

[1 Audio Track]

Spirit of Ethan Allen

Scenic Narrated Cruise Transcript

Ahoy mateys and welcome aboard the Spirit of Ethan Allen III. We are preparing to get underway, but before we leave the dock, there are a few very important safety announcements that we must make. The Spirit of Ethan Allen III is a U.S. Coast Guard inspected vessel, and as such, the coast guard requests that we inform you of life saving devices we have on board and in place for your safety. Your life jackets, or personal flotation devices, are located in the closet at the entrance to the galley on the Admiral Deck. On the Horizon deck, lifejackets are located in the benches outside on the foredeck. For those of you that decided to join me up on the sky deck, the life jackets are located underneath both sides of the pilot house.

But before we leave the dock, there are a few very important safety announcements that we must make.

Also, if we have any smokers on board, there is no smoking permitted while onboard the vessel. We also ask that nothing be thrown overboard the Spirit. Lake Champlain is a natural scenic wonder, and we want to do our part to keep it that way.

Restrooms are located on the horizon deck at the top of the stairs. There is also a handicapped restroom on the main deck at the bottom of the stairs. For those of you traveling with small children, please pay attention to them at all times while on board the vessel. We appreciate your cooperation. We have a full service deli and snack bar on board for your convenience, and it is located on both the lower deck and top deck. We should be underway shortly. Thank you.

[2 Audio Track] ****UNDERWAY MUSIC****

[3 Audio Track]

Now, as we make our way up the harbor area, I always like to point out the red brick building with the blue roof. That's ahead and on the right. This is the US Coast Guard Station Burlington. Station Burlington has a very difficult job to perform on the lake. They are responsible for all the aids to navigation. They also do search and rescue missions, and help stranded boaters from time to time.

[4 Audio Track]

Off our left, or our port side, you will see a stone breakwater. This is known as the Burlington breakwater, and it is very historic. It was built in 1839 and stretches 3600 feet across the Burlington waterfront. Its purpose is to knock down the large wave action we get when the wind has blown up just a bit too hard out of the northwest, the west, or the southwest. The north end of the breakwater, ahead and to the left, has a lighthouse that flashes at night and is visible for 16 miles. The south end of the breakwater also has a lighthouse that flashes at night, and that one is visible for 6 miles. The reason for the difference in the intensity of these lights is to aid a mariner approaching harbor at night, so they can distinguish between which end of the harbor they are headed for.

[5 Audio Track]

As we make our way out of the harbor area and out onto the broad lake, we like to remind our passengers to keep an ever-watchful eye out for Champ. Champ is the legendary sea monster of Lake Champlain. Now, I am not quite sure why we call it a monster. I know of no monstrous things he or she has ever done, but documented sightings of Champ go all the way back to 1609. That's when Samuel De Champlain, the first European to discover the lake, and a rather modest fellow, naming the lake after himself, made notations in his ship's log of having sighted a large reptilian-type creature surfacing on the lake. Also, the largest mass sighting of champ occurred from the decks of our old boat, the Spirit of Ethan Allen I. In 1984, 70 passengers observed champ as it surfaced in a small bay, known as Appletree Bay, to the north of us. We don't want any of our passengers into thinking we see champ every cruise, because that's certainly not the truth, although we will take a short trip into Appletree Bay, just in case.

[6 Audio Track]

Many of you may not know that the Spirit of Ethan Allen III was named for Vermont's legendary hero, Colonel Ethan Allen. Colonel Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys were instrumental in bringing Vermont into statehood. Unfortunately, Ethan Allen never lived to see his dream of Vermont's statehood come true. One night, while he was traveling across the frozen surface of the lake with a full load of goods on his sleigh, he hit a pressure crack in the ice, destroying his sleigh, and he died of his injuries in February of 1789. Vermont statehood was granted two years later in 1791, making it the 14th state in the union, and the 14th star on our American flag.

[7 Audio Track]

If you look to the right, you should see a predominantly sandy beach area and a building along the shore's edge. This is the first of many Burlington City parks we'll see on our trip. This park is known as North Beach, and on most hot, sunny summer days, we will see people elbow to elbow at North Beach, enjoying the cool refreshing waters of Lake Champlain.

