Ferries prepare for record year; Confederation added to CNR fleet

SPEEDY CONFEDERATION MAKES REGULAR TRIP IN 38 MINUTES

MV ABEGWEIT IS WORLD'S BIGGEST CARFERRY ICEBREAKER

Tourists coming to Prince Edward Island during the coming summer will be able to get to the Garden Province faster than ever before, thanks to the speed of the new $3,000,000 car ferry that went into operation in the spring.

The speedy MV Confederation, newest addition to the fleet operated for the department of transport by Canadian National Railways between Port Borden, P.E.I. and Cape Tormentine, N.B., wastes little time in plying the nine-mile distance between the two ports.

Earlier this year the Confederation was clocked in 38 minutes making one trip and 40 minutes on another. Usual time for a crossing is approximately 55 minutes for the other three ferries.

UNUSUAL DESIGN

A factor in the new ferry's crossing speed is her unusual design making it possible for the ferry to spend less turnaround time at each terminal. Both ends of the ship are exactly the same and she can sail as easily stern first as in the normal fashion.

Only the two 2½-ton anchors give a clue to which is the stern and which is the bow, and the anchors are tucked away unobtrusively into pockets in the forward superstructure.

Another aid in helping to eliminate confusion was the idea of labelling the bow the "Borden" end and the stern the "Tormentine" end.

The double ends will be a boon to passengers who will be able to drive on one end and drive off through the other entrance at the end of the trip.

Already the ship's unusual capabilities are arousing the interest of seamen. Said one: "She can do anything except go in both directions at once."

ALL-TIME RECORD

With the addition of the Confederation the Canadian National Railways expects to set an all-time record in the number of daily trips between the two ports. Last year three ferries made 28 daily trips and this year a goal of 34 round trips has been set.

Besides the Confederation, other ferries helping to set the record will be the luxurious MV Abegweit, the world's biggest ice-breaking carferry; the SS Prince Edward Island the SS Scotia II.

The Confederation will present a gorgeous view to the eye of the visitor. It is the first ferry to have her color scheme drawn up by the company's redesign experts.

FUNNEL IS RED

Her funnel is a bold red with the prize-winning "CN" symbol in white. Her hull is painted black to her splashboard and blue to the top of the deck with white superstructure.

Although passengers will spend only a short time on the Confederation during their trip across the strait, every effort has been made to make their trip as comfortable as possible.

THREE LOUNGES

Three separate lounges will be found on the ferry capable of providing comfortable accommodation for up to 300 passengers. The lounges are furnished with comfortable arm chairs, upholstered in foam rubber and covered with plastic.

Travelers will be able to relax and watch the scenery outside the lounges' picture windows or chat with friends.

The lounges are tastefully decorated and panelled with plywood. On the walls are pictures of attractive New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island scenes.

READING AVAILABLE

For those who wish to while away the minutes of the crossing in reading, there will be a magazine and newspaper stand available. This stand will also carry a display of local handicrafts designed to attract the eye of tourists.

Passengers will be able to buy light meals in the ferry's well-appointed lunchroom.

Trucks will form an important part of the ferry's cargo of vehicles, and special arrangements have been made to cater for the comfort of truckers. A truckers' rest room has been provided, complete with comfortable chairs for the man who wants to relax after hours on the road.

Steam-heated convector radiators will keep the passengers snug in winter and other equipment will keep the ship cool in summer.

FACTS, FIGURES

Here are some facts and figures on the Confederation:

Length	283 feet
Length between perpendiculars	295 feet
Breadth, moulded	60 feet
Breadth over guards	60 feet 4 inches
Depth, moulded	20 feet
Load draft, even keel, all seasons	13 feet
Deadweight at 13 foot draft	617 long tons
Speed on trials	13 knots
Vehicle capacity, automobiles	70
Passenger capacity	300

The vessel is an ice-breaking passenger ferry of all welded steel construction and diesel electric quadruple screw propulsion. The four solid-type propellers are of ice breaking strength.

MV Confederation has a continuous upper deck for the carriage of vehicles. Machinery is set amidships, and the deck house on the promenade deck has accommodation for passengers and crew. Wheelhouses are fitted at each end of the bridge deck.

The vehicle deck is symmetrical fore and aft, its end contours designed to fit the existing terminals at Borden and Cape Tormentine. Loading is accomplished through fore and aft gateways fitted with power operated steel doors.

The ship was designed and built for all season ferry service to the class and survey of Lloyd's Register and Shipping and Steamship Inspection Service.

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Island pastoral beauty catches eye of visitor

A panorama of unexcelled scenic beauty unfuris before the eye of the motorist as he glides over gentle hills and into picturesque valleys through the beautifully landscaped countryside of Prince Edward Island.

Red soil, green fields, majestic trees, multicolored flowers and the blue water produce a fairyland effect for the fortunate visitor during the sightseeing part of his Island vacation. A day's journey from any resort can be a rewarding experience for those who are seeking exceptional scenery.

The quiet, pastoral charm of the Island is enhanced by the smell of new mown clover, by the song of the locust and the music of the birds.

CARPET OF BEAUTY

Lovely and serene, the Island spreads a carpet of pastoral beauty on all sides to delight the eye of the visitor seeking the sort of landscaping which is the handiwork of mother nature herself. Island life if unhurried and the same pace usually prevails during pleasant drives which are a popular diversion in the Garden Province.

Distances are short and the sights can be seen leisurely.

Predominantly agricultural, the province gives the appearance of one large, well-kept farm. In fact, it is widely known as The Million Acre Farm. Herds of sleek cattle graze in roadside fields. The red of the clover and the whites and yellows of daisies in the hayfields predominate the entire setting.

Even the white blossoms of the many potato fields present a picture long to be remembered. The world's best seed potatoes are harvested from these same fields early each autumn.

Most Island roads run close to the shoreline and pass through quaint little fishing villages where the descendants of the early fishermen and their families live. Busy little fishing boats churn merrily in and out of the harbours. Visitors are intrigued by the activity at the wharves when the daily catch of lobster, codfish and mackerel is landed.

RIBBONS OF HIGHWAY

There are 3,000 miles of highway to speed the motorist on his way to the scenic views of Prince Edward Island. One thousand miles of pavement link all parts of the province to the main centres and resort areas. The Trans-Canada highway, now completed, is a first class, hard surface highway running through the centre of the province.

Increasing numbers of camera enthusiasts are seeking out the Island as a desirable spot for excellent color photographs. Many artists also come to the province to capture their favorite scenes on canvas.

Hotels, motels are rated tops

Excellent accommodation, ranging from luxurious hotels and motels to cozy farm tourist homes, await the visitor to Prince Edward Island.

Operators of place to stay in the Island are tuned to the demands and needs of present day travellers and provide top quality, clean, comfortable establishments. Guests are assured of reasonable rates and old fashioned hospitality at hotels, motels, lodges, cottages and tourist homes.

The Island is growing in popularity as a convention centre and excellent facilities are available for such meetings.

Rigid government inspection, insuring adherence to sanitary regulations, is carried out annually. Only licensed establishments are listed in the Accommodation Book.

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