



# Lake Carriers' Association

## For Immediate Release

April 26, 2007

### March Limestone Total Reflects Low Inventories

Cleveland---The mild weather that prevailed in November and December of 2006 enabled Great Lakes limestone quarries to ship most of their current production and stockpiles. As a result, when the stone trade resumed in late March, there was little product to ship from inventories. Therefore, stone cargos totaled only 200,000 net tons, a significant decrease from a year ago and the month's 5-year average.

Year-to-date, the gap with 2006 is much smaller and the 445,000 tons loaded through March are essentially on par with the 5-year average for the first quarter.

#### **GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: MARCH 2002-2007 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE** (net tons)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average 2002-2006
U.S. Ports*	219,463	0	405,800	290,018	465,756	105,000	276,207
Canadian Ports**	63,635	0	70,285	7,661	121,017	95,000	52,520
<b>Total</b>	<b>283,098</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>476,085</b>	<b>297,679</b>	<b>586,773</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>328,727</b>

#### **GREAT LAKES LIMESTONE TRADE: YEAR-TO-DATE 2002-2006 AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE** (net tons)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average 2002-2006
U.S. Ports*	251,068	10,000	503,800	457,018	465,756	350,000	337,528
Canadian Ports**	63,635	30,000	240,285	187,661	121,017	95,000	128,520
<b>Total</b>	<b>314,703</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>744,085</b>	<b>644,679</b>	<b>586,773</b>	<b>445,000</b>	<b>466,048</b>

\* Calcite, MI, Cedarville, MI, Drummond Island, MI, Kellys Island, OH, Marblehead, OH, Port Inland, MI and Presque Isle, MI.

\*\* Bruce Mines, Manitoulin Island, Port Colborne and Smelter Bay (all Ontario). Port Colborne is not expected to ship in 2007.

Lake Carriers' Association represents 18 American corporations that operate 63 U.S.-Flag vessels on the Great Lakes. These vessels carry the raw materials that drive the nation's economy: Iron ore and fluxstone for the steel industry, limestone, and cement for the construction industry, coal for power generation.... Collectively, these vessels can transport as much as 125 million tons of cargo a year when high water levels offset the lack of adequate dredging of Great Lakes ports and waterways. More information is available at [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com).

Source: Lake Carriers' Association

Contact Glen G. Nekvasil, Vice President - Corporate Communications: Telephone: (216) 861-0592

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*Information based on data sources believed to be reliable. However, accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Lake Carriers' Association assumes no legal responsibility for the outcome of decisions or commitments made on the basis of this information. This report represents the views of Lake Carriers' Association and may not necessarily represent the views of its individual members.*

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Suite 915 • 614 West Superior Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1383 • Fax: 216-241-8262 • Web site: [www.lcaships.com](http://www.lcaships.com)

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#### ***The Association Representing Operators of U.S.-Flag Vessels on the Great Lakes***

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