[8 Audio Track]

If you look to the left, you should see a couple of large yellow buoys floating on the surface of the lake. These buoys are placed here by the Vermont Underwater Historic Preserve. Their purpose is to give scuba divers a predetermined site on which to dive. These particular buoys mark a wreck known as the Horse Ferry. Now, a horse ferry doesn't mean that they carried horses as passengers, but that horses were the means of propulsion for the ferry. A horse, or horses, were hitched to a turnstile that was geared to the paddle wheel and as the horses walked, it propelled the ferry through the water. There were horse ferries operating up to twelve horsepower, however, this particular ferry was a two-horse ferry. Its route of operation was from Alburg, Vermont over to Champlain, New York before the bridge was constructed connecting New York and Vermont. The ferry was on its way into Burlington Harbor for routine maintenance, ran aground and sank in 50 feet of water where you see the yellow buoys today. The state of Vermont invites all divers to come down and check out these old wrecks. They ask that you don't remove any artifacts from the wrecks. In fact, it is illegal to remove artifacts from anywhere in Lake Champlain. This is the best preserved horse ferry anywhere in the world today, and it is well preserved in the lake's cold depths. This wreck was once featured in an issue of National Geographic Magazine.

[9 Audio Track]

The area of land coming up on the right is known as Lone Rock Point. If you look out at the end of the point, you'll see where it gets its name. I would like you to pay attention to what the terrain looks like on the side of Lone Rock, because as we round the point and go into Appletree Bay, we're going to see something very different. We are going to see a thrust fault. Thrust faults are not common in the east, and this thrust fault is considered by many geologists to be an outstanding example of Mother Nature's work.

[10 Audio Track]

There is one other interesting feature at Lone Rock Point. As we round the point, if you look high above the cliff wall just on the other side, you will see a large outcropping of rock. There are a couple of small juniper trees growing out of this outcropping. Just below these trees and to the left, you're going to see a nose come into view, then a chin, then with just a little imagination, you will see the side profile of an old Indian chief, that's the old Indian of Lake Champlain. Because we are moving, it lasts for just a few seconds, so anyone who wishes to photograph this should make ready now.

[11 Audio Track]

Remember that I said we would see a thrust fault on this side of Lone Rock? If you look across the rock wall from one end to the other, you will see a younger, darker colored rock down near the shore's edge. This is Iberville shale. Above that, you will see a stratoline and then above that, a much older, lighter colored rock, known as Dunham Dolomite. These two plates of rock are in exact reverse order. In fact, this older, lighter rock should be three levels in the earth below this younger, darker rock, but it was pushed up over the younger, darker rock 350 million years ago as the plates of the continents of Europe and North America collided. This particular thrust fault extends from right here at Appletree Bay for about 60 miles to the south near Rutland, Vermont. This is the only viewing site of this thrust fault throughout the full 60 miles; all the rest is deeply submerged in Lake Champlain. This is known as the Champlain Thrust.

[12 Audio Track]

After listening to all of these interesting facts, I'm sure you've worked up an appetite. Take a few minutes and try some delicious food from our Ethan Allen Cafe, or just ask one of our servers about the daily specials, refreshing beverages, and variety of delicious snacks available for your enjoyment.

[13 Audio Track]

In 2009, Vermont celebrated the 400th anniversary of Samuel De Champlain's discovery of Lake Champlain in July of 1609. Called the quadricentennial, the celebration was to recognize the accomplishments as the first known European to ever see the lake. Prior to his discovery, the Iriquois Indians claimed the southern part of the lake, and the Algonquins claimed the northern part of the Lake.

Champlain was born in Brouage, France in 1570, the son of a sailor. By 1601, Champlain was indulging his love of travel and the sea, and his expertise in Nautical

navigation. His early travels took him along the coast of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, where he did extensive navigation and map-making. He also made several journeys to the West Indies.

In 1608, under the flag of New France, Champlain settled what is now Quebec City. His group of 31 men and accompanying Algonquin Indians, built housing, planted gardens, and Champlain mapped his vision for Quebec City. In the summer of 1609, Champlain set out with his men and 300 Algonquin Indians on an expedition against the Iroquois Indians. The route was up the St. Lawrence River, to the mouth of the Richelieu River, in what is now Sorrell, Quebec. At Chambliss, Quebec, Champlain and his Indians encountered falls and rapids. Only Champlain and two of his men, along with the Indians, carried their birch bark canoes around the falls and rapids. Once past the falls, they continued Southward into the Lake, entering at Rouses Point, on July 3, 1609.

