



# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 06, 2009

## MEGA'S SUMMER /FALL TRIP

This has been one of the coldest we had in the recent times – in fact; we could hardly call it a summer. Looked pretty much like spring did not want to leave us

Some might feel tempted to stay home – believe me, you are missing a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors when the nature is at the best.

*What is this Great opportunity  
which we are talking about*



Before you scroll down, the background picture gives you a clue – try guessing

*Look overleaf for the answer*



Well, the answer is MEGA has arranged a trip to the 30 Thousand Islands with a fall colour boat cruise on Saturday, 26 September, 2009.

*Details of this trip are as follows*

**We have arranged a bus this trip. The boarding locations for the bus and timings are as follows:**

**FOR FOLKS AT THE WEST END**

Location: Square One - Zellers Parking lot,  
Time: 8.45 AM (sharp)

**FOR FOLKS AT THE EAST END**

Location: Parking lot at Ellesmere and Dollyvarden Blvd.  
Time: 9.15AM (sharp)

**FOOD**

MEGA will be arranging light lunch and snacks.

**COST**

We need to cover the cost for the bus, lunch and snacks. This will work out to:

- Adult – Member (who have not paid annual membership) and their guests -\$25/-
- Adult – Paid Member and their guests - \$20/-
- Youth (13 to 18) - \$15
- Children (12 and under) = \$10/-

The cruise is optional and you need to pay separately for the cost of this cruise. However, we have been able to negotiate group rates for this cruise on Canada's largest sightseeing cruise ship, so you are saving big time on this trip

The group rates, which we have negotiated based 30 paying passengers, are

- \$ 18 per adult or senior
- \$10 per child (6-12).
- Free for children 5 and under

For your info - The official rates are \$32 for children / adults above age 12 and \$16 for children 12 and below.

So you will agree with us – that this trip is a deal

Our sincere apologies for giving a short notice about this trip. MEGA sincerely hopes that you and your family will join us for this enjoyable trip.

We would appreciate if you could confirm your attendance at the earliest. Your early confirmation would be a great help, as we need to make arrangements

You are free to bring your guests along for this trip.

Due to restraint in bus capacity, we shall be accepting confirmation of attendance on a first come first served basis

**You may forward your confirmation to either**

1. Joe Felix @ [j.joefelix@gmail.com](mailto:j.joefelix@gmail.com)

Phone 905 792 1343 (Home) 416-569-5266 (Cell)

2. Abraham Jacob Thundathil (Jobu) @ [jobushema@hotmail.com](mailto:jobushema@hotmail.com)

Phone 416-913-1899

3. Ommachen Mathew (Reji) @ [ommachanm@yahoo.com](mailto:ommachanm@yahoo.com)

Phone- 416 242 9241

*To give you an idea on what you could expect to see, we are attaching the route map of the cruise and some details of the attractions which you could see during the 3 hour outer island wilderness cruise*



# Three-Hour Outer Island Wilderness Cruise

## **1 Stockey Centre for the Performing Arts and Bobby Orr Hall of Fame**

Completed in 2003, this state of the art performing arts facility hosts live performances by renowned Canadian and international musicians. The building is also home to the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame, an interactive celebration of this outstanding hockey player's career both locally and in the NHL.

## **2 Canadian Coast Guard Base**

The Canadian Coast Guard Base in Parry Sound is one of the largest on the Great Lakes and its primary duty is to maintain safety on the lakes through ice breaking, search and rescue and the maintenance of thousands of aids to navigation such as lighthouses and beacons. The base is home to small day boats, helicopters and icebreakers.

## **3 Salt Dock**

Nearly 100,000 tons of salt is shipped to this dock each spring from Goderich and Windsor. The salt is then used in the winter to clear ice and snow off of Ontario's northern highways.

## **4 The Big Sound**

This body of water is called the Big Sound and is a popular spot for sailors and water enthusiasts for its persistent west wind. It is also one of the deepest areas of Georgian Bay and the Great Lakes, reaching depths of 350 feet.

## **5 Hole in the Wall**

This beautiful channel is a favourite with passengers. Just wide enough for the Island Queen to fit through, the channel is famous for its 80-foot granite cliffs that you can almost reach out and touch! On the one side, Huckleberry Island is well known for its abundance of wild blueberries and huckleberries. On the other side, Wall Island is said to have been a burial ground for the historic Ojibway Native villages in the area.

## **6 Depot Harbour**

Depot Harbour is located on the far shore to the south of the ship and is one of Ontario's most intriguing Ghost Towns. Built in the 1890's, activity in the bustling rail town dried up in the Depression years and during World War II. Grain elevators and other buildings were turned into storage facilities for explosives, which ignited at the end of the war – burning the entire town to the ground. Little remains and the only activity in the harbour is fish farming.

## **7 Killbear Provincial Park**

One of Ontario's most popular summer parks, Killbear is home to miles of beautiful sandy beaches, huge granite cliffs and lots of rattlesnakes! As we cruise by the park, water enthusiasts often surround the ship with sailboats, windsurfers, and just about anything else that floats.

## **8 Palestine Island**

Irving Berlin, the famous music composer of White Christmas and other well-known classics spent many summers vacationing on this island.

## **9 Waubuno Channel**

This channel is named after an 1867 steam-powered side-wheeler named the Waubuno, which mysteriously sank here during a blinding snowstorm in 1879. While the hull of the ship was later located, the 24 people travelling from Collingwood to Parry Sound were never found.

## **10 Outer Islands**

The Outer Islands of Georgian Bay's Thirty Thousand Island region are remote, wild and absolutely spectacular. Not far from here is a plaque commemorating the 1615 passage through these islands of Samuel de Champlain, an early explorer and Governor of New France.

## **11 Bear's Head**

Bear's Head is the southern most point of Parry Island, the location of the Wausauksing Ojibway Native Reserve. The point is called Bear's Head because of the unusual number of black bears that are spotted here each summer.

## **12 Devil's Elbow**

Devil's Elbow is an extremely tight right-angle turn that the Captains must navigate.

## **13 Seven-Mile Narrows**

This narrow channel was blasted out years ago to let larger vessels pass through and is a very difficult channel to navigate through. It is a great channel to view cedars, white pines, moss and other forms of vegetation that grow among the islands.

## **14 Five-Mile Narrows Osprey Nest**

The Osprey nest in Five-Mile Narrows is one of the only visible Osprey nests in the area and is occupied every spring and summer by Osprey returning north to breed. Young Osprey usually hatch in June.

## **15 Rose Point Swing Bridge**

Built in the late 1800's to connect the mainland with Depot Harbour on Parry Island, this bridge still swings open to let larger vessels like the Island Queen through.

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