

MARCH 11, 2021

Dear Hamilton Boating Community,

The 2021 shipping season is just around the corner and we would like to remind local recreational boaters about safe boating when navigating around commercial vessels in the Hamilton Harbour. Hamilton port is the busiest Canadian port on the Great Lakes, with over 650 vessels transiting the port every year.

Did you know...

- It can take a commercial vessel 1-2 km to come to a full stop - even from full ahead to full astern
- Large commercial vessels will have fixed routes in and out of the Harbour
- If you hear 5 short blasts of a horn, that means *DANGER* – a ship is nearby!

For your safety, please remember to...

- Stay clear of commercial docks and slips
- Stay clear of large commercial vessels as they are restraint by draft, stopping distance and visibility
- Never pass between a tug and tow

Navigation Lights:

- Show your navigation lights from sunset to sunrise and/or in reduced visibility

Speed:

- Stay alert and maintain a safe speed at all times

Navigational Dangers:

- Be familiar with the location of navigational aids in the harbour and dangers in your area

Resources that may assist you in navigating through the Hamilton Harbour:

Port of Hamilton Practices and Procedures:

<https://www.hopaports.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/HOPA-Port-of-Hamilton-Practices-and-Procedures.pdf>

Vessel Tracking Hamilton:

<https://www.hopaports.ca/locations/port-of-hamilton/vessel-tracking/>



Wishing you a safe boating season!
Sincerely,



Vicki Gruber
HOPA Ports Harbour Master & Manager of Port Security

