

November 2019



on the Move

Local maritime news, events and history from the Chicago Maritime Museum

Volunteer of the Month

Sailor, Paddler, Historian William Derrah

If he is not paddling down a local river on one of his canoes or racing his sailboat to Mackinac Island, rest assured Bill Derrah is never too far from water.

Bill joined the Chicago Maritime Society as a volunteer more than a decade ago to help with the museum's burgeoning artifact collection. A University of Chicago geography major, Bill also holds a master's degree in History Education. More recently, he completed the UofC Artifact Collection Care Certification Program so that he could better address CMM's collection's needs.

Bill has been instrumental in the preservation and interpretation of the **Ralph and Rita Frese Canoe Collection** to the museum. A life-long canoeing enthusiast, Bill was well acquainted with CMM founding member Ralph Frese at a young age. As a Boy Scout in the 1970s, Bill participated in several of Ralph's Great Lakes Voyager's Reenactment, retracing of the late 17th-century voyages.

Today, the CMM displays many of Ralph's restored historic canoes as well as his meticulously recreated voyageur models. As an important resource, Bill was key in the creation of "**Mr. Canoe**," a James Forni-produced documentary on the life of Ralph Frese that debuted to a sell-out crowd at the museum last year.



"Ralph was an environmentalist first and a canoe builder second," says Bill. "The canoe was his way of getting people to experience nature so they would appreciate, value and protect it. He was an instrumental force in the protection of Illinois waterways by encouraging people to actively engage in the preservation of our rivers."

Bill and his family (which includes three Eagle Scouts – soon to be four) also participate in the annual **Feast of the Hunter's Moon**, a re-creation of the 17th-century fall gathering of

French and Native Americans at Fort Ouiatenon in West Lafayette, Indiana. Dressed as French voyageurs, the Derrahs carry their canoes through camp to launch on the Wabash River, where they race in teams.

Later this year, Bill will be inducted into the Chicago Yacht Club's **Island Goat Sailing Society** for sailing 25 Mac Races. Last year, Bill had the opportunity to meet renowned sailboat designer, Ron Holland, creator of his classic Swan 39 sailboat, **Loki**. Ron spoke about his life, craft and the distressful effects of climate change on our oceans at a CMM Third Friday presentation. The following day, Bill invited Ron to join him for a sail on **Loki** off Monroe Harbor.

"It was great having the boat's creator on board," said Bill. "Ron certainly enjoyed it and I got a better understanding of **Loki's** design."



Young Boy Scout Bill Derrah with his mentor, Ralph Frese on a Voyageur reenactment paddle in the 70s

Curator's Corner by Dylan Hoffmann



The photographic scrapbooks of Carl E. Koehn record the pageant of passing ships at Navy Pier from 1913 through the 1940s. The diligent Mr. Koehn, a model ship builder by trade, photographed nautical activities and onboard details of naval, commercial and yachting craft in the early twentieth century.

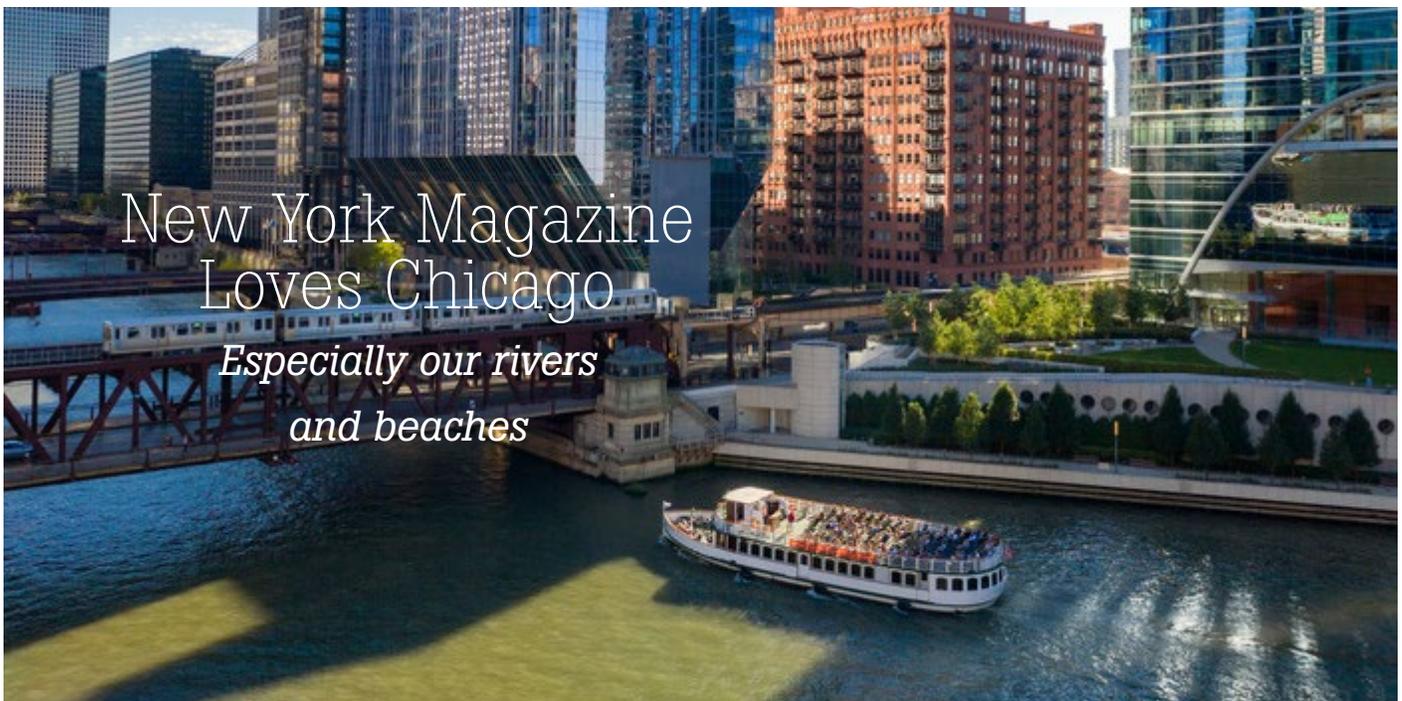
The hundreds of photographs in this collection include moving views aboard the old replica of the **Santa Maria**, which was then wasting away at Jackson Park lagoon and the **Viking Ship** from the 1893 Columbia Exposition.

