FINGER LAKES
At a Glance,
- Eleven Lakes (traditionally): Otisco, Skaneateles, Owasco, Cayuga, Seneca, Keuka, Canandaigua, Honeoye, Canadice, Hemlock, Conesus
- Longest: Cayuga Lake 38 miles (12 km)
- Deepest: Seneca Lake 618 feet (188 m)
- Keuka: “Canoe landing” in Iroquois
- Canandaigua: “Chosen spot” in Seneca

TUGBOAT THOMAS H

May 29, 1945
Six ore-laden barges were being towed across Oneida Lake by the tugboat Thomas H, bound for Oswego, NY. Around 11pm, the weather turned fierce. Pounding waves opened her seams, and the tug's pumps were unable to keep up. Shortly after midnight, she sank, along with three of the six barges.

All but one crewmember jumped to the floating tow and were rescued by the Standard Oil tanker Poughkeepsie.

Today,
Artifacts such as the wheel, ship’s bell, and plates have been conserved and are on exhibit at the H. Lee White Maritime Museum.

STEAMBOAT FRONTENAC
Seaworthy and safe.
- State Steamboat Inspectors, June 1907

Queen of the Cayuga Fleet,
Frontenac was the largest boat on Cayuga Lake, built in 1870 and licensed to carry 370 passengers. For $1, passengers would travel from Cayuga to Ithaca and back in luxury. On the windy night of July 27, 1907, fire broke out on board, and spread rapidly, consuming the lifeboats. Captain Melvin T. Brown ran Frontenac aground, got passengers into life preservers, and encouraged them to jump into the water to swim or wade ashore. Eight people perished in the chaos of the event. The cause of the fire was never determined.

8 DROWNED, LEAPING FROM BURNING BOAT
Steamer Frontenac Beached on Lake Cayuga Shores, a Blackened Hull.
COOL CREW SAVED MANY
Say That New Passengers Were Come
and Jumped Their Efforts to
Calm Passengers with Life Preservers.
Source: New York Times

My God, she's on fire!
Between the screams, the fire, the wind and the waves, we have seen purgatory.
-Eyewitness accounts, 1907