

of you our very best wishes for A Very Merry Christmas and for all possible Happiness in the New Year. Take care, dear friends, and may 1996 bring to us all a full measure of love, warmth, good health and success in all of our endeavours.

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LAY-UP LISTINGS

Each winter, we feature in the pages of "Scanner" the lists of the various vessels laid up at our various lake and river ports. This provides a valuable historical record for future readers, and helps our present members to locate ships they might wish to go and see during the lay-up period.

We will run the listings in our February issue, which means that we need your reports as soon after the close of navigation as possible, and at least by January 20th if we are to meet our printing deadline. Please go to your nearest port as soon as possible after the holidays and make a list of every ship wintering there - even if some are expected but still running. Please be very accurate with the names. You may include tugs, ferries, etc., in your list, but please be sure to label them as such.

This is a chance for many members to assist us with our newsletter, so we look forward to hearing from you as early as possible. Of particular interest to us (as sometimes we have had trouble getting reports for some of these places) are the ports at the Lakeheads, on Lake Michigan, and on the south shore of Lake Erie.

Thanks to all for their help with this important project.

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WINTER WEATHER

Last winter was relatively mild, with very little snow in the Toronto area, but can we expect another winter like that? We doubt it! And if the weather on the day of a T.M.H.S. meeting in January, February or March looks so terrible that you are not sure whether to set out or not, you may phone Programme Chairman Gordon Turner (ONLY on the day of the meeting, please) for information at (416) 762-3130.

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A LAKE HURON TRAGEDY

On the night of October 7th, 1895, the steamer AFRICA foundered with the loss of all hands in Lake Huron, 20 miles off the coast of the Bruce Peninsula, and the schooner-barge SEVERN, which she was towing, grounded a half mile off Bradley Harbour and her crew of seven were rescued. The histories of these two vessels are recounted, and the details of their tragic loss explained in a 31-page pamphlet produced by T.M.H.S. member Capt. Gerry Ouderkirk, entitled Shipwrecked on the Bruce Coast. Illustrated with maps, photos and drawings, the book is available at a cost of Canadian \$6.00 (including postage and handling). Those wishing to order should address request and payment to K. Ouderkirk, 4215 Meadowvale Drive, Unit 45, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 5W8.

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Local members can use the Holidays to dig out some slides for our January Theme Slide Night. Remember that our theme is "ice", which may be interpreted in any way you wish. We know that our members have very vivid imaginations, and we expect to be amazed and amused by what they make of this theme. See you all on January 5th at the Museum.

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