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Casco Bay Lines : The Bayliner, February 1995

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BAYLINER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE

CASCO BAY ISLAND TRANSIT DISTRICT

OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE RESIDENTS OF
PEAKS, LITTLE AND GREAT DIAMOND, LONG,
CHEBEAGUE AND CLIFF ISLANDS.

SPECIAL EDITION



**THE MAQUOIT II WILL "STEAM"
INTO PORTLAND HARBOR ON
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, AT
APPROXIMATELY 3:30 P.M.**

**CALL BILL NEILY, DEBORAH
WEBSTER OR PAT CHRISTIAN AT
774-7871 FOR DETAILS**

CASCO BAY ISLAND TRANSIT DISTRICT

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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 1995

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RE: Maquoit II Arrival

M/V Maquoit II, the newest addition to the Casco Bay Island Transit District's fleet and its first new ferry in eight years, will arrive in Portland Harbor at approximately 3:30 p.m. on Friday, February 17, 1995. The M/V Maquoit II is an 85-foot, 350-passenger, 2-vehicle ferry built at Washburn & Doughty Shipyard in East Boothbay, Maine. After its scheduled completion last summer, CBITD made the decision to contract for modifications to the ferry's engine mounts in order to reduce decibel levels and further enhance passenger comfort. These modifications, done by Rockland Marine Shipyard in Rockland, Maine, pushed the Maquoit's long-anticipated delivery date into the winter.

"It will be well worth the wait," said CBITD General Manager Patrick R. Christian. "Our regular customers played a large part in designing this boat and they will now have a warm, quiet, and comfortable commute for the remainder of winter and, hopefully, through the next 30 winters."

The M/V Maquoit II, which cost 1.5 million dollars provided by Federal, State and

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local funding, will replace the 65-foot M/V Abenaki, which was built in 1963. The new boat will be used in the same capacity that its 32-year-old predecessor was used - to supply passenger, freight and vehicle service to the Down Bay islands. But the Maquoit II has many amenities that will seem luxurious to the Down Bay passengers, including comfortable seating, individual lighting, adequate heating, an elevator between decks (making handicapped accessibility a reality), space for 1-2 vehicles, and a freight boom to mechanize freight transport.

Portland Attorney and Chebeague Islander James E. Phipps pointed out, "The new boat was designed to modernize the freight-handling capabilities to the Down Bay islands, where roll-on/roll-off service hasn't been regularly provided." Phipps also noted the active participation by CBITD crew members and by islanders in the design process of the Maquoit II. "We are all very proud of this boat," he said. John Brown of Long Island added that the Maquoit is "a tribute to the men and women of Casco Bay."

Such sentiments were echoed by Down Bay Islander (from Cliff Island) and CBITD Board member Jeffrey Sawyer, who will be on board Friday, with Phipps, as the Maquoit makes its maiden sail along the coast from Rockland to Portland. "I'm a happy man," said Sawyer, and that happiness could be clearly heard in his voice. "After working on this project for over three years, finally we've got it. The boat is perfect. It's home. I'm looking forward to the next thirty years."

End