

Century-Old Company Diversifies & Grows

The Great Lakes Towing Company has been operating in the city of Cleveland for over one hundred years. In 2003, the Company began to diversify its tugboat and small ship repair business to include construction of new tugboats and barges. The Company's tugboats are environmentally sound, as they are outfitted with low emission diesel engines and painted with non-toxic anti-fouling coatings and paints and utilize other design elements to minimize the environmental footprint. In 2007, the Company delivered 12 new barges with 4 additional barges on order; 8 vessels were repaired; and commenced construction on Hull 101 and Hull 102.

However, the Company has outgrown its present site and its sectional barge construction operations are being performed in a temporary warehouse until the operations can be relocated to the new fabrication building, which is Phase II of their shipyard project. Phase II of the shipyard project consists of the acquisition and environmental remediation of the adjacent property, construction of a 40,000 square foot building, which will be utilized for shipbuilding, and the acquisition of a Travelift Crane. The total cost of

the project is estimated to exceed \$20 million and create 30 new jobs.

The Company is located along the Old River Channel; therefore, the site preparation requirements for Phase II are extensive. The building requires deep foundation pilings because of the poor soil conditions but also because of the weight of the materials used in shipbuilding. The bulkhead must be replaced as it has failed, exposing the shoreline to significant erosion, which means there no longer is a barrier between the Old River Channel and the environmentally impacted soil and groundwater on the expansion property. Finally, the Site will be paved due to the environmental condition of the soils and for ease of

use of the Travelift Crane.

A County Brownfield loan is providing \$500,000 for environmental clean up activities. The County, on behalf of Great Lakes, has submitted a Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund grant application to the Ohio Department of Development. If awarded, the grant would be utilized for the environmental remediation.

In late July, Great Lakes Towing Company sold the first tugboat U.S. domestically produced on the Great Lakes for a foreign buyer to Electra S.A. of Honduras. The tug was expected to be delivered to the Hondurans in September.



Development Director Paul Oyaski and Deputy County Administrator Lee Trotter are pictured with Ron Rasmus (center), president of The Great Lakes Towing Co. Director Oyaski and Mr. Trotter were invited to tour the new barge and shipyard.