

By the time you read these words, the 1993 navigation season will be history for all but a few late-running ships. We hope to run our annual winter lay-up report in the February issue and we shall be pleased to receive the assistance of our readers. Please go to your nearest port(s) and jot down the names of all vessels laid up there. Be careful to record the names correctly and do not guess as to the identity of a ship. If you include tugs, ferries, etc., in your list, please be certain to label them as such in your report so that we will know and can do likewise. Then send us your listing(s) as soon as you can.

We hope that no readers will fall victim to the "Somebody Else Will Do It" syndrome. While we do sometimes receive more than one listing for some ports this is of benefit to us as it allows us to double-check the accuracy of our information. If everybody sat back and didn't send a list because "somebody else will do it", then we would have no reports at all and we would not be able to print this feature which, we are told frequently, you all find so informative!

Traditionally, we have had difficulty in obtaining reports for certain ports on Lake Erie's south shore as well as for the ports of Lake Michigan. If you can assist with those areas, we would be pleased to hear from you. We thank you all for your assistance and look forward to receiving your reports as soon as possible. (To speed the receipt of your report, you may fax the report to [416] 730-3913, but as this is a busy fax line in a large office, please be certain to address them to the Editor by name.)

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MARINE NEWS

We are now able to give details of the passenger ship operation which will come to the Great Lakes in 1994. The service will be operated by Marine Expeditions, an affiliate of Blyth & Company Travel Limited, of Toronto, and the vessel to be used will be one of three Russian ships already under charter to Blyth for Arctic and Antarctic cruises. The boat coming to the lakes is AKADEMIK IOFFE, owned by the Academy of Sciences, Moscow, and built in 1987 by the Holming Ltd. shipyard in Finland. She is Ice Class 1A Super, Canadian Type B, and is 383.9 (overall) x 59.7 x 19.4, 6231 Gross. On the lakes, she will carry 79 passengers, and her crew of 53 will be Canadian, except for Russian officers and engineers.

Present scheduling calls for four seven-night trips (two each way) between Toronto and Duluth, with departures from Toronto on July 31 and August 15, and sailings from Duluth on August 9 and September 13. There also will be four five-night trips between Duluth and Midland, Ontario, departing Duluth on August 24 and September 3rd, and sailing from Midland on August 27th and September 6th. The excursions will be sold as ten- and eight-day packages, including parts of three days in Toronto on all trips. Midland trips will include connections with Toronto. Trip themes will be the geography and history of the areas to be visited, including the "Turkey Trail" of Lake Huron's North Channel, Michipicoten Island, the Portage Canal through the Keweenaw Peninsula, Isle Royale and the Apostle Islands, and many of the numerous shore stops will be done by means of zodiacs.

Fares will range between US\$1,295 and US\$3,295 plus some rather hefty port taxes, and bookings reportedly have been good to date, especially in foreign sales. We wish AKADEMIK IOFFE and her charterers well in this new enterprise, as it must succeed if any regular resumption of lake cruise operations is ever to be considered seriously.

The port of Toronto has a very special winter visitor this year. Arriving just before Christmas and laid up on the south side of the Leslie Street slip off the Turning Basin is Algoma Central Marine's ALGOCAPE, (a) CAROL LAKE (87). This is the first time that this handsome 1960-built steamer ever has visited Toronto.