**Life & Work Aboard Ship: What It Takes To Be A Ship Captain & Deck Hand**

6:30- 8:00 pm, Monday, January 8 ~ Portage Lake District Library

6:30 pm  **Captain Dave Laban** of Houghton will describe his experiences working as a Great Lakes ship captain over the past 20 years traveling from Duluth to Chicago, Detroit, Toledo, Buffalo, and points in between. As a graduate of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in Traverse City in 1984, he will describe the skills needed and opportunities available for pursuing a career in maritime technology as a licensed officer aboard commercial vessels.

7:00 pm  **Deckhand Derek Wiitanen** of Dollar Bay will describe his experience working the past two summers aboard Great Lakes freighters in Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron and Erie: his work responsibilities, a typical day aboard ship, ports that he’s visited; the fun and challenges of working on a ship.

7:10 pm  Break

7:15 pm  **Question/Answer Session**: middle/high school students and adults meet in small groups with Capt. Laban and Deckhand Wiitanen to learn more about working and living aboard Great Lakes ships.

7:15 pm  **Activity Stations for Elementary Students** (15 minutes each & switch)

1. **Great Lakes Ships’ Cargoes & Products: What Do We Make with Iron, Grain, Sand/Gravel, Limestone and Salt?** (K-6)

2. **Name the Parts of a Ship** (Gr. 2-6)

3. **Ship Concentration Game** (K-6)

4. **Shipping Lingo** (Gr. 3-6)

5. **What Does A Ship Captain Need?** (K-6)  
   (Tools & Clothing for the Captain to Do His/Her Job Aboard Ship)

6. **Can You Safely Navigate A Ship Through The Harbor?** (K-6)

8:00 pm  Set Sail for Home

Everyone is invited to attend library events and presentations are free.

Hosted by Portage District Library and coordinated by the Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education at Michigan Tech University, with funding from the Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute and Wege Foundation.