

# Chi-Chee

PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS WRITTEN BY



◀ Captain Kerry Adams on the bridge some time ago.



▲ Captain Kerry outside the bridge sailing past Cove Island recently. "If I had a nickel for every photo taken of Cove Island, I'd be very rich," he has said. He is now operations director for Owen Sound Transportation Company.



◀ MS Chi-Cheemaun coming into port at South Baymouth.



# maun at 50!

GLORIA HILDEBRANDT AND KERRY ADAMS



◀ Taken some years ago, this shows Captain Kerry on the bridge while the car ramp is being raised.

Celebrations are being held this year for the 50th anniversary of MS Chi-Cheemaun. Over many years of sailing on the ferry, Mike and I almost always happened to be on board when Captain Kerry Adams was at the helm. Robert Schreiber is also a captain with the ferry, but we never seemed to sail when he was working. Kerry was always so welcoming that we knew he would enjoy a brief visit with us and would let Mike take photos. Here are some memories over the years of sailing to and from Manitoulin Island.



▲ Vehicles leave the parking deck at Tobermory.



◀ On Jan. 12, 1974, the Chi-Cheemaun hull was launched in Collingwood by Collingwood Shipyards, Ltd.



**K**erry's record is impressive. "The ship handling and dockings was something I got immense pleasure from. That's when sometimes your heart was really thumping, especially on bad days. I have figured out I had over 25,000 arrivals and departures over 25 years between Tobermory and Manitoulin Island. Several trips to Thunder Bay and Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, for drydocking every five years for inspection in there as well."

Kerry remembers one dramatic experience in particular. "We came into Tobermory on a bad weather day and cancelled the return trip to Manitoulin. I let crew go home and kept a small crew to stand by as it was really blowing a gale. Suddenly, one of the mooring cables broke and we were starting to fall away from the dock. We closed the car ramp quickly and started



Chi-Cheemaun means "big canoe" in Ojibwe. Beautiful art adorns her exterior.

to back away from the dock. The winds were so strong, we were very close to grounding on North Point by the time the ship got turned. We ended up anchoring down in Dyers Bay in the lee of the Escarpment for the night. It took some time to realize we let David

Mouland, the cook, off and we had to fend for ourselves until the next morning."

Looking back on all his years as captain, Kerry says "I'm proud that I was given command of such an iconic ship on the Great Lakes. I never took it for granted and

felt it a privilege. I'm proud to have worked with great crew members that often made my job easy on most days. I'm proud to be a second generation captain in our family. My father had 49.5 years of sailing experience and I will end with 48.5." **NEV**

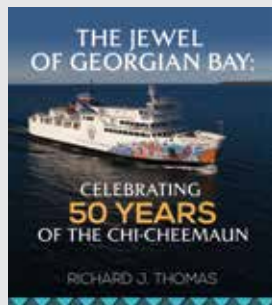
## 2024 Celebrations

### Sailing Season:

May 3 to Oct. 20  
Several daily trips between Tobermory and Manitoulin Island.

### Chi-Cheemaun Festival Cruise:

Sat. June 15  
Tickets required, sell out quickly.



This commemorative book, published by The Ginger Press, will be launched at the 50th anniversary celebrations in Tobermory on Father's Day.

### Sail Through Time Exhibit

On-board artifacts, posters, photos and more from the history of ferry service between Tobermory and Manitoulin Island.  
Free on board during sailing.

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