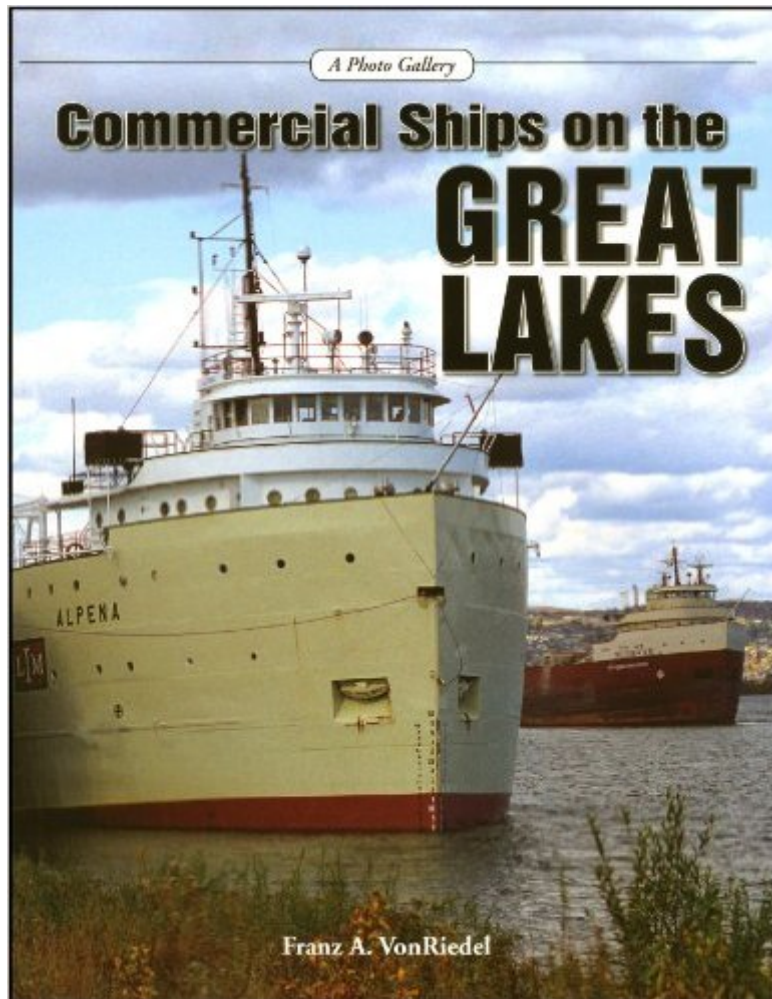


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# Commercial Ships On The Great Lakes: A Photo Gallery



## Synopsis

For centuries, millions of tons of cargo have moved across the five Great Lakes. The lakes have always held on to the old-school ways of using single screw tugboats, steam propulsion, and incredibly talented engineers and captains who can maneuver their vessels in and out of tight quarters and winding tributaries. Although the Great Lakes are holding on to their old ways, big changes are occurring and we are at the end of an era. Original and historic images show ore boats, tugboats, barges, passenger vessels, and workboats at work on the lakes. Final chapters in the boneyard show the near and ultimate demise of these great ships at the end of an era, with newer construction techniques and technically advanced ships replacing the old-timers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It is the end of an era, the old-school operations of single-screw tugboats, steam propulsion and seasoned engineers and captains grinding to a halt in an age of advanced technology. Opening the interiors of America and Canada to the world, the Great Lakes shipping industry was indomitable, hard working and relentless in carrying goods through the waterways, tugs, barges, passenger and work boats and gigantic ore boats. In this collection of over three hundred historical black and white photographs, a great past is revealed, those creaking, weighted vehicles, large and small. That braved the Great Lakes in every weather condition, furthering the commerce of a region defined by its shipping lanes and the constant traffic of goods to the interior. With detailed text accompanying

the images, the author covers the lakers, tugboats, barges, passenger ships, fish tugs and workboats, even the decaying monsters relegated to the boneyard, all relayed with an intimate knowledge of the craft and a love of the trade, a variety of vessels designed for specific purposes, the fresh water giving steamships decades longer life than their saltwater counterparts, each built "bigger, stronger and more efficient", the wooden schooners and straight deck iron freighter all but disappeared with time. The ubiquitous tugboats are a mainstay of commercial navigation, the little-engines-that-could, from 40 ft. dredges to 150 ft. over-lake toting tugs. Summoned in the most extreme weather conditions, the tugs are invaluable, with their own particular lore. Barges are the most common commercial vessels, today's cargoes handled by fewer crew members. Early passenger boats carried people, livestock and mail, "packet freighters" that went from port to port until the 1950s.

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