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Old Wright Mine Property Active Again as Cobalt-Badger

History of Original Property Discovered in 1686, Given, With Additional Information From Present Operation; Many Interesting Items in Original Story by Nugget Writer

(Continued From Last Week)

Time of the Re-Discovery

There are no illustrations or drawings in existence which deal with the mine as it appeared more than two centuries ago. Indeed there is but meagre mention made of the deposit until about 1850. It was about this date that Mr. E. V. Wright of Ottawa, who owned the timber in this locality, re-discovered the deposit.

Wright was engaged in removing timber from his concession when the corks on his boots chipped off some of the galena and lead-bearing ore. Samples of the ore were taken to Ottawa where they lay for several years on the desk of the discoverer. About 1870 it occurred to Wright to have the samples assayed. The result of assay was such as to arouse considerable interest. Shortly after this, Mr. Wright, accompanied by J. M. Courrier and Mr. Eustis from Boston, came up and commenced work sinking a shaft to a depth of about 12 feet. From this shaft they took out about ten tons of ore. Details of the result are lacking. It is recorded, however, that a second shipment was made by rail, but the crude conveyance smashed up in a mad plunge through the rapids at Dieux Rivières. Nothing was done until 1885, when George Goodwin of Ottawa, together with G. T. Brophy advanced sufficient money to pay for sinking the shaft a further fifty feet in depth as well as installing some mechanical equipment and a five-ton stamp mill. This plant was afterwards burned. No ore was shipped as the result of this work.

About 1890, Robert Chapin, at that time president of the Ingersoll Rock Drill Company (N.Y.) bought the property and made an option payment on the basis of \$125,000. He installed the first air compressor in the country, and built a fifty or sixty-ton mill. He continued the shaft to a depth of 250 feet and did considerable lateral work. This resulted in the shipment of a considerable quantity of concentrates, the value of which seems to be impossible to ascertain at this date. It is said that Mr. Chapin became involved in some bad investments which caused him to abandon this mining project with the result that the property reverted to Wright, the principal holder.

In 1895, Wright sold the property to the Petroleum Oil Trust of London, England. The new owners sunk the shaft another five feet in depth and did several hundred feet of drifting and cross cutting at the bottom level, as well as some work at the 250-foot level. The mill was also operated, the concentrates being shipped to Swansea, Wales. No figures are available as to the amount of concentrates produced.

The mill and buildings as erected by the Petroleum Oil Trust are still standing, although machinery has been pretty well all removed. The writer, visited the mine June 18th, 1921, together

with members of the Ontario Mining Association. These buildings are of the old-fashioned type, features being the many gables as well as having a ground-floor entrance and a second-storey entrance by stairways leading from the ground.

A few years ago the Wright mine was bought by the Timmins-McMartin interests of Montreal, and is still owned by them. The underground workings are filled with water, the plant is completely dismantled, and the visitor finds difficulty in throwing off a feeling of peculiar sadness as he views this neglected strange link between Canada of the present day and the wild land of 235 years ago, long before Wolfe took Quebec, and even dating back nearly a year before LaSalle, the greatest, perhaps, of the French pioneers to North America. It was in 1862 that history tells us that in the name of France, La Salle took possession of all Louisiana, from the mouth of the Ohio to the Gulf of Mexico in a resounding proclamation handed down to us. It was four years later that the Wright Mine was found, thus linking itself with a past about which only a little is known and which occupies but a dim place in the minds of men.

Later History of Wright Mine

The Timmins-McMartin interests dewatered the Wright Mine on the east shore of Lake Temiskaming in 1925 and did some diamond drilling on the bottom level. However, at this time, prices of the lead, zinc and silver content of the ore went to extreme lows and they relinquished their holdings in this area.

"The Mine", as it is familiarly known to the inhabitants along the opposite Quebec shore, passed eventually into private hands. Efforts were made by the various owners to finance resumption of operations, but without success, and in 1946 the property was acquired by a company known as Villa Lead Mining Corporation Limited.

This company carried out an extensive and successful diamond drilling program to verify and extend the reported ore reserves in the mine.

The shaft is 330 feet deep with five levels.

Adequate and substantial finances were necessary to dewater the workings and install the necessary plant to permit further exploration and extract the known ore. To this end the Villa Company disposed of the 700-acre property to the Cobalt Badger Silver Mines Limited, an active exploration company also holding extensive properties in Cobalt and Gowganda.

