

# The Roaring Twenties

Prohibition-Rumrunning-Al Capone

# Prohibition in Canada

- During Prohibition, the manufacture, transportation, import, export, and sale of alcoholic beverages were restricted or illegal
- Prior to 1920 in Canada there were strict laws in place enforcing the above rules
- However, many of these laws were repealed in the 1920's
- This gave way to much illegal activity stemming from the Prohibition law that was still in effect in the United States

# THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD



CANADA



U.S.  
(VERY DRY)

U.S.  
(VERY DRY)



# Prohibition in the United States

- Prohibition in the United States was a nationwide constitutional ban on the production, importation, transportation and sale of alcoholic beverages that remained in place from 1920 to 1933
- During Prohibition, the manufacture, transportation, import, export, and sale of alcoholic beverages were restricted or illegal.
- Prohibition was supposed to lower crime and corruption, reduce social problems,
- It was also supposed to lower taxes needed to support prisons and poorhouses, and improve health and hygiene in America

LIPS THAT  
TOUCH LIQUOR  
SHALL NOT  
TOUCH OURS

- Instead, Alcohol became more dangerous to consume
- Organized crime blossomed
- Courts and prisons systems became overloaded
- Endemic corruption of police and public officials occurred





# Al Capone

- “Al” Capone (known as Scarface) was a notorious American gangster from Chicago who led the Prohibition-era crime syndicate
- He was the leader of a mobster group responsible for smuggling and bootlegging liquor
- He was also involved with other illegal activities such as prostitution and gambling in Chicago from the early 1920s to 1931
- He was known as a murderous gangster, but was never caught for these crimes
- He was also known as a modern day Robin Hood for his good will toward society being one of the first to open soup kitchens for the poor
- Capone eventually was imprisoned for tax evasion





- Al Capone – A Historical Documentary 10.48 mins
- <https://youtu.be/dL4DuULoQ80>

**You can get more with  
a nice word and a gun  
than you can with a  
nice word.**



**Al Capone**  
*American gangster*  
(1899 - 1947)

*QuoteHD.com*

# Al Capone and Moose Jaw Saskatchewan

- Al Capone was rumoured to have visited Canada on numerous occasions during his crime syndicate reign
- Moose Jaw, a city that, back in the 1920s, was famous for gambling, prostitution and bootlegging, which fit Capone's style
- There was a direct rail connection to Chicago, known as the Soo Line
- The borders between Canada and the U.S. were not as strict back then
- When Capone was questioned about his ties with Canada, he responded, "Do I do business with Canadian racketeers? I don't even know what street Canada is on."
- Capone was rumored to have hidden and partied in tunnels and rooms under the Moose Jaw streets where today tours are given

ASSINIBOIA  
MEAT STORE  
CASH

NAVY  
STORE

HOTEL









- Finding AI – A Documentary Sneak Preview 4.27 minutes
- <https://youtu.be/N4XRBCf3sM0>
- Poem- AI Capone in Moose Jaw
- Tunnels of Moosejaw 3.45 mins
- <https://youtu.be/eFkg6LHaYvs>



# Rumrunning and Bootlegging

- Moose Jaw was not the only area in Canada where illegal alcohol activity was occurring.
- Rumrunning or bootlegging is the illegal business of transporting (smuggling) alcoholic beverages where such transportation is forbidden by law.
- Smuggling is usually done to avoid taxation or prohibition laws within a particular area.
- The term *rum-running* is more commonly applied to smuggling over water
- *Bootlegging* is applied to smuggling over land



- Smuggling liquor over land and water to the US, was very common during the 1920's.
- In the case of prohibition Canada smuggled millions of dollars of alcohol to the United States during the Roaring Twenties
- As many of Canada's provinces were beginning to end prohibition the US had just started theirs, and many Americans were not ready to stop drinking.
- One common strategy to smuggling Canadian alcohol into the US was by boat
- Due to the very high demand for alcohol in the US, the smuggling business was very profitable
- However, it was also very risky