Philanthropy and Charity: There's a Difference



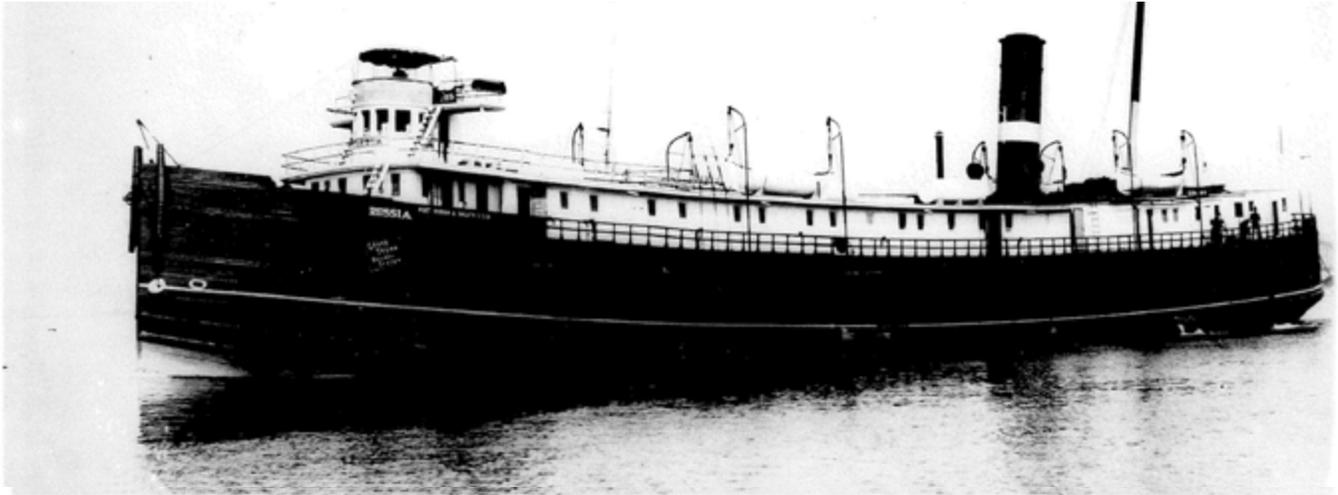
The worlds charity and philanthropy are often used interchangeably, but there is a difference between these two concepts. Read more here:

<https://medium.com/@Philanthor/the-difference-between-charity-and-philanthropy-fe29e327acac>



http://nymag.com/urbanist/2019/10/chicago-illinois-travel-guide-things-to-do-where-to-stay.html?utm_source=nym&utm_medium=f1&utm_campaign=feed-full&fbclid=IwAR07CJw2FD6vd29kRk-eRzyb_ul3TTEKLCENmH5Mhcg8FjetLj5TT23Mivk