The Cobalt Badger started operations early in December, 1951, and have constructed a motor road to the mine, connecting with Highway No. 46, North Temiskaming to Ville Marie. A new head-

(Continued on Page 2)



OTHELLO—Sandra Scott and Lorne Green of Toronto enact the death scene from Shakespeare's Othello, in which they play the leads in a broadcast performance on CBC Wednesday Night, February 6. Desdemona will be the third Shakespearean heroine Miss Scott has played for CBC listeners—and the others were Ophelia and Juliet. Green is one of Canada's leading "heavies". John Drainie will be heard as Iago, and Margot Christie as Emilia.

Survey of Mines by Toronto Paper Just Off The Press

Expansion Noted in Review With Several Mining Areas Listed in the Increases

Backed by major expansion programs in nickel, iron, asbestos, uranium, zinc and lead mining, Canada's mineral output appears headed for further records, declares the 1952 edition of The Financial Post Survey of Mines, just off the press.

A 17.5% increase in dollar value of production was recorded in 1951 at \$1,228 millions as compared with the unprecedented \$1,045 millions of 1950.

Seldom in Canadian mineral history has there been such overall expansion.

Reviews of individual companies offer a handy reference to production, earnings, dividends, ore reserves, directors, and significant developments minewise, enabling investors to make ready appraisals of issues.

Besides data on Canadian mines, the Survey also gives information on foreign mining companies in which Canadians are interested. New stock commission rates, lists of milling plants and metal prices are additional features.

The Financial Post Survey of Mines, 1952 edition, is available from MacLean-Hunter Publishing Co. Ltd, 481 University Ave., Toronto. Price is \$3.00.

Ancient Pastime: Dice playing has been traced back almost to the beginning of history and there were sharpies even in that era, because loaded dice have been unearthed in the ruins of Pompeii.

Fire Takes Life of Small Boy at New Liskeard

Two-Year-Old Boy Burned to Death When Flames Destroy Residence

A two-year-old boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Morrow (who were in Toronto at the time) was burned to death in sudden conflagration at the home of his grandparents, on Market street, in New Liskeard on Monday morning.

Frank King, grandfather of the child managed to save the other inmates of the home, but was thwarted by flames and smoke in his efforts to reach the little fellow.

After evacuating his wife and five of the children who were in the house at the time, Mr. King tried to reach the youngster, first by the stairway and then through a window over the verandah, but the fire was too fierce for him.

There were three families living in the house, a one-and-a-half storey frame building. Six of the children had left for school before the fire was noticed.

Efforts of the fire brigade were hampered by a frozen hydrant not far from the house.

Mr. King said he lit the kitchen fire at 5 a.m., and possibly overheated pipes was the cause.

LEGION ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 1952

At a meeting held last Wednesday night, the Canadian Legion elected officers for 1952.

Lorne Charbonneau, who was acting president, last May, when president Charles Murray left for Winnipeg. First Vice-President is John Valentine; second vice-president is Orville Hughes.

Keith Valentine was re-elected secretary, in which capacity he has served for a number of years. Treasurer is Jas. Reavell, taking over from Ralph Baker, who is leaving for Quebec City, where he has been transferred. Lewis Simard, who was second vice-president last year has retired.

Elected to the executive committee are: Wm. Farmer, C. E. Fleming, O. Gravel, Fred Thompson, Ted Liscumb, Jack Hughes and Fraser Reavell. Mr. A. T. Humphreys was elected chaplain.

After the business meeting, a social evening was held in honor of Ralph Baker, at which a large number of members attended. He was presented with a scene of Haileybury and Lake Temiskaming, for which he thanked those present and expressed regret at leaving Haileybury, where he had made so many friends and expected to join the Canadian Legion at Quebec City.

Local Ex-Mayor Passes Away in Toronto Sunday

John A. McKinnon here for Many Years; Always Interested in Town's Welfare

Another old-timer of Haileybury passed away at the home of his son in Toronto, on Sunday, in the person of John A. McKinnon, former mayor and councillor of the town. He served many years on the town council.

He was in the ice business here for many years, and at one time supplied practically all the O.N.R. (then the T. & N.O.) with ice.

Mr. McKinnon came to Haileybury in 1905, after living in Bracebridge for about eight years.

He was a police officer in Bracebridge, but on arrival he opened up a cartage business and in 1908 saw the possibilities of the ice business. About that time he was also elected a town councillor, and represented the town in that capacity for a great number of years, and finally ran for and was elected to the mayor's chair.

