

A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE CHIEF COMMANDA RIVER CRUISE

The following announcement was distributed to all UFRCA members and many past members.

Hello everyone,

This is a good news / bad news announcement about the Chief Commanda Cruise.

The good news is that we received a total of 61 separate responses to the survey, which translated into about 140 individuals who were interested in the cruise. That was a very positive initial response and many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the survey.

The bad news is that we are not going to move forward with the Cruise because of docking and parking challenges. There is simply no place left on the Upper French River that can be used by the Chief to load and unload upwards of 250 cruise participants and also allow people to park their boats during the cruise. The docking facilities for the Chief Commanda at Dokis Bay were removed many years ago, and, critically, Keystone is not currently operating as a business so their docks are not accessible to the public. We contacted both Solid Comfort and Chaudiere Lodge, where the Chief docked in former times. Although both organizations were very supportive of the cruise, they would not be able to handle the number of passengers or parking involved, either. So for these reasons, the UFRCA Board of Directors has decided to 'abandon ship' and cancel the project.

Although we're sad that the cruise won't go ahead, it has been a really fun project to work on. We all have so many great memories of the Chief Commanda and the project brought those memories back to life for everyone – survey respondents and Board members alike. The American writer Thomas Wolfe wrote "you can't go home again", and in our case that turned out to be true. But it was sure fun while it lasted! And a very special thank you to Holly Waters for coming up with and championing the idea in the first place.

Stay tuned for future announcements on other plans to celebrate Canada 150.

UFRCA members: Watch for the upcoming March newsletter around March 5.