

## The domestic fleet is growing

**Groupe Desgagnés** has acquired a new tanker, the *M/T Sarah Desgagnés*, through its subsidiary Transport Desgagnés. Christened in the Port of Montréal on June 18, the double hull oil and chemical tanker, which is 147 m long and 22.4 m wide, has a deadweight of 18 000 metric tons. Built under the auspices of the classification society Bureau Veritas, it is an ice class 1A icebreaker. Its 14 cisterns and two slop tanks allow it to carry 14 different products aboard.



### Nunavut Eastern Arctic Shipping

**(NEAS)** very recently added the *M/V Qamutik* to its fleet. Measuring 137 m in length and classified ice class 1A, this versatile new multiple-hull vessel equipped with modern handling technologies is able to carry specialized cargo. Like the rest of the NEAS fleet, it will be used to supply communities in the Eastern Canadian Arctic. The official launching ceremony took place in the Port of Valleyfield on July 7.

## Assistance Program Aiming to Reduce or Avoid Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In Québec, 38% of greenhouse gas emissions are caused by transportation activities, with 15% resulting from cargo transport. Under its 2006-2012 action plan to fight climate change, the Québec government has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions to 6% under the 1990 level, in keeping with the Kyoto Protocol.

The Ministère des Transports recently launched its Assistance Program Aiming to Reduce or Avoid Greenhouse Gas Emissions by implementing intermodal projects in cargo transport. The program's budget for 2006-2012 is \$60 M, funded by a new royalty on petroleum products sales introduced in fall 2007. The program is two-tiered:

- When infrastructure investments are required, maximum assistance of \$500 per metric ton of greenhouse gas emissions reduced or avoided is available, covering up to 50% of the eligible expenditures, up to a maximum of \$6 M per project.
- When the infrastructures required exist, maximum assistance is \$250 per metric ton of greenhouse gas emissions reduced or avoided up to a maximum of \$3 M.



For more information, consult the Ministère des Transports website:

[http://www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca/portal/page/portal/entreprises/transport\\_maritime/programmes\\_aide/reduction\\_ges\\_transport\\_marchandises](http://www.mtq.gouv.qc.ca/portal/page/portal/entreprises/transport_maritime/programmes_aide/reduction_ges_transport_marchandises)

Michel Dignard  
Transports Québec

## Marine transport and regional development

In recent months, representatives of the cities of Matane, Gaspé and Baie-Comeau, the Gros Cacouna port development commission, and Sodes initiated deliberations on marine transport from a regional development perspective in order to determine how marine transport's potential can be developed to be more beneficial in economic development terms for the regions concerned. These four locations have port facilities of national interest, as defined by Québec's Marine transportation forum.

Participants agreed to see how it might be possible to develop industrial and port sites from a regional development perspective. The idea of drawing up a strategic plan helping them to use this concept is presently being discussed. Such a plan could constitute a tool enabling the potential of marine transport (including shortsea shipping) for carrying cargo related to the regions' industrial activities to be put to better use.

Anthony Kish  
Sodes

## Navigation and Young Mariners' Week – laying groundwork for the future

The "younger generation" has become one of the marine industry's main challenges. Although many prefer not to use the term "shortage", the lack of human resources is a reality that cannot be ignored. In the current economic and demographic context, sectors are competing keenly to attract new and future employees. The solution involves better promotion of the jobs available in the marine industry to the general public, especially young people. Boys and girls should know about the industry's new realities, its evolution, and the range and quality of occupations it offers. This is why Les Amis de la vallée du Saint-Laurent, in conjunction with some thirty partners, are organizing the event **Québec and the St. Lawrence, Gateway to the World: Navigation and Young Mariners' Week**, running September 15 to 21 in Québec City. Information, participation and observation activities, meetings, ship tours, conferences, a questionnaire and much more will highlight the opportunities the industry offers. To come aboard the year's biggest marine event, go to [www.avsl.qc.ca/semaine](http://www.avsl.qc.ca/semaine)

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