

SEGWUN IN 1991

The 1991 season marks the 105th year on the Muskoka Lakes of the passenger steamer SEGWUN, (a) NIPISSING (II)(25). This historic vessel, retired in 1958 and then reactivated in 1981 after many years of idleness and a major and protracted refurbishing, is the last of the traditional Muskoka passenger boats. She still is propelled by the two venerable, second-hand engines that were fitted in her in 1925 when she was converted from a sidewheeler to a propellor, and she still is hand-fired with coal.

SEGWUN's 1991 schedule begins on June 15 and ends on Thanksgiving Day, October 14. As usual, Gravenhurst, Ontario, is SEGWUN's base of operations. Most days, there are two-hour sightseeing trips at noon and 2:15 p.m. and, beginning June 21st, a three-and-a-half-hour dinner cruise at 7:00 p.m. (6:00 p.m. after September 2nd). Every Thursday, starting July 4th, there is a 9:30 a.m. departure for a day-long trip up Lake Muskoka, through the Indian River and the Port Carling lock, and up into Lake Rosseau, with a stop for lunch at one of the famous old Lake Rosseau resort hotels.

From July 1 to September 1, there are one-and-a-half-hour sightseeing trips at 10:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. At 2:15 p.m. each Sunday (and also on Mondays in July and August), there is a four-hour cruise to the Millionaire's Row area of the east side of Lake Muskoka, near Beaumaris, to view the spectacular, classic, summer estates there. Thanksgiving Day will, as usual, feature a special version of the "100 Mile Cruise" to Lake Rosseau.

Prices for SEGWUN's trips are most reasonable. The Lake Rosseau trip is \$44.25 for adults; the Millionaire's Row trip, \$27.75; the Sunset Dinner Cruise, \$39.95 including the meal served aboard in the Royal Muskoka Salon; the two-hour sightseeing trip is only \$15.50, and the 1½-hour version is but \$12.50, children being accommodated at reduced fares on all trips.

On a pleasant summer day, passengers will enjoy sitting out on the open forward deck, or may retreat from the sun on the spacious shade deck aft. Despite a relatively small amount of cabin space on the promenade deck, passengers may relax in the various lounges, including the Nipissing Lounge, where they may order something from the bar while enjoying the beautiful woodwork of the cabin, with its large observation windows, and viewing the old NIPISSING nameboard (the real thing) which is mounted above the bar.

On the enclosed main deck, they may visit the snack bar forward, sit at tables on the old freight deck and look out through the old gangways, or look over the open engine pit and even venture down amongst the machinery. The engineers are always pleased to explain to passengers the workings of the historically significant propulsion machinery and the auxiliaries. The beautifully panelled diningroom, with its large observation windows, is located right aft on the main deck.

Many of our members have never taken a trip in SEGWUN or even heard her melodious Crosby chime whistle, and this is to be regretted. Historical gems such as SEGWUN are very rare, and they must have strong support if they are to survive. SEGWUN operates successfully, but her continued operation must not be assumed. It must be made to happen. Gravenhurst is a drive of less than two hours north of Toronto, easily reached by major highways. SEGWUN operates from a wharf located beside Highway 169, just a short distance from the town's main business area.

Reservations for a SEGWUN trip, and especially for a meal aboard, are a "must" at all times, as capacity is limited. Contact the office of the Muskoka Lakes Navigation and Hotel Company Ltd., P.O. Box 68, Gravenhurst, Ontario POC 1G0, or phone (705) 687-6667. Toronto residents may contact The Cruise People Ltd. at (416) 759-7772.