

FALL UPDATE

SS Keewatin | Removal of Moorings | Winter Gear Tips

SS KEEWATIN

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Wrapping up the Moorings for the Season

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The Keewatin: A New Addition to the Great Lakes Museum

Exciting news for maritime enthusiasts! The Great Lakes Museum, formerly known as the Marine Museum, has acquired the SS Keewatin. This majestic passenger liner once plied the waters between Port Arthur/Fort William (now Thunder Bay) on Lake Superior and Port McNicoll on Georgian Bay (Lake Huron) in Ontario, Canada. It was an essential part of the Canadian Pacific Railway's Great Lakes steamship service.

The Keewatin is not just any ship; it's a true relic of the Edwardian era, making it one of the largest remaining passenger steamers of its time worldwide. It shares this distinction with notable vessels like Nomadic and the lake steamer TSS Earnslaw, which is still operational in New Zealand.



🌊 Wrapping up the Moorings for the Season 🏹

As another season comes to an end, it's time to bid farewell to the moorings that have served our diving community

faithfully. 🌞 Some wrecks still bear moorings, but these are likely just break-away jugs, as winter's grip can be harsh, and the boats must come ashore.

Moorings the wrecks is a labor of love, a dedication to preserving our underwater heritage. To the passionate divers and groups who maintain these vital connections to our submerged history, we extend our heartfelt thanks. 🙏

Yet, a message to those who profit from these moorings without giving back: take this winter to reflect. Consider how you can contribute to the community that maintains the moorings. Remember, we're all part of the same maritime

family. 🚢❤️

Stay warm, stay safe, and let's look forward to a new season of adventures

beneath the waves. 🌊🌟 #DiveSafe #UnderwaterHeritage #CommunityUnity

Here's a glimpse of what the Keewatin was like in its prime: It boasted a substantial size, with 3,856 gross register tons (GRT) and 2,470 net register tons (NRT). This liner measured an impressive 102.6 meters (336 feet 7 inches) in length, had a beam of 13.3 meters (43 feet 8 inches), and a draught of 7.2 meters (23 feet 7 inches). The ship's power came from four coal-fired scotch boilers, driving a quadruple expansion steam engine that generated 3,000 horsepower (2,200 kW), granting it a maximum speed of 16 knots and a cruising speed of 14 knots.

With 108 staterooms and berths for 288 passengers, the Keewatin was a grand vessel, skillfully operated by a crew of 86 officers and staff.

Now, this splendid piece of maritime history is set to find a new home at the Great Lakes Museum. As the Keewatin takes its place among other unique exhibits in the region, such as a submarine in Southwestern Ontario and a Coast Guard Cutter in Northern Ontario, it offers a captivating opportunity for residents and visitors alike to explore the rich maritime heritage of Eastern Ontario.

Keep an eye out for future updates and the chance to tour this remarkable addition to the Great Lakes Museum, offering a glimpse into a bygone era of nautical travel. 🌊🏹

#MaritimeHistory #Keewatin #GreatLakesMuseum

Moorings the Luci in Lake Ontario



Are you a diver wondering when to schedule your tanks and regulators for annual maintenance? The debate continues in the diving community! 🌊🧐

📅 Some divers are the "January Planners," who diligently drop off their equipment for maintenance as soon as the new year begins, while the shop techs are busy fact-checking divers on social media.

🔥 On the other hand, there are the "Last-Minute Daredevils" who prefer to drop off their gear just before the dive, living by the motto that closer to the boat's departure, the better. After all, why rush into these things, right?

🔧 Then there's the contingent of divers who opt for early maintenance, perhaps even in November, holding onto the hope that the weather will stay mild and dry before the visual check in May. With a full nitrox fill, they're ready for the season ahead.

🥶 But if you're in Canada and diving with a wetsuit, it's time to let go of the idea that you won't be cold. Embrace the chill—it's what makes diving in the Great White North an adventure! 🇨🇦



❄️ For those like Jo, who keep their gear at the ready in the garage while hitting the slopes this winter, there's no rush. After all, it's not like the tank monkeys at the store are searching for work anyway. They often prefer the thrill of last-minute panic mode and ensuring it's all your fault. 🤦‍♂️

When will you drop off your gear for maintenance? The choice is yours, and every diver has their own unique approach! 🙌

#DivingLife #ScubaDiving #DiveGearMaintenance



Actual Shop Employee waiting for work.



Dive Clubs: A Dive into Collective Benefits

When contemplating the advantages of joining a dive club, it's not unusual to wonder what more there is to explore, particularly when you're already part of a thriving community like Ontario Diving. As one of the most active dive clubs in the region, Ontario Diving stands out, not just for its impressive virtual presence but also for the myriad of benefits it offers to all its members.

Being part of this vibrant dive club creates a platform for our diving community to engage in stimulating discussions with like-minded enthusiasts. It's a place for collective learning, benefiting from experienced divers, providing mentorship, forging lasting friendships, and, of course, connecting with dependable dive buddies. Many of these advantages parallel what you'd typically encounter in your local dive club, and the best part is that you can relish these benefits without the burden of club dues.


But what truly distinguishes joining a local dive club? While the apparent advantages, such as access to a pool (if available), are noteworthy, it's the collective social dimension that genuinely transforms our shared experience. Allowing us to share our journeys.

