



# NEWS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Bay City—Michigan's Port of Call for the American Sail Training Association's 2006 Tall Ships Tour of the Great Lakes**

[*Bay City, MI*] Representing the State of Michigan to Tall Ship fans is a tall order, but Bay City is up to the challenge. Bay City—approximately 100 miles north of metro Detroit—will host the American Sail Training Association's Tall Ship fleet July 20—23, 2006. It is the only Michigan port on the ASTA tour this year and the only Michigan community to host the event each year ASTA has visited the Great Lakes. "Bay City has become an anchor port for the American Sail Training Association's TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE© in large part because the ambiance here is intimate and comfortable," explained Shirley Roberts, Tall Ship Celebration Event Coordinator. "Bay City is a charming community and a Tall Ship experience here is like none other."

Tall Ship Celebration is a community-wide festival reminiscent of Bay City's role as an important commercial port and a nod to the community's ship builders who once built the largest sailing vessels on the Great Lakes. The event will feature at least a dozen ships ranging in size from 55 to 198 feet long. Ships will arrive in the Saginaw Bay on Thursday, July 20 and will parade up the Saginaw River to Downtown Bay City where they will remain docked until Monday, July 24. The breathtaking site of majestic Tall Ships lining the Saginaw River is a perfect backdrop for the music, art, crafts and roaming entertainment that will be available during the event from Thursday through Sunday. Special activities and entertainment will spill out of the festival grounds and can be found throughout Bay City's quaint historic districts.

Tickets are affordably priced at \$6.00 a day. Souvenir Passports provide admission for all three and a half days of the festival and allow guests to board and tour visiting ships. Passports will be available after May 1<sup>st</sup> and are \$12.00 before June 30 and \$15.00 after July 1. Almost all of the festival's activities, including a number of children's crafts, are offered at no additional cost to ticket holders.

—MORE—

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Tall Ship Celebration: Bay City is presented by The Bay City Times and sponsored by Dow Corning Corporation and St. Mary's of Michigan with additional support from SC Johnson & Sons, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan and Independent Bank. The event is made possible by the support of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The American Sail Training Association's Tall Ships Challenge is a series of races and rallies that occur annually, rotating among the east, west and Great Lakes coasts. Other ports to host the Tall Ships Challenge fleet in 2006 include Cleveland, Ohio; Green Bay, Wisconsin; and Chicago, Illinois. The Challenge is not expected to return to the Great Lakes again until 2010.

For more information about Tall Ship Celebration: Bay City or to purchase tickets, visit [www.tallshipcelebration.com](http://www.tallshipcelebration.com) or call the Bay City Convention & Visitors Bureau at 888.229.8696.

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