

Northern Tech Diver

Address: 4052 Bath Road Kingston (west end) (Collins Bay)

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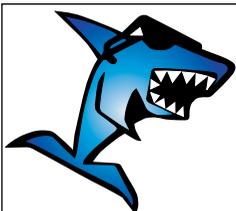
email: ntdstore@northerntechdiving.com

Training: GUE, PDIC, BSAC and PADI Instruction

Services Offered:

- ◇ Regulator repairs and service (all makes)
- ◇ Tank vis and hydro's
- ◇ Rental equipment
- ◇ Halcyon, Diving Concepts, Apeck, Scubapro and Gates Products
- ◇ Akona, and Bare wet and dry suits
- ◇ Air, Nitrox, Trimix, and Argon Tank Fills
- ◇ Dive instruction at the basic and technical levels
- ◇ Charter boat information and arrangement
- ◇ Club Membership

Plus a full line of products for the novice and techno alike.



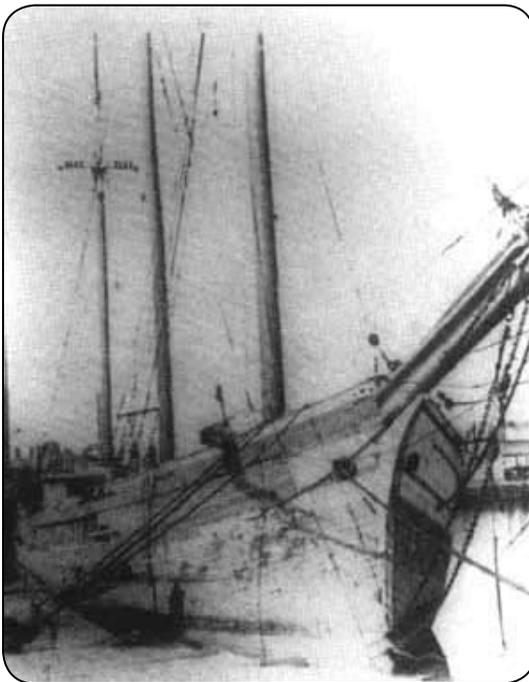
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Northern Tech Diver Corporation

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Spike says.... diving with *Northern Tech Diver* is the bomb! If you are planning to dive in the Kingston area then **Do It Right** and dive with the best. Our friendly and courteous staff are always here to make your diving experience more enjoyable.



This beautiful schooner was built in 1882 by Footlanders at the Muskegon, Michigan, USA, shipyard. After service under the American flag, she was purchased by J.B. Flint, of Belleville, Ontario and given Canadian registration. On board were 14 souls: Captain Smith, his second wife, five of their seven children; the mate William Watkins; the Captain's brother, William Smith; Neil McLennon, a deck hand, with his wife, their eighteen-month-old baby, and a nephew.

The *Marsh* cleared American waters for the trip across the expanses of Lake Ontario. She was on her way to Kingston with a load of much needed coal for the Rockwood Hospital. The *Marsh* seldom made this trip to the Limestone city, but cargoes were in short supply and her Captain jumped at the chance to earn extra money. Therefore, after, a reported, 450 tons of coal was loaded into her holds at the port of Oswego New York, she had set

sail this lovely morning for Kingston and history.

The *Marsh* was in her final years of long career. Steam had arrived and with it came larger, faster, and more reliable ships. The old ladies of the lakes were left to carry whatever they could to make a buck. This generally meant over loading the ship's holds with merchandise. Built twenty-five years earlier the *Marsh* suffered a little each time such a load was placed against her old timbers.

A violent storm came up and battered her loaded hull, until her seams gave way and her pumps gave out. William Smith and Neil McLennan, with babe in arms, managed to get to the ship's yawl and make their way to Amherst Island. The baby succumbed to the cold. All told, 12 souls were lost that day to the fury of the Lake Ontario. Several dead were recovered and the rest remain buried beside the wreck.

