

At the end of the 1955 season, it was announced that LADY HAMILTON and MACASSA together had covered their operating expenses for the first time, even though only slightly in excess of 50,000 passengers had been carried. It was said that several offers to purchase LADY HAMILTON had been received during the year, but that Hamilton city council had opted to retain the steamer, not as a money-making venture but rather to provide much needed respite from the summer heat for city residents without cars or summer cottages. The writing, however, seems to have been on the wall.

In the 1956 season, LADY HAMILTON ran much the same service as in 1955, again doing Port Dalhousie trips every Friday, commencing on July 6th. Her season seems generally to have been uneventful.

In 1957, the ship's season ran from June 1st to September 2nd, with MACASSA running the circuit of Hamilton Bay on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, and LADY HAMILTON doing it on Wednesdays. LADY HAMILTON ran to Port Dalhousie on Sundays from June 2nd to August 25th, leaving Hamilton at 11:00 a.m. and Port Dalhousie at 5:30 p.m. LADY HAMILTON was also advertised as being available "from Toronto to Port Dalhousie on Various Dates" and she did make some such trips, docking in Toronto at CAYUGA's wharf at the foot of Yonge Street. She made many moonlight excursions that year, including one on Thursday, June 13th, 1957, called the "Swan Lake Cruise", arranged by the Hamilton Branch of the National Ballet Guild of Canada. There were decorative swans and cygnets everywhere, and the ship's interior was swathed in pink with cerise satin bows. The weather that evening was anything but great, however, and there were "audible gasps from the passengers as LADY HAMILTON began to roll a bit underfoot out on the lake".

On the first of LADY HAMILTON's Port Dalhousie trips that season, June 2nd, she had MACASSA lashed alongside, releasing her off Port Weller so that MACASSA could proceed to the drydock there.

The 1958 season was, again, much the same, with LADY HAMILTON running from Hamilton to Port Dalhousie every Sunday from June 1st through August 31st. Lakeside Park at Port Dalhousie was still a popular excursion destination then. One Saturday that year, she ran a church picnic trip from Oakville to Port Dalhousie, but one family and seven teenagers "made a mistake in the time" and missed the return trip of the steamer, so that they had to find alternate transportation home.

But the days of excursions on the water seemed to be coming to an end then, mostly because of the improvements made to the highways and the proliferation of automobiles. Lake Ontario's other major passenger steamer, CAYUGA, had ceased operations at the close of the 1957 season, and 1958 would be the last year for the Muskoka steamboats, with only SAGAMO and SEGWUN surviving to finish out that service.

The 1958 season also proved to be the last for LADY HAMILTON. The Hamilton Harbour Commissioners, led by chairman Argue Martin, Q.C., decided that the Commission was "appointed to operate an efficient port business and not to run a travel agency - especially at a loss", and on January 8, 1959, announced that LADY HAMILTON was being listed for sale with city brokers. It was said that the necessary public support for the steamer's operation during the short summer season just was not there, and that continued operation could no longer be justified.

MACASSA carried on with her round-the-bay service, although even she operated at a loss of some \$30,000 per year (and the Harbour Commissioners latterly relegated her to tug service and finally sold her in 1965). LADY HAMILTON, however, never again turned her wheel and lay idle at the James Street wharf until 1962. In May of that year, she was sold for something between \$10,000 and \$20,000 to the Steel Company of Canada Ltd., and she was scheduled to be towed from James Street to the Stelco scrapping berth on May 22nd. Due to weather conditions, the tow was not accomplished until May 26th but by May 30th, scrapping operations were well underway and the steamer