



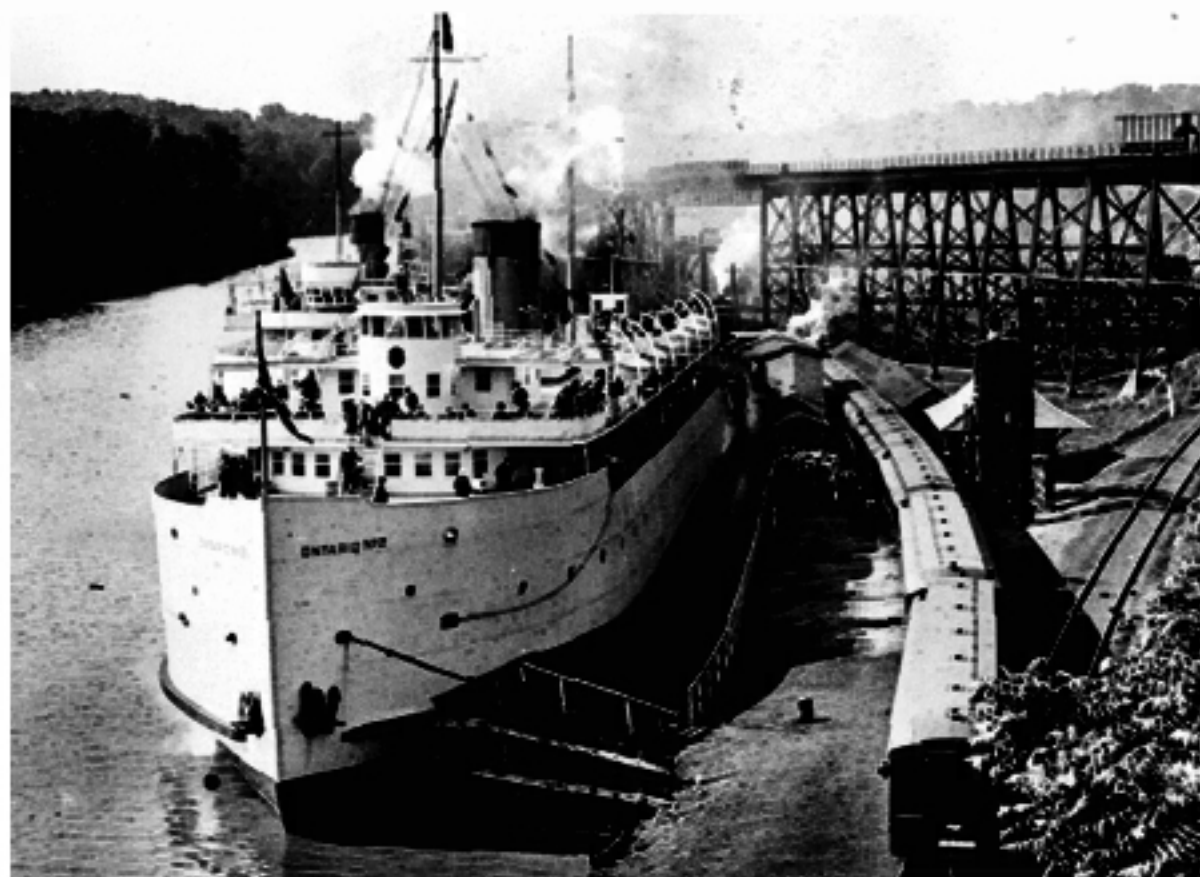
PORTS



Lake Ontario Shippers & Travellers

historic Ontario fleets, titles held in trust by PORTS O.N.T.A.R.I.O. Observatory USA

STEAMSHIPS ONTARIO No. 1 and ONTARIO No. 2.



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Known as the "Cobourg Ferry" sailing between Rochester New York and Cobourg Ontario these vessels were originally built to haul railroad coal cars. The cargo destination was Canada's Grand Trunk Railroad. When coal traffic ceased, the vessels' cargo became passengers and automobiles. Ontario No.1 was launched 1907; No.2 launched 1915. Ontario No.1 is believed to be the first Great Lakes vessel to have a wireless radio. Both vessels were pulled out of service in 1950 when the laws for lake vessel safety were changed and required retrofitting which was too expensive to accomplish. They are among the last lake passenger ships.

Owner was the **Ontario Car Ferry Company**, a joint venture of the Canadian Grand Trunk Railway and the American Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Railroad. Operating from 1907 to 1950, these vessels facilitated not only commerce between the two cities and nations, they also allowed families of both Canadian and American citizenship to live and connect across the lake. At the time of their launch, they were the largest vessels on the Great Lakes.

The two vessels are shown at the Genesee Docks of the B,R&P in Genesee River off Boxart Street, Rochester New York. Although the coal trestle and tracks are gone, the area is still used by large lake vessels to maneuver a 180 degree turn in the Turning Basin in order exit the river.