
PRESS RELEASE

Notice to all media

For immediate release

Ms Maasdam drops anchor in Quebec City for the 100th time!

Quebec City, October 1st, 2009 – The Quebec Port Authority (QPA) marked the 100th visit of its most loyal seagoing visitor, the ms Maasdam of the Holland America cruise ship line, on Sunday, September 27.

The cruise ship first tied up at Quebec City on September 11, 1999. Over the years, the ms Maasdam has provided 129,000 passengers the opportunity to discover Quebec City and its many attractions. For the occasion, representatives of the Port of Quebec and the marine agency Ramsey Greig & Co. Ltd. welcomed Captain Henrik Draper and his officers as well as Captain Darin William Bowland of the ms Eurodam, also in port that day.

Not content with being the first ship of the 2009 season, the ms Maasdam also carried the 500,000th passenger to arrive at the Port of Quebec since the opening of the terminal in 2002. “It is truly ms Maasdam’s year this year, and we are delighted to reward for her loyalty to our destination. Captain Draper received the honors at the beginning of the season and was once again at the wheel of the ms Maasdam for her 100th visit to the Port of Quebec,” noted QPA President and CEO Ross Gaudreault.

Holland America Line, which has been active in the international cruise market for the past 136 years, employs over 15,000 people on both land and sea. Every year the company makes some 500 trips to the seven continents. The ms Maasdam, for its part, cruises to Europe, Panama, the Caribbean, Canada, and New England. Built in the Ficantieri shipyards in Italy at a cost of \$215 million, she was launched

in December 1993. The liner sails with 1,258 passengers and 580 crew members on board.

Quebec's international cruise industry generates direct economic spinoffs of nearly \$80 million, with each passenger spending daily an average of \$118 per port of call. The province recorded its best cruise season ever in 2008, with some 150,000 passengers visiting nine ports of call along the St. Lawrence River.

Note: Please contact us for aerial photos of the ms Maasdam at her berth and of the ceremony marking her 100th visit to Quebec City.

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