Working Wills

There is an aesthetic beauty of a ship on the water ... so that you don't think about the cargo," says Adolph Ojard, executive director of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority. But the cargo, not the aesthetics, is why the boat is on the water. Each boat hauls as much grain, ore, coal or other materials as a train 5.6 miles long or as 2,167 trucks. And neither the cargo, nor the boats, could be there without the people whose everyday work gets the vessels safely and profitably to and from their destinations.

Here is a behind-the-boats view of the waterfront work done at the major ports of Lake Superior – Duluth, Minesota-Superior, Wisconsin; Thunder Bay, Ontario; Marquette, Michigan; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and Ontario – to give an even deeper appreciation when enjoying those beautiful ships on the inland sea.

Maintenance of vessels is critical to safe performance. Something as mundane as a coat of paint, applied here to Canadian Transport in the Duluth-Superior port, keeps things shipshape. Photo by Patrick Lapinski

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