It is not fully understood where he first put ashore on the Lake that he would name after himself. His journal references a battle that took place on a point -- historians have concluded that either Crown Point or Ticonderoga, NY is where the battle took place. Three Europeans and sixty Algonquins fought against almost 300 Iroquois Indians. What turned out to be the first ever battle between European and the Indians of Lake Champlain lasted just minutes, as the guns that Champlain and his men had killed three chiefs immediately, wounding others, and frightened the other Iroquois, that they ran for their lives into the woods.

Champlain left Lake Champlain July 28th 1609, and never returned. He continued to explore Canada and push further into the interior of Canada, via the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes. Interestingly, Champlain, in his lifetime, made 31 crossings of the Atlantic Ocean. Champlain, in his legacy, is considered the father of New France. In October of 1635, Champlain had a stroke. He died Christmas Day in 1635, leaving no immediate heirs. Dying in Quebec City, his exact burial site has been lost over time. Many prominent cities, streets, bridges and parks were named in his honor over the years. No portrait exists of Champlain, so no one is sure what he really looked like. We in Vermont are very proud of what Samuel de Champlain accomplished in his lifetime. We celebrate his discovery each day as we marvel at the beauty of Lake Champlain, and the valley it lies within. We hope you do as well.

[14 Audio Track]

Alright folks, now I ask that you look to the right, towards the Mountain range. In my opinion, this is the second most beautiful mountain range in the world -- the Adirondacks of New York State. The highest peak in the Adirondack Mountains is

Mount Marcy, with an elevation above sea level of 5,344 feet. Scientists tell us that before the time of the glaciers, there were peaks in the Adirondacks that would have rivaled the present day Himalayas, meaning peaks in the 30,000 foot range. Scientists also tell us that the Adirondacks are some of the oldest mountains in the world and that they've begun to grow again. All of this growth is measured in centimeters per year.

Now look over at the mountain range to your left. In my opinion, this is the most beautiful mountain range in the world; our own green mountains of Vermont. Incidentally, Vermont is comprised of two french words. "vert" meaning green and "mont" meaning mountains. Therefore, Vermont means green mountains, our state's nickname. If you look all the way to the left, as far as you can possibly see, if it's not obstructed, you will see the highest peak in the green mountains, Mount Mansfield. Mount Mansfield has an elevation above sea level of 4,393 feet. Ironically, you are currently at Vermont's lowest elevation, Lake Champlain, at 95 feet above sea level. On the east side of Mount Mansfield is the famous Stowe Resort area. If you count four of the smaller peaks to the right or to the south of Mount Mansfield, you should see a rounded dome shaped mountain, Mount Bolton. Mount Bolton has an elevation above sea level of 3,725 feet and is the home of Bolton Valley Ski Resort.

From Bolton Valley, if you look further to the right, the first large peak you see looks as though it has two humps. This is Camel's Hump. Camel's Hump is the fourth tallest mountain in the green mountains, with an elevation of 4,083 feet above sea level.

From there, if you look further to the right, you should see a long ridge with three peaks on it. These peaks are Mountain Ethan Allen, Mount Ira Allen, and Mount Ellen. Mount Ellen is the third tallest peak in the state with an elevation of 4,135 feet, and is the home of Sugarbush Ski Resort.

The second tallest mountain in the green mountains, that's never visible from our vantage point here, is Mount Killington. Mount Killington has an elevation above sea level of 4,262 feet and is home of the Killington and Pico Ski Areas.

[15 Audio Track]

If you look off to our right side and behind us, about 14 miles to the north is an island known as Valcour Island. Some of you may recall from the famous Battle of Valcour. This is where Benedict Arnold, with 15 American boats, engaged in combat with 53 British vessels on October 11, 1776. Benedict Arnold, knowing a bit about British naval strategy, found that with his much smaller American boats, he could sneak into the shallow waters behind Valcour Island, anchor his boats, and then when weather conditions were right, tack back and forth in the wind, bombarding the British.

The British were much more accomplished boatbuilders, and in fact, they built very large sea-going vessels for Lake Champlain operations. However, the deep drafts on these vessels restricted them from getting in at Benedict Arnold behind Valcour Island. Benedict Arnold held the British fleet at bay for one day, and then under the cover of darkness, he snuck out from behind Valcour Island, having just three boats left. Benedict Arnold inflicted a great deal of damage to the British fleet of 53, as they were reduced to having just 19 vessels.

