

Greetings and I hope this letter finds each of you in good health!

The summer is upon us and that means that dive training and Empress of Ireland expeditions are in full swing.

We have taken a pause from training in the Brockville area since we are now very focused on the Empress until the end of September. The water temperature in Brockville was 71 degrees at the end of June, making it quite comfortable to dive without gloves or a hood. The courses that have taken place so far have ranged from Technical Nitrox to Decompression, to Technical Wreck Penetration. Upon completing the last day of training in Brockville, we headed straight out to the Empress of Ireland where we dove the next day. You can imagine the shock when we found ourselves in 35 degree water after spending the last week in the warm waters of the St. Lawrence in the Brockville area.

Technical Dive Training

Our next training dates in Ontario will be in the month of October. We will be offering a variety of courses and can always customize a training program to meet you specific needs.

In October the training will be;

Sat-Sun Oct 1&2 - Advanced Nitrox

Fri, Sat & Sun Oct 7-9 - Decompression Techniques

Fri, Sat & Sun Oct 14-16 - Entry Level Trimix and Gas Blender/ O2 Technician

Fri, Sat & Sun Oct 21-23 - Wreck Penetration

Sat-Sun Oct 29 & 30 - Advanced Trimix and Advanced Gas Blender

If you are interested in finding out more, please visit our website at www.advancedexpeditions.com/training or if you'd prefer simply email me at tyler@advancedexpeditions.com.

Quebec Diving Permit

The new diver permits now required to dive in Quebec have raised quite a concern and I'd like to take a minute to bring you up to date on this important topic.

The permits are not actually new at all, they were passed into law in 1997 and rules regarding their administration were introduced in 2002. The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that divers and instructors meet a common level of experience depending on their rating. Divers are categorized at A, B or C. To dive the Empress you need to be a

category C diver. The legislation is now being enforced and we will take care of the permits for any of our divers who are attending any Empress expedition. What do you have to do? Simply provide us with a photocopy of your highest level of certification and a photocopy of your last 10 dives. That's it, we do the rest! There is a cost which we are covering for our Empress divers this year.

So to summarize, the permits are now required and the spirit of the legislation will enhance safety for everyone. Not bad at all!

Empress of Ireland

We have now completed several expeditions to the Empress and the experience has been absolutely fantastic. The visibility on the July trip was awesome, the current was gentle and the Sea Gods smiled upon us! We were able to dive 11 out of 13 possible days. Outstanding!! Although getting up at 4:00 AM can be a little challenging but the diving is certainly worth it. We were also able to enjoy the company of new friends from Prague in the Czech Republic.

During our surface intervals we were entertained by the seals on the site and on our way to and from the site we were able to revel in the sites of whales and porpoises!

The site is in good condition, but anyone considering penetration should carefully plan it. As in the past, we will provide detailed information on any dive you are considering so that you will be going in with your "eyes open" and get the most out of your diving experience.

One comment that commonly comes back from divers joining us on Empress Expeditions is how much they enjoy the culture. This is important because we go to great lengths to provide you with the best possible experience both when diving and also when enjoying the amazing culture. An Empress expedition often turns out to be a "trip of a lifetime". The hospitality extended to our guests from our many friends and associates in Rimouski is truly unparalleled and our clients appreciate it!

We have several trips left for this year, but unfortunately there are now only a few spots still available. If you are interested, don't delay, or you'll be disappointed. For further details go to, www.advancedexpeditions.com/expeditions .

August 14-20	7 days	1 spot left
August 22-27	6 days	1 spot left
September 12-16	5 days	2 spots left

Wishing each of you a safe and enjoyable summer,

Tyler Bradford