RAND LOGISTICS, INC.

News

M/V ROBERT S. PIERSON OPENS WELLAND CANAL FOR 2017 NAVIGATION SEASON

On Monday, March 20, the Robert S. Pierson was honored with the Top Hat as the first up bound vessel to transit the Welland Canal for 2017. The ceremony marked the 188th anniversary of the St. Lawrence Seaway's Welland Canal at St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre.

Above: Lower Lakes Towing Captain Ted Brown and Chief Engineer Mike Kowal at the Top Hat Ceremony marking the opening of the Welland Canal and 2017 sailing season with the canal's first vessel, the Robert S. Pierson, in the background.
Below: The Robert S. Pierson after the Top Hat Ceremony in transit to Cleveland.

Lower Lakes Towing Captain Ted Brown and Chief Engineer Mike Kowal took part in the ceremony, with several employees from Rand Logistics and Lower Lakes Towing in attendance.

Rand's President and Chief Executive Officer Ed Levy served as keynote speaker for the day's event. "We are so pleased and honored that the M/V Robert S. Pierson, one of our river class self-unloading vessels, has been selected as the first vessel to transit the Welland Canal for the 2017 sailing season. The Welland Canal is one of the world's greatest man made wonders, and it is vital to the success of our Company and to the success of many of our customers."

As part of Mr. Levy's keynote, he distributed additional hats on behalf of Rand to a few individuals to recognize their roles in the success of and recent improvements made to the Welland Canal including:

- a hard hat to Mr. Stephen Kwok, Vice President Operations of the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, for the recent upgrades made to the Welland Canal
- a celebratory hat to Mr. Walter Sendzik, Mayor of St. Catharines, for the Canal's 188th anniversary

- and both a visor and a wool Lower Lakes Towing hat to recognize the early opening of the canal on the first day of spring and the cooler weather to come later in the season to Mr. Alan Caslin, Chair of The Regional Municipality of Niagara.

As the first ship through the Welland Canal, the Robert S. Pierson was heading to Cleveland, Ohio after the Top Hat ceremony to load approximately 18,000 net tons of salt for delivery to Toronto, where it will eventually be used in deicing roads and other surfaces. During the 2017 sailing season, the Pierson will load and unload approximately 120 times, or once every 2.3 days. The Pierson's salt load equates to 910 trucks or 182 rail cars of cargo.

About Rand Logistics

Rand Logistics, Inc. is a leading provider of bulk freight shipping services throughout the Great Lakes region. Through its subsidiaries, the Company operates a fleet of three conventional bulk carriers and twelve self-unloading bulk carriers including three tug/barge units. The Company is the only carrier able to offer significant domestic port-to-port services in both Canada and the U.S. on the Great Lakes. The Company's vessels operate under the U.S. Jones Act – which reserves domestic waterborne commerce to vessels that are U.S. owned, built and crewed – and the Canada Coasting Trade Act – which reserves domestic waterborne commerce to Canadian registered and crewed vessels that operate between Canadian ports.

CONTACT:

Rand Logistics, Inc.
Corporate Communications:
Annemarie Dobler
(212) 863-9429
apdobler@randlogisticsinc.com