This was considered a turning point in favor of the colonies during the revolutionary war. It changed the British's minds about sailing any further south on the lake due to the great fear of engaging with any more American boats to the south. The retreat by the British allowed General Gates in Saratoga, New York, to regroup his men, who were suffering from sickness and poor nutrition, to once again become a viable fighting force.

This delaying action at Valcour Island allowed the troops to get healthy and re-supply their munitions. Benedict Arnold's own boat was sunk behind Valcour Island and it was raised from the lake bottom back in the early 1930s. If any of you have ever been to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., you may have seen his boat on exhibit. The name of his boat is The Philadelphia. Recently, a replica was built by the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, and can be seen on display in Vergennes, Vermont.

Many of you probably recall Benedict Arnold as the traitor to the Americans. This occurred after he left Valcour Island. He fought side by side with General Gates in the Battle of Saratoga. In this Battle, he was shot in the leg. Due to his injuries, Benedict Arnold was reassigned to a support role requiring endless hours of desk duty. This job, and its lack of appeal, led Benedict Arnold to selling secret documents to the British. Just before being arrested by the Americans, he fled the colonies and moved to England. Benedict Arnold was 30 years old at this time, and he spent the rest of his life living in England living in obscurity after the war.

[16 Audio Track]

Here are a few facts about Lake Champlain. The lake is approximately 120 miles long from North to South. It's most northern point is at the mouth Richelieu River in the province of Quebec, Canada. Lake Champlain flows north, which is a rare occurrence in the northern hemisphere. Its southern boundary is at Whitehall, New York, which incidentally, is the birthplace of the U.S. Navy. At that time, Whitehall was known as Skeensboro.

The widest point in Lake Champlain is right where we are right now. From Burlington to Willsboro, New York, the lake is 12.2 miles wide. Inside the harbor where we began

our trip, the lake is on average 25 feet deep. Just outside the breakwater, it's 50 feet deep. Right now, we're traveling in 128 feet of water and about one mile off our right side down the center of the lake, the average depth is 300 feet. The deepest point in Lake Champlain is about 10 miles to the south, or almost straight ahead, between Split Rock Point and Thompson's Point, where the lake is 427 feet deep. Lake Champlain forms half of Vermont's western border, often referred to as the "West Coast of New England."

If you look ahead and to the right on the New York side of the lake, you should be able to see four small islands. These are known as the Four Brothers Islands, and they have very difficult names to pronounce. There's Island A, B, C, and D, but in the early 1600s when the French came to chart and survey this area, they referred to these islands as *Isle de Quatre Vents*, meaning Islands of the Four Winds. These islands were once owned by the prestigious Astor Family, from Burlington. The Astor Family donated these islands to the University of Vermont. The University of Vermont found out they would have to pay New York State taxes on these four small islands and they promptly donated them to the tax-free Adirondack Society. With this donation, these islands would become and remain nesting grounds for most of the water-type fowl we find here. A few examples are ducks, geese, heron, and cormorants, but the main residents are the ring-billed seagulls. Researchers have counted as many as 50,000 nesting pair of seagulls on these islands. As you might well imagine, with that many seagulls, I don't recommend a trip out to the four brothers islands for a picnic, as it could be rather messy out there.

Efforts are underway to attempt to control the population of both the seagulls and the cormorants, as they are disrupting the food chain for native species of fish.

The State of Vermont owns one-half of the lake and the other half is divided between New York State and Canada, with New York State owning two-thirds of the other half. Many people believe that Lake Champlain is a land-locked lake although it is not. It is accessed from the south from the Atlantic Ocean via the Hudson River, into the Champlain canal system, and then into the lake. It is also accessed from the North via the Atlantic Ocean into the St. Lawrence River, the Richelieu River, Chambly Canal and then into Lake Champlain.

[17 Audio Track]

The area of land that's coming up on your right is another island. Interestingly, there are 70 different islands on Lake Champlain. This particular island is known as Juniper. Juniper Island is twelve acres in size and it has the distinction of supporting the first aid to navigation on Lake Champlain. This lighthouse was lit using fish oil and prisms

reflected the light. It served mariners for 151 years. It was eventually decommissioned and replaced by an automated light. The automated light is battery-powered and solar charged, and it is turned on from the coast guard station we passed back at Burlington Harbor. Many people believe that because Juniper has a government owned lighthouse on it, that the island is also government owned. It is actually owned by the Fayette family from Burlington. If you look from the right side of the island about two-thirds of the way across to the left, you should see nestled down in the trees, the white superstructure and black cap of the old Juniper light. Slightly behind it is its automated replacement, looking much like a flagpole or a tall tree with a bird perched on the top. You can still travel out to the island and climb up in the old lighthouse to get a commanding view of the lake. The old light is still structurally sound. The only things removed from this light were the light itself and the prism used to reflect the light. For many years, the people staffing the lighthouse grew most of their own food on the island. Berries that they planted on the island now grow wild, such as strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, and even some blackberries. I must warn you, if you choose to visit Juniper and pick berries, be very careful. The island is loaded with poison ivy.

