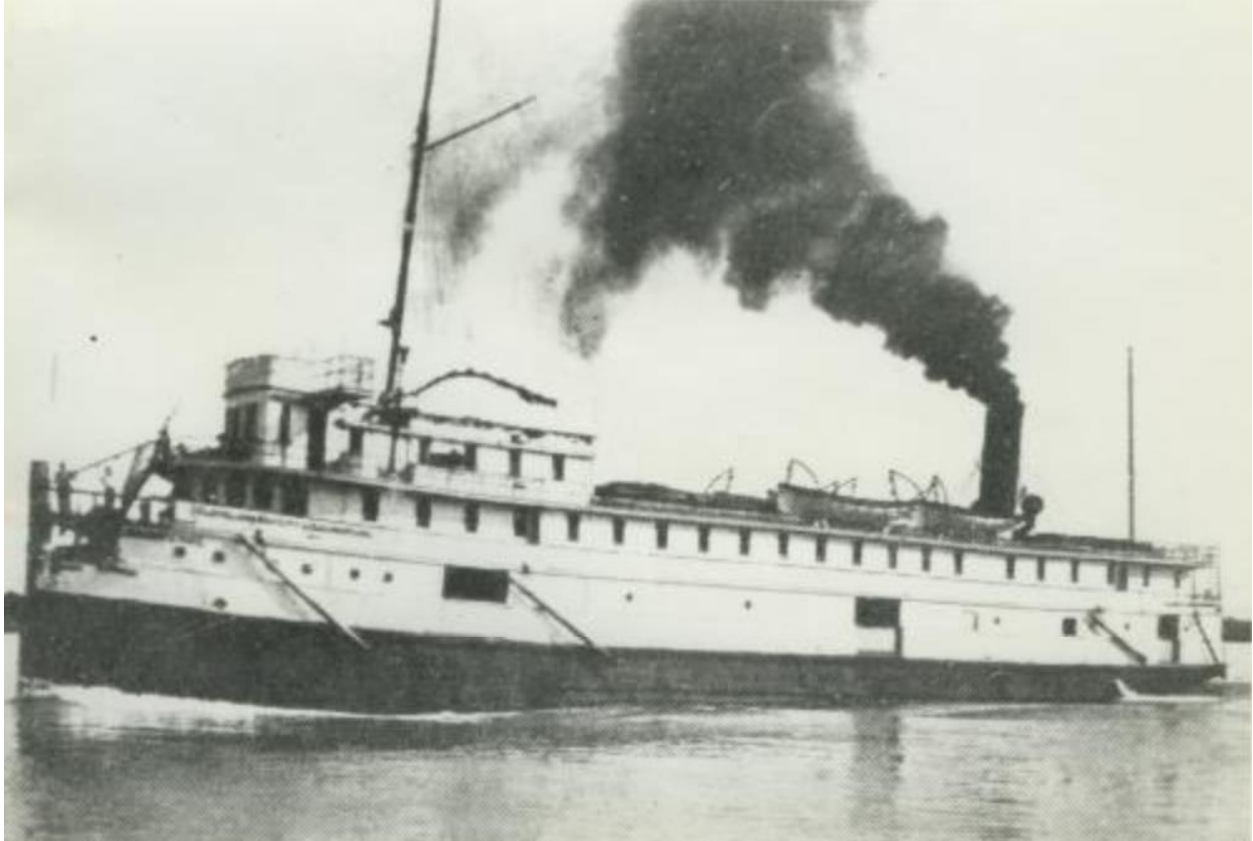


Steamer Lawrence/Frontenac

By Barbara Bedau Brow
White Lake Area Historical Society



At the turn of the century, the White Lake area became a popular summer resort area. Thousands of people from Chicago and surrounding areas would travel on steamships to get to White Lake to enjoy the many resorts.

The Lawrence was built in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1876. Classified as a "Propeller", it was built to carry passengers and packaged freight. Its wooden hull was 135 feet in length. In 1902 it was rebuilt and the hull was lengthened to 162 feet. It was at that time that it was renamed "Frontenac".

The Frontenac serviced the area from 1902 to 1904.

The Steamer Frontenac made her first trip to Whitehall on May 22, 1902. She was owned by the People's Transit Company and made two round trips weekly between Frankfort and Chicago with stops in Manistee, Ludington, Pentwater, Whitehall and Montague.

In 1902, the Frontenac was the largest and best made steamer that every came into White Lake harbor.

In October 1904, it was announced that the Str. Frontenac would discontinue service to Whitehall at the end of the season. There was not enough freight being shipped out to make it worth while landing here. It did not resume service the following year.