

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, is pleased to join the Government of Newfoundland in announcing that the Newfoundland fishing vessel "Norma & Gladys", last of the traditional Grand Banks schooners in seaworthy condition, will participate in the Canada Day ceremonies at the International Ocean Exhibition, Expo '75, Okinawa, Japan (20th July 1975 to 18th January 1976).

The vessel is scheduled to sail on a round-the-world voyage from St. John's, Newfoundland, in mid-August, after a provincial outport tour, and is scheduled to be in Okinawan waters in January 1976. "Norma & Gladys" has been restored largely with the assistance of a grant under the National Museums Policy as a floating museum. Its tour of the world will include official visits to ports in the U.S.A., Japan, Aden, Greece, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and England, before returning to continue its outport tours in Newfoundland and Labrador.

"Norma & Gladys" is built of local spruce and birch and measures 93.3 feet in length, is 23.3 feet at her beam and has a displacement of 133 tons. Under the restoration programme, the decks, sails and exterior of the vessel have been restored with great fidelity to reflect its service with the Grand Bank fishing fleet. The hold of the vessel has been redesigned to contain an exhibit that tells of the Newfoundlanders' seafaring experience, the need for establishing limits, resources, controls and preservation of the quality of the oceans to prevent further depletion of fish stocks by foreign shipping fleets. The vessel will be crewed by Newfoundlander sailors.

The tour of "Norma & Gladys" will serve as a tangible symbol of Canada's concern for the preservation of the fishing industry and is therefore directly relevant to the position taken by Canada at the Law of the Sea Conference, and the theme of the Canadian pavilion at the Okinawa International Ocean Exposition.

Please refer to  
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