[18 Audio Track]

If you look off to the right, you will see that the lake narrows to the south. This was an important factor in the placement of two forts about 40 miles down the lake, one at Crown Point, and the other at Ticonderoga. These locations gave the gunners in the forts a commanding view of the narrows of the lake, and they could control boat movement from both the north and the south. It was the idea of the British that if they could control these forts, they would have control of Lake Champlain, thereby cutting the colonies off from the rest of the country. Fort Ticonderoga was originally built by the french and known as Fort Carillon. It was then captured by the British and renamed Fort Ticonderoga. Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys captured the fort from the British. Many of the guns and cannons that they removed from the fort were carried to Boston, where they were instrumental in breaking the British siege at Boston. This event is still celebrated by Bostonians today. It's on March the 17th and it is known as Evacuation Day.

General Henry Knox was in command and a very famous fort bears his name today. Fort Knox, where the US supply of gold is stored. The fort is located in Kentucky.

[19 Audio Track]

Off to the right you will see a large rock rising from the surface of the lake. This rock is called Rock Dunder. Rock Dunder has the distinction of having been fired on by the British Navy as they had mistaken it in the fog for an American Warship. We're told

that this rock was named after the British gunner on the vessel who fired on the rock. The smoke from his cannon rose, the fog lifted slightly and he exclaimed to the British Captain, "By dunder, that's a rock!" There's another interesting story about this rock. There's an Indian Tribe in Vermont known as the Abenaki Indians. The Abenakis believe this rock is their great god, Odziodzo, and that Odziodzo created all the beauty of the Champlain Valley. He then turned himself into stone and placed himself where he could keep an ever watchful eye over his beautiful creation. In the early 1950's, some local steamboat mariners thought it would be a neat trick to place a few sticks of dynamite beneath this rock and eliminate a hazard to navigation. The Abenaki Indians' interest prevailed, and this rock is now deeded to Abenaki Indian Nation.

[20 Audio Track]

The scientific fact on how the Champlain Valley was created goes back over 10,000 years ago to the time of the glaciers. There was almost 10,000 feet of ice above where we are right now, which would measure just about two miles straight up. It was the tremendous weight and pressure of the ice that carved out this beautiful lake and valley. For some evidence as to the glacier's presence, if you look on the back side of Rock Dunder as we pass by, you will see several large granite boulders near the waterline. These boulders are not indigenous to this area. In fact, they are more commonly found in Massachusetts or Connecticut. However, these boulders were deposited on the backside of Rock Dunder as the glaciers receded to the north. Also, if we were just a bit closer, you would see that these boulders have very smooth surfaces on them; surfaces that were created from the rolling and tumbling action as the glaciers receded.

[21 Audio Track]

Many believe that the area of land coming up on the right is another island. This is actually the northern end of the Shelburne Peninsula, known as Shelburne Point. Shelburne Point, together with the area of land straight ahead, known as Red Rocks Point, form the mouth of Shelburne Bay. Shelburne Bay is a hot spot for many pleasure boaters during the summer months. It is also a hot spot for us on board the Spirit of Ethan Allen III. When we have dinner cruises on windy evenings, we can cruise right down into Shelburne Bay where the water usually stays calm, adding comfort so our passengers may enjoy their cruise while dining.

[22 Audio Track]

The area of land coming up ahead and to your left, is Red Rocks Point. Behind the point there is another park for you to enjoy, known as Red Rocks Park. There's 70 acres for you to enjoy in the park, and most of the park is a network of walking paths. Most of these walking paths were established back in the 1800s. You can see that most

of the acreage is covered with softwood trees. These softwood trees create a great deal of shade, and provide a cool cover in Red Rocks park for everyone to enjoy.