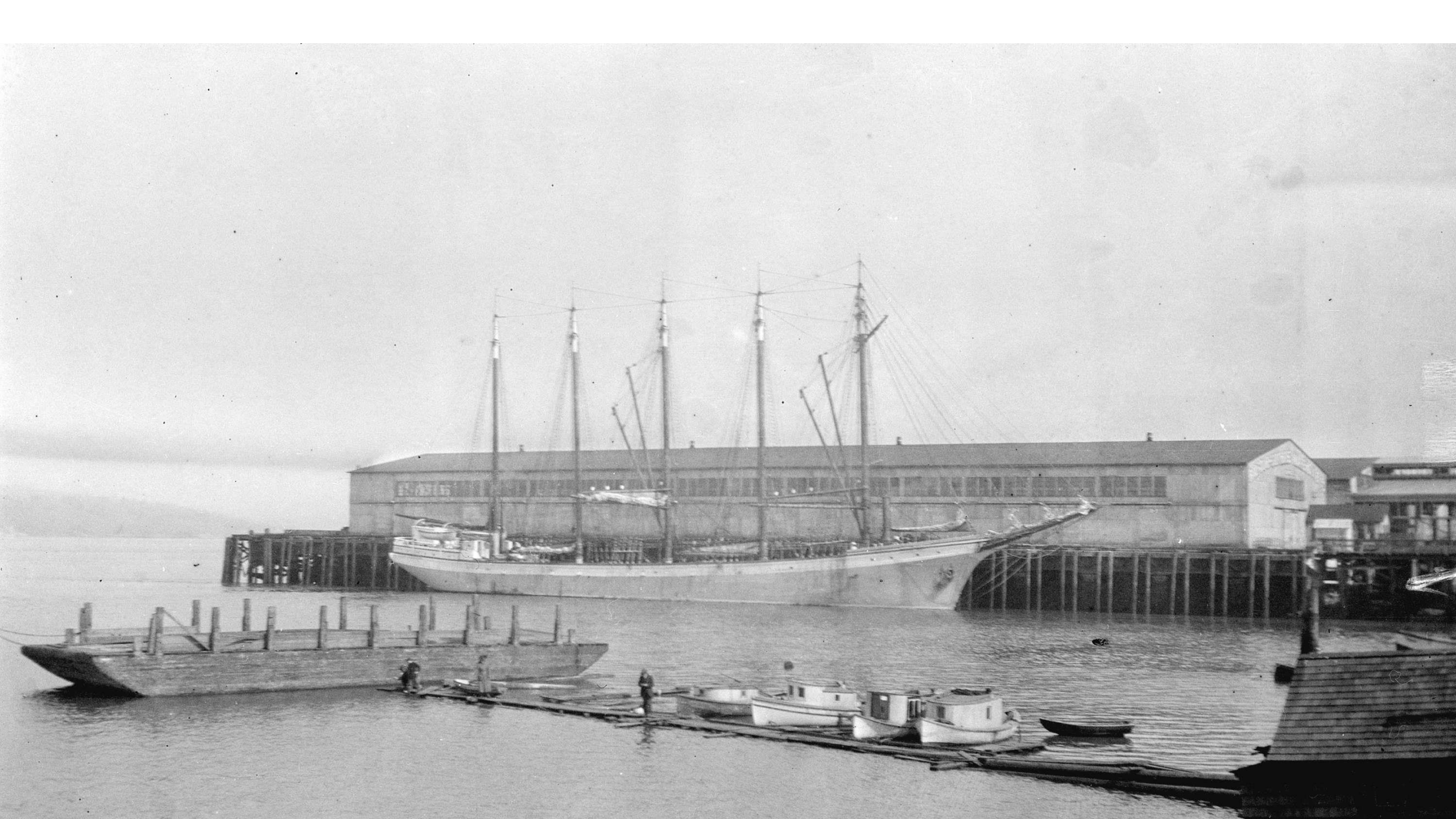




# The Malahat

- *Malahat*, a large 5-masted lumber schooner from Vancouver, BC, was known as "the Queen of Rum Row" in her day.
- She became famous (or infamous) for rum-running on the US Pacific Coast between 1920 and 1933.
- The Vancouver Maritime Museum says that *Malahat* delivered "more illegal liquor than any other ship."
- It was rumored that the *Malahat* could carry up to 100,000 bottles of illegal liquor
- Surprisingly, *Malahat* managed to smuggle rum for 13 years without being caught, despite the efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard





- Malahat: Queen of the Rumrunners 22.36 mins
- <https://youtu.be/WnHqzwOELwI>