

lower Locks. The United States Army Corps of Engineers operates the four big locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The locks are in effect a giant stairway that lifts vessels from the Atlantic

Ocean, past the falls below Montreal, from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie and, eventually, from Lake Huron into Lake Superior. The maximum lifts range from six feet at the Iroquois lock on the

lower St. Lawrence River to 120 feet up the Niagara escarpment at the twinned flight locks of the Welland Canal at St. Catharine's. The locks close down for overhaul in the depths of winter

(though the close-down period has been getting shorter).

The system handles well over 53 million tons of traffic a year and collects toll revenues of over

Emily Carr, *Sea and Sky*, c. 1935, 23x35, Collection: Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Clarke.

