

LAKE CHAMPLAIN

CANAL SCHOONER TROY

*The captain's hat,
trunk and pocketbook
... have been picked up
but none of the bodies
have yet been found.*
-North Star 1825

LAKE CHAMPLAIN At a Glance

- Flows north into the St. Lawrence River
- 120 miles (193 km) long
- 12 miles (19 km) at its widest
- 420 feet (122 m) deep
- 6.8 trillion gallons (25.8 km³) fresh water
- Borders New York, Vermont and Québec
- 300+ shipwrecks



The sailing canal boat

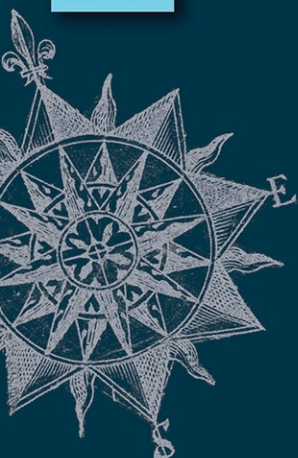
is a unique vessel type, found in few places beyond Lake Champlain. These boats were designed to sail on Lake Champlain and then fit in the NY canal system where they were towed by animals. *Troy* is one of the earliest surviving examples.

On *Troy's* last voyage in 1825 she was carrying as much as 90 tons of iron ore to Westport, NY in a fierce November gale. The heavy cargo shifted in the rough waters, causing the boat to founder and sink in minutes. The lives of all five young crewmen were lost.

Today,
Troy lies in deep water. The shifting iron ore drove her bow into the lake bottom.



Painting by Ernie Haas, Private Collection. HAAS



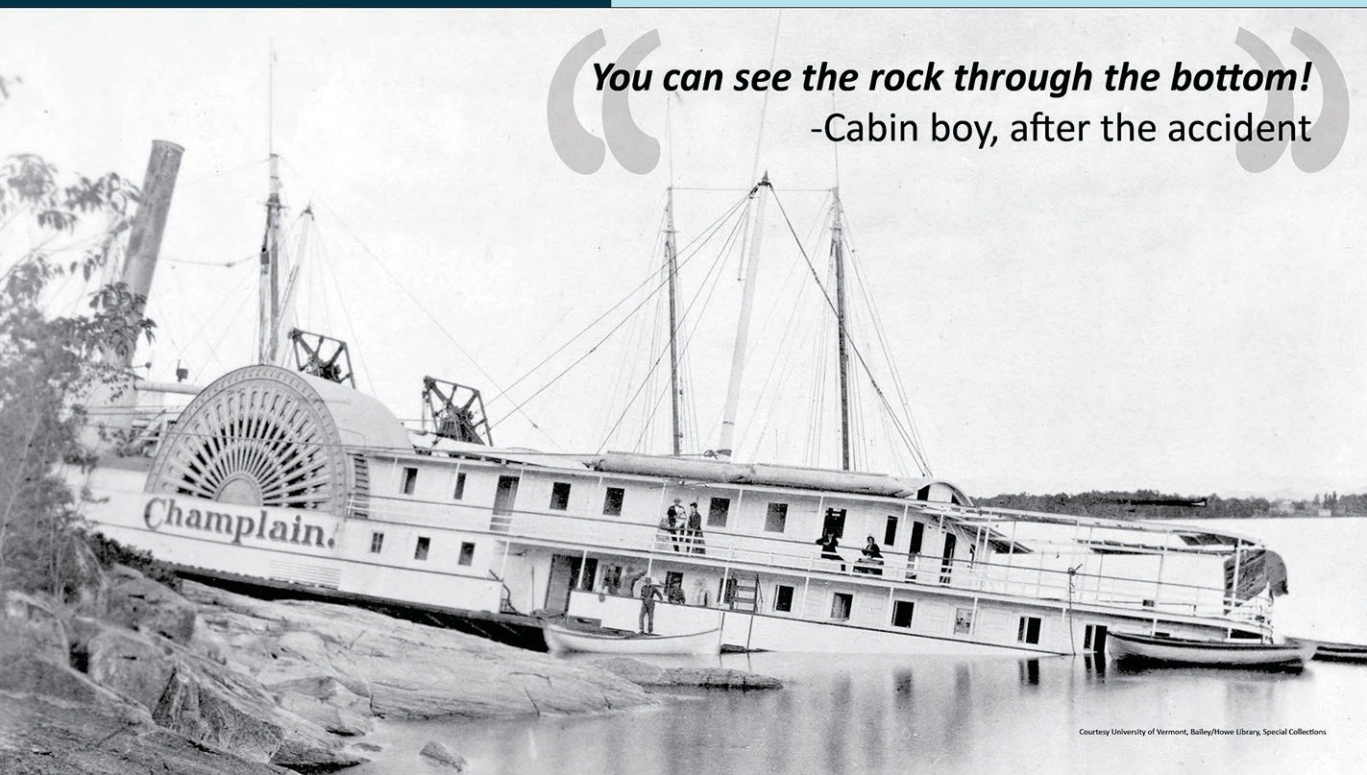
STEAMBOAT CHAMPLAIN II

Today, the stern of *Champlain II* is an Underwater Historic Preserve. The rudder, porthole and bell are on exhibit at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

Originally named *Oakes Ames*, the 244-foot-long steamboat could carry fourteen railroad cars between Burlington, VT and Plattsburgh, NY. She was converted to an ornate luxury passenger steamer, and renamed *Champlain*.

On July 16, 1875 near midnight, *Champlain II* was rocked by a huge crash. Moving at near-full speed, pilot John Eldredge had run the steamboat ashore. No one was injured, though investigation revealed that Eldredge had been taking morphine for painful gout and had probably fallen asleep at the wheel.

“You can see the rock through the bottom!”
-Cabin boy, after the accident



Courtesy University of Vermont, Bailey/Howe Library, Special Collections.