

A CAPTAIN'S THANK YOU.

Dear editor,

On Sunday, February 14th 2016, the International Shipmasters' Association held a draw for the Great Arctic Cruise, at the Annual Mariner's Service and Blessing of the Great Lakes Fleet. I am writing this letter to the editor, to publicly praise and thank all of the donors, volunteers and winners of this multi-tiered raffle that was held to fund the many causes around Georgian Bay.

The Grand Prize drawn is an 8 day Arctic Cruise on board the **M.S. EXPEDITION**, donated by G EXPEDITIONS. The winner of the Grand prize was Karen Hoolah, of Kemble, Ontario. The trip is booked for July, 2016.

The Second Prize is a Great Lakes Tall Ship Cruise for a youth. The winner will sail on board the Training Ship **T.S. PLAYFAIR**, which will participate in the 2016 International Tall Ship Challenge. It was donated by Toronto Brigantine, and the winner is John Van Delder, of Walkerton, Ontario.

The Third is a Group prize for up to 8 people, to operate any kind of ship in the digital database of the Georgian College **Marine Ship Simulator**, which was donated by Georgian College, in Owen Sound. The winner is Barbra Gray, of Owen Sound, Ontario.

The Fourth Prize is a 30,000 Islands Family Sightseeing Pass, aboard the **M.V. CHIPPEWA III**, operating out of Parry Sound, Ontario. It was donated by Chippewa III Cruises, and the winner is Mrs. Cecelia D'Mello, of Thornhill, Ontario.

The fifth Prize is a Summer Sunset Dinner Cruise for 2 aboard the **MS Chi-Cheemaun**, out of Tobermory, Ontario. It was donated by Owen Sound Transportation, and the winner is Trina George, of Oliphant, Ontario.

I would like to particularly thank G-EXPEDITIONS for the donation of this Arctic cruise to the Shipmasters' Association. I would also like to recognize the generosity of Toronto Brigantine, Chippewa III Cruises, Georgian College, and The Owen Sound Transportation Company.

We would like to thank all of our volunteer tickets sellers who stepped forward everywhere: buying, driving, mailing, phoning, soliciting, laughing, working and posing. We could not have done it without you. The most tickets sold were by Thomas Aulinger and Ron O'Donoughue who win an amazing tie with a fish on it.

A special thank you to St. George's Anglican Church, Owen Sound Mayor Ian Boddy, MPP Bill Walker and the Sandwich ladies.

Thanks to the Georgian Marine League, Julianne Hull, the Owen Sound Farmer's Market, Toronto Brigantine, Barber Bill, SS Keewatin, Capt. Wade Streeter, Jim Gallant, Capt. Greg, Haddock, Pinky, Diesel, Finn, Mac, Lurch, Tank, Freighter Frank, Crusty, and Pappy.

The Shipmaster's motto, is "*Excelsior*", which means "Ever Upward". The Proceeds raised by the Association will be donated to three Scholarships at Georgian College, and to support the Canadian Navy League Cadets, in Owen Sound. The proceeds are also going towards Toronto Brigantine Tall Ships, and Owen Sound's Community Waterfront Heritage Centre. We shall move well into the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Capt. Seann O'Donoughue
President,
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Owen Sound, Ontario