He was originally a York township boy, was married to the late Bella Tiffin.

He was in his 89th year, and leaves to mourn his loss one son and two daughters. The son is Wilbur, and the daughters are Mrs. C. O. Scott (Mabel) and Mrs. A. McInnis (Elora). All now live in Toronto, although for quite a few years were residents of Haileybury.

The funeral was held from the parlors of A. E. Cook Limited, 721 Bloor street west, Toronto with service there yesterday afternoon at 1.30 o'clock. Interment was made in the Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Vaughan township.

Many old timers in town have pleasant recollections of their friendship with Mr. McKinnon, and his passing will be deeply mourned by all who knew him or the family.

Local Rebekah Lodge Holds Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Northern Light Rebekah Lodge was held on Tuesday evening, with Mrs. Dinesen, the Noble Grand, in the chair for the regular business.

During the degree, when Mrs. R. Larabee and Mrs. D. Edwards were initiated, Mrs. Cragg officiated as Noble Grand.

Mrs. Arnold Dempster and Mrs. Wm. Fleming and family were reported to be on the sick list by the Vice Grand, and had been visited and a speedy recovery hoped for them.

At the next regular meeting a Reconciliation service will be held, so a full meeting of the members is hoped for.

Phone Official is Killed by Truck Near Burks Falls

P. R. Craven Crushed and Dies Later in Hospital; Well Known and Liked

Percival Randolph Craven, general manager and vice-president of the Northern Telephone Company, was fatally injured last Thursday just north of Burks Falls, when he stopped his car, got out and was hit by a truck coming from the opposite direction.

Mr. Craven had been driving his daughter to her home in Belleville when the accident happened.

Mr. Craven had been with the Temiskaming Telephone Company and its successor, the Northern Telephone Company since 1906.

Before his present appointment he had been bookkeeper and secretary of the company for years.

Although a very modest and retiring man, he very active in all community affairs, especially sports, music and welfare work.

He was one of the organizers of the Temiskaming Festival of Music and gave a great deal of his time as its secretary and by his efforts had made it known throughout the North. An accomplished musician, he was organist of the New Liskeard Baptist Church for thirty years, organist of the Haileybury Baptist church for a number of years, a member of the New Liskeard band and in several small orchestral groups in his home town for quite a few years.

During his earlier years in the North he was interested in track and field sports, and also was at the organization meeting of the Northern Ontario Hockey Association when it was formed in Cobalt in 1919. He was an expert tennis player and coached many of the Liskeard players who afterwards enjoyed the game.

"P.R." as he was affectionately known among his friends throughout the North, was also business manager of the Philharmonic Choir. It was mostly through his efforts that this group, which has now won Dominion-wide fame, was able to compete in the Kiwanis festivals which led to their musical fame.

Mr. Craven was a charter member of the New Liskeard Kiwanis Club, and was also a member of the Masonic Order.

He was born in Brampton, Ont. in 1884 and came north to live in 1906. He was married in 1908 to the former Edna Reinhold.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three daughters, Nora of New Liskeard and Matachewan, Jean of Toronto and Rena, (Mrs. John Steinbach of Belleville; two brothers, Edgar and Clarence; two sisters, Miss Edna Craven and Mrs. Arthur Keats, and one half-brother, Thomas Smith, all of Toronto. An only son, Earl, predeceased him in 1936.

The funeral of the late Mr. Craven was held to the New Liskeard Baptist Church on Monday afternoon.