110-year-old Great Lakes Shipwreck Mystery Solved

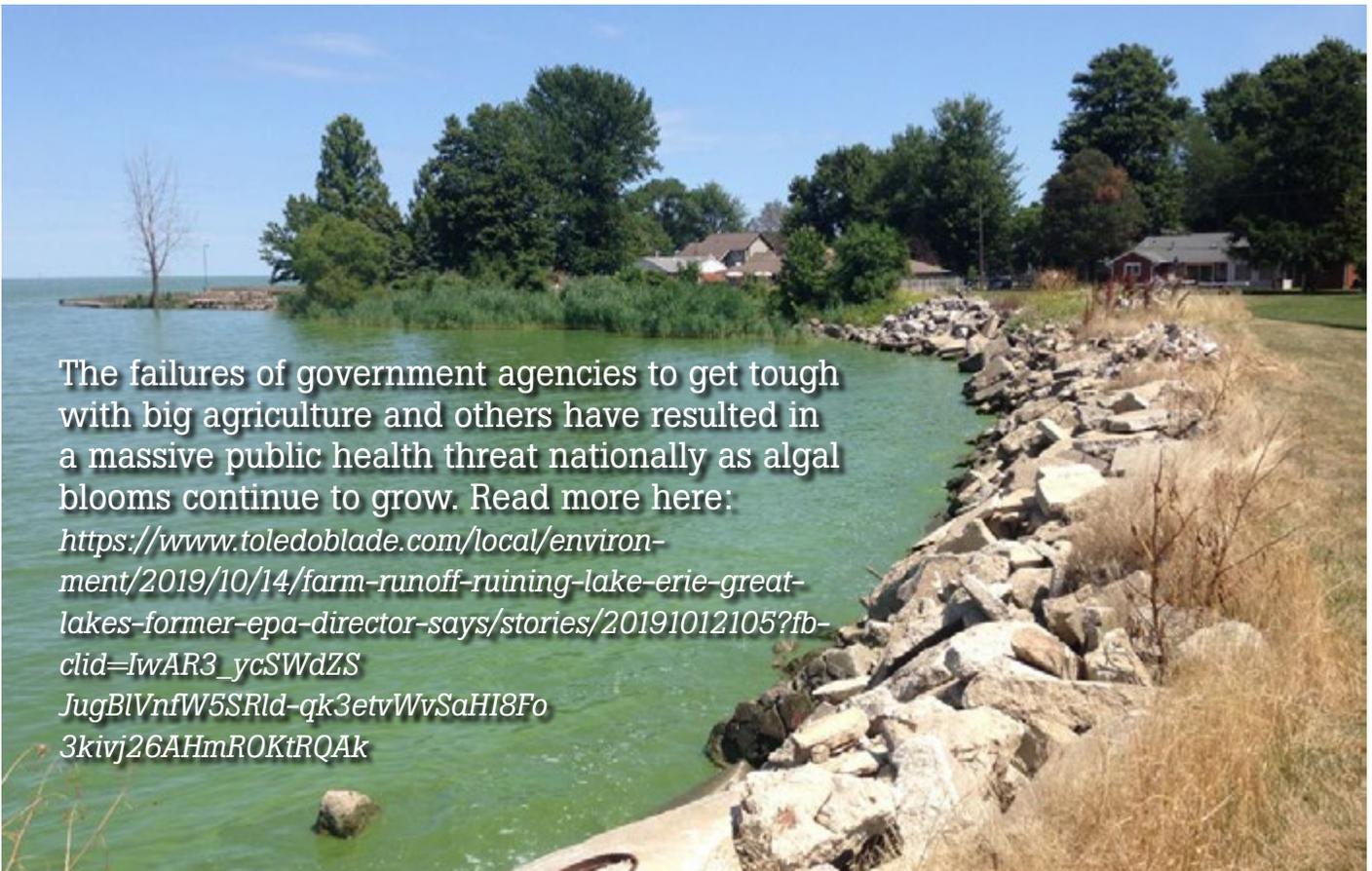


The Russia was discovered this past July, just 1,200 feet from a previously discovered three-masted schooner wreck called the Celtic, lost with the entire crew of eight to a storm November 29, 1902.

Read more here:

<https://www.sooeveningnews.com/news/20191012/110-year-old-great-lakes-shipwreck-mystery-solved?fbclid=IwAR1AvM7wnjeGpbDIgEOvyOkDVdyTUsW0uWbtWzUMLYL2y3xTYarrZeI7J7w>

Agricultural Runoff is “Wiping Out” Great Lakes



The failures of government agencies to get tough with big agriculture and others have resulted in a massive public health threat nationally as algal blooms continue to grow. Read more here:

https://www.toledoblade.com/local/environment/2019/10/14/farm-runoff-ruining-lake-erie-great-lakes-former-epa-director-says/stories/20191012105?fbclid=IwAR3_ycSWdZS

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*Making your way to the
Chicago Maritime Museum!*

MARITIME EVENT CALENDAR

Check out local maritime events at the Chicago Maritime Museum website calendar page:

<http://www.chicagomaritimemuseum.org/events/month/>

Submit maritime events in the Chicagoland area to Mary Ann O'Rourke at
maorourke@ameritech.net.

We hope you've enjoyed our monthly e-newsletter, On the Move.

If you have a Chicago maritime story idea please

forward it to maorourke@ameritech.net.