Our collective diving adventure encompasses various stories, each unique in its own right. Some of us began our diving journey as early as 12 after an unforgettable vacation in warm waters "resort course," a swift introduction to equipment, a guided lagoon dive, a fresh tank, and the simple instruction to return when it was empty. In the beginning, many of us dived occasionally, primarily during vacations and work-related trips to warmer destinations. However, our collective exploration led us to discover what the Great Lakes had to offer and, where we honed our diving skills.

The initial intention for some of us wasn't necessarily to join a club, as group participation wasn't always our forte. Yet, we were collectively drawn to the notion of having access to a pool for exercise and practice. As time passed, we collectively embraced cold-water diving and immersed ourselves in the local club's lively social activities. Ultimately, some of us took on active roles within these clubs, serving on the executive committee and further strengthening our bonds.

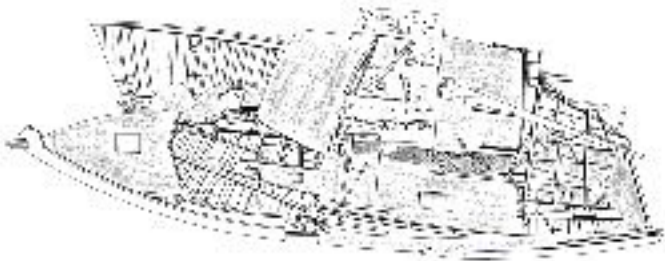
As a collective, our social circles expanded, and even non-diving spouses found camaraderie among their peers. We collectively embarked on group vacations, indulged in shared non-diving activities, and formed bonds that extended beyond the underwater realm. Creating meaningful connections with like-minded individuals is almost effortless within a local dive club, making it an ideal environment to nurture these collective experiences.

For those among us who have yet to consider joining a dive club, we extend an invitation to reach out to your local dive club and arrange a visit. You're sure to receive a warm, collective welcome, and who knows, you might just discover that it's the missing element to broaden our collective diving and social horizons. Dive in with us and explore the world of opportunities that await us collectively.

 #DiveClubBenefits #UnderwaterCommunity #ExploringDiveClub

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EFFIE MAE of Kingston



In the year of Canada's centennial celebration, a remarkable journey began in Shelburne, Nova Scotia. Ken and Lois Jenkins, hailing from Port Credit, Ontario, embarked on a labor of love – the construction of a 40 ft wooden trawler hull. Their vision took shape as they painstakingly built the vessel, pouring their hearts and skills into every plank. Once the partially-built hull was transported to Port Credit, the Jenkins family completed the vessel in their own backyard, bringing their dream to fruition.

Launched in 1968, the vessel was christened the Effie Mae, named after a cherished family member. However, her destiny was not confined to a traditional fishing role. Around 1980, she broke new ground as the first live-aboard dive charter boat in the Kingston area, offering enthusiasts the opportunity to explore the mysteries beneath the waves.

Spring of 1993 marked the final journey of the Effie Mae, as she was guided to the Metal Craft Dry dock. With meticulous care, the vessel was prepared for her ultimate transformation into an artificial reef and dive site. The anticipation grew as the community rallied behind the project, recognizing the significance of preserving this vessel's legacy for future generations.

On Sunday, October 17, 1993, exactly twenty-five years after her christening, the Effie Mae was gently laid to rest beside the historic wreck of the schooner barge Aloha. A solemn ceremony witnessed her descent into the depths, where she would find a new purpose as a habitat for marine life and a beacon for divers. Local divers, with deep respect and fondness, affectionately dubbed the wreck "Ken's wreck" in honor of both Ken Jenkins, the original builder, and Ken Mullens, who played a pivotal role in ensuring the Effie's successful transition to a dive site.

Collapse of the Effie Mae

Recent observations reveal that the wreck of the EFFIE MAE has suffered substantial damage during the off-season. It appears that the vessel experienced a significant upheaval, resulting in damage to its backbone, a fractured keel, and a split hull. Notably, there is no discernible evidence of human interference, such as anchors or deliberate actions, that could account for this collapse.

and now for some shameless self promotion

Shotlinediving.com (SLD) is making a splash in the diving community, providing valuable resources for divers exploring the wrecks and dive sites of the Great Lakes. 🌊🚢

🗺️ They've released an impressive collection of 20 (and counting) site maps for these underwater treasures. What's even more fantastic is that these maps are available under the CCND4 license, meaning you can use them freely as long as you're not using them for commercial purposes or making significant alterations.

🚢 But wait, there's more! SLD has also unleashed 8 fascinating models for divers to explore. These 3D models provide a unique way to experience and understand these underwater wonders.

📖 SLD isn't just about sharing the beauty of the deep; they're on a mission to educate. If you're interested in learning how to set up a dive site, create a map, or improve your underwater photography skills, SLD is your go-to resource. They're committed to sharing their knowledge and expertise with the diving community.

💙 So whether you want to join SLD's community or simply benefit from the wealth of information they provide, the choice is yours. They won't hold it against you—just e the incredible resources they offer! 🌊📷

#DivingCommunity #GreatLakesDiving #UnderwaterExploration #DiveMaps



Coming Soon