New French Radio Station Is Opened in Timmins

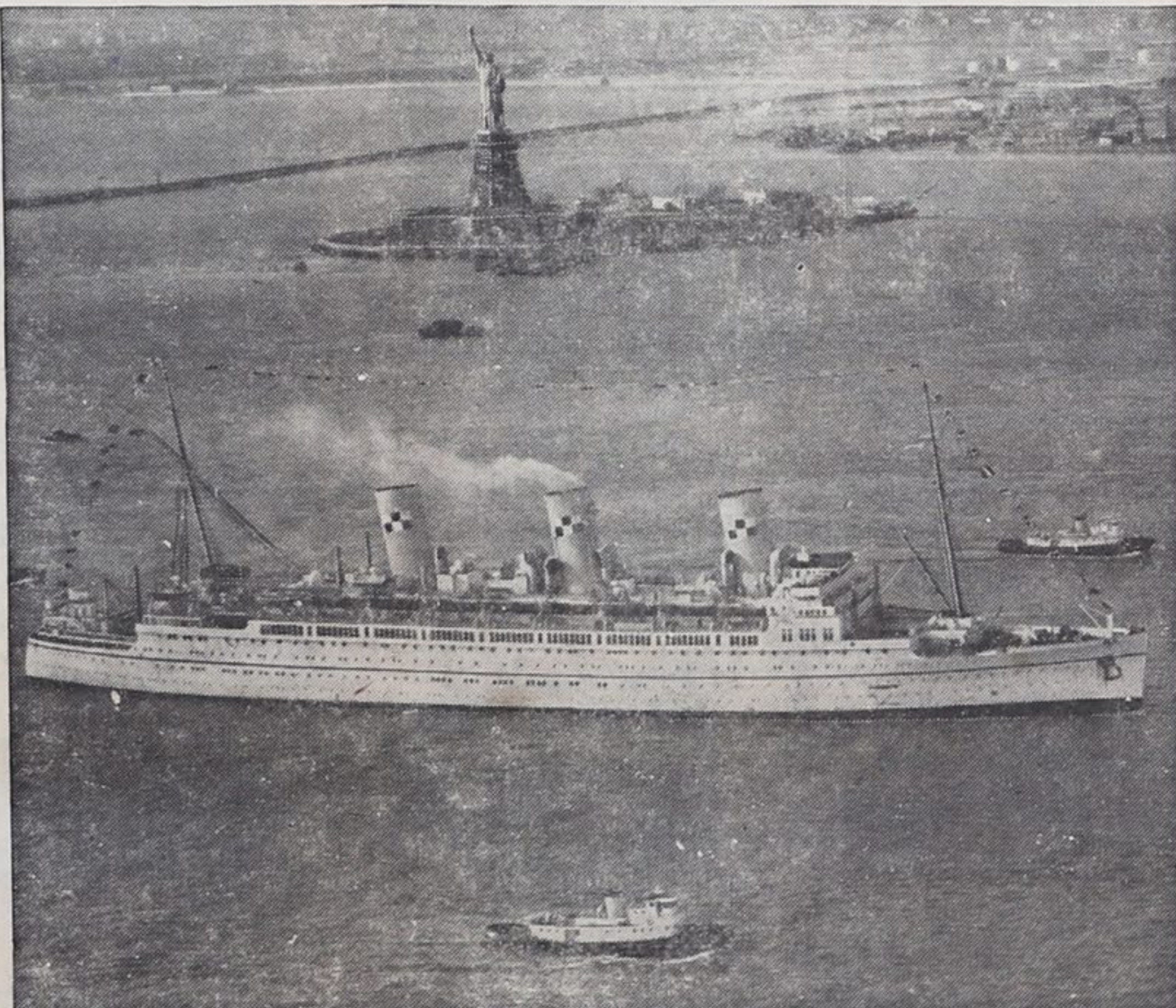
French-speaking residents of Northern Ontario and Northwestern Quebec are hearing programs in French over a new Timmins radio station CFCL.

The station, broadcasting on 580 kilocycles with a power of 1,000 watts, was officially opened Monday. Its owner is J. Conrad Lavigne, 36-year-old hotel owner and former grocer, who served with the Irish Regiment of Toronto in Holland and Germany during the Second World War.

The English station located in Timmins is CKGB.

WEEK'S WEATHER

Week ending	January 23rd	Max.	Min.
Thursday	-----	29.0	*5.0
Friday	-----	18.6	9.4
Saturday	-----	31.6	4.0
Sunday	-----	24.6	*10.2
Monday	-----	3.0	*13.2
Tuesday	-----	8.0	*12.4
Wednesday	-----	62.0	*13.6
Precipitation for week	-----	1.46"	
This morning's low	-----	*29.6	



EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND AT NEW YORK—The 26,300-ton Canadian Pacific luxury liner Empress of Scotland, shown here passing the Statue of Liberty at New York, has been scheduled for three sunshine cruises from New York to the storied Caribbean this winter. She will leave for the Spanish Main for her first 161-day cruise on Feb. 1, following this with trips on Feb. 20 and March 8. Prior to starting her cruise season, the white-hulled flagship had the honor of carrying Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh to England following their tour of Canada. New ports of call in the Virgin Islands and Barbadoes have been added to this year's cruises.

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