every one of the lake ports. Lying in Keating's Cut, their picture has been framed by one of the girders of the Cherry street bascule bridge.

The 1932 navigation season came to a very early end. The autumn was stormy and the St. Lawrence canals were so clogged with ice by November 20th that it was thought that some of the canallers trapped in the Cornwall, Soulanges and Lachine Canals might have to spend the entire winter there. Tugs did manage to free them when the extremely cold weather moderated.

The clipping reproduced above, taken from the Jim Kidd scrapbooks, shows part of Toronto's lay-up fleet for the winter of 1932-1933. It is notable for a number of reasons. First of all, it was taken from the old Upper Cherry Street bascule bridge, which was built over the Keating Channel about 1918 and was replaced by a newer bridge, without any overhead superstructure, almost 40 years ago. The Keating Channel itself today is used only for access by tugs and dredges to the Port Authority yard, which would be located on the far right side of the photo above.

Also notable in the photo are three tankers of the British American Oil Company fleet. Moored at the wharf located in front of where the B-A refinery then stood, are two of the full-sized canallers, the closest one being either BRITAMOLENE or BRITAMOIL, while the farther one looks to be either BRITAMLUBE or BRITAMOCO.

Closest to the camera, however, and barely visible above the bridge rail, is BRITAMETTE, then spending her first winter on the lakes and moored alongside the package freight terminal. The Toronto Dry Dock Company has not yet started the rebuilding of BRITAMETTE's cabins, which would be done before she went into service in the spring of 1933.

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It was not uncommon back then for Toronto to host 40 or 50 ships for the winter. Today we are lucky to see one quarter as many laid up here. May we close with a reminder to send us your lay-up listings for this winter by January 23rd latest?

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