Northern Tech Diver

presents

Shipwrecks of Kingston

George A. Marsh

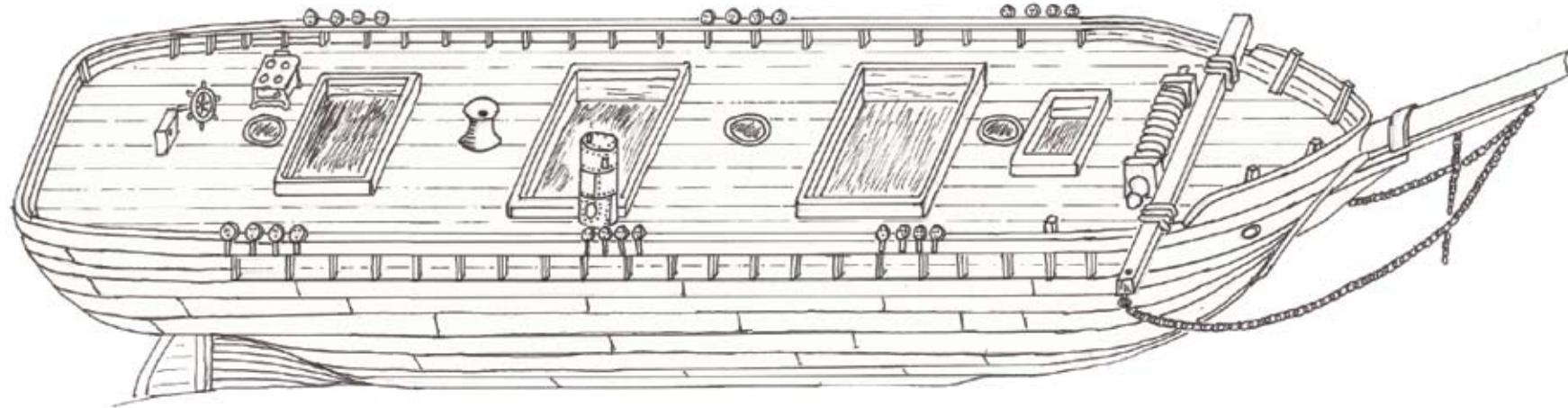


Photo © Tom Wilson 2003

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"Dive to Preserve"

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KEY STATS:

Ship Type: Three Masted Schooner

Lifespan: Built 1882, Sank 1917

Length: 135'(57.22m)

Depth: to 80'(26.67m)

Location: Amherst Island, Ontario, Canada

GPS N44.07.55 W76.36.16

The history of this wreck only adds to the beauty and mystery of the schooner as the diver descends down the line to the mooring block. Visibility on *Marsh* is often 20 to 40 ft (6-12m); more in the spring and fall. Temperatures range from low 40's (Fahrenheit) in spring to low 60's in the summer (5-18 Celsius).

One of the most striking features of this wreck is her ghostly shape, sitting upright as if ready to set sail. Her bow sprit remains intact, with the ropes hanging down and off the sides. Her rigging - deadeyes, belaying pins and blocks - lays strewn about the deck. Masts

are off the side and wheel and steering gear are still in place, as are the capstan and anchor winch.

This wreck remains a personal favorite of most; she is captivating in her beauty and a haunting memorial to the 12 souls lost on her. She is best enjoyed using good buoyancy skills as she has a layer of silt covering her. Penetration is minimal due to the full load of coal in her holds. There is no current on this wreck and of concern are only bottom time and air consumption because of her depth. This pearl is sure to be a lasting memory to all that enjoy her splendor.

Site Notes

- ◇ Experience Level—Advanced OW
- ◇ Water Temp—Cold 50°f(10° c) or colder as it well below the thermocline; therefore a drysuit (preferable) or 7mm Farmer John style wetsuit is required exposure protection.
- ◇ Access method—Permanent mooring line on starboard quarter.
- ◇ Bring a light as there are a lot of nooks and crannies to explore at this site. If you are a photographer your camera is a must!
- ◇ As with all Marine Historical sites in Ontario, the *George A. Marsh* is the property of the Province of Ontario. Removal of any artifacts or disturbing the site in any way is illegal.

NTD is a proud sponsor of

Preserve Our Wrecks Kingston

We gratefully acknowledgest POW's ongoing **Mooring Project** and **Diver Education Program** both of which have had a huge impact in reducing coincidental damage to our shipwecks. More information and membership applications can be found at www.powkingston.com