[23 Audio Track]

If you look in the park now, you can see where it gets its name, from the red striations in the rock. This rock is also known as Monkton Quartzite. You might have noticed while coming into the city of Burlington, that some of the government-owned buildings, banks, and post offices were built of this red rock. Monkton quartzite was quarried in Vermont for many years. If you look high above the cliff wall at the highest bare spot, that highest outcropping of rock is 75 feet to the water's surface. On many hot, sunny summer days, we are treated to some Acapulco wannabees, cliff divers that is. These cliff divers don't have to fear hitting bottom. Right up next to the rocks, the water is 60 feet deep. I should also mention that on hot days, we see many moons at Red Rocks.

[24 Audio Track]

Ahead and to the right, back over at Shelburne Peninsula, you will see a small marina area with many boats tied to their shoreside facility. That's known as the Shelburne Marina. Just to the right of that, you should see a large gray building with a black roof; the Shelburne Shipyard. The Shelburne Shipyard is the oldest continually operated shipyard in existence in the United States today. They built boats during the War of 1812. They even built sub-chasers, that saw world-wide action during World War II. Probably two of the most famous boats ever built here are the Chateaugay and the Ticonderoga. Both of these vessels were twin side-wheelers meaning they had a paddle wheel on each side and they were steampowered. The Chateaugay was built in 1887, and carried passengers on this lake until the early 1940s. She was then dismantled, loaded onto rail cars and shipped to lake Winnepausakee in New Hampshire. There, she was reassembled, renamed The Mount Washington, and still operates on that lake today. The Ticonderoga was built here in 1906. She carried passengers on this lake until the early 1950s. She was then removed from service, motored south down Shelburne Bay, and pulled into a small cove at the far end of the Bay. They built a dike around the Ti, pumping out all of the water, and lowering her onto a special-built rail system. It took 67 days to move the Ti a short distance of two miles across fields and pastures to her present place of honor at the Shelburne Museum. If any of you like Yankee Craftsmanship, I highly recommend the Shelburne Museum. They have many exhibits and you can still walk the decks of the beautiful Ticonderoga. She looks pretty spiffy as she's recently undergone a \$2 million refurbishment.

[25 Audio Track]

Probably the most often asked question on board the Spirit would be, “How’s the fishing in Lake Champlain?” The fishing is quite excellent! There are 81 different species, or fish, or possibly even 82 if you count Champ. A few of the more popular varieties for the fisherman are Atlantic landlocked salmon, northern pike, walleyed pike, perch, pickerel, steelhead, lake trout, bull and channel catfish, and fair numbers of large and smallmouth bass, particularly the smallmouth variety.

Another often asked question here on board the Spirit is, “Does the lake freeze over during the winter months?” Indeed it does, and when it does, it affords us a great many wintertime activities. Just a few examples are ice-skating, ice boat racing, stormboarding, snowmobiling, and probably the most popular, ice fishing. At times, it will look like small towns have grown up on the lake with all the ice fishing shanties, and the cars and trucks parked on the ice. If any of you have seen the movie “Grumpy Old Men,” that’s exactly what it looks like out here during the winter months. I will warn you that should you choose to drive out onto the frozen surface of the lake, as soon as you leave the shoreline, your insurance policy is void. Should your car go through the ice while you’re out there, the State of Vermont, being the great state that it is, allows you just 24 hours to remove your vehicle from the bottom of the lake. If you cannot do so, they’ll have it done for you. If you can’t pay the hefty fee, they have a good remedy for that also: they’ll just take your drivers license.

[26 Audio Track]

If you look off our right side, you will see a few modest homes along the shore’s edge. Most of these homes are priced greater than \$1,000,000. Behind those homes, there’s another Burlington park for you to enjoy. This one is known as Oakledge Park, where they offer an accessible treehouse, volleyball, tennis, bocce courts and even two small pavilions. Oakledge park marks the start of the Burlington Bike Path. The bike path extends 14 miles north, mostly along the lake’s shoreline up to the Winooski River, then up to the old railway causeway in Mallets Bay. Incidentally, Winooski is an Indian name meaning onion.

[27 Audio Track]

Here are a few facts about the boat itself. The Spirit of Ethan Allen III is 140 feet long from stem to stern. It is 33 feet wide and it has a maximum draft of six feet. It is propelled through the water by two 44 inch diameter propellers and these propellers are turned by two 6 cylinder tier 3 Caterpillar c-18 engines rated at 750 horsepower each. The Spirit III has a maximum passenger carrying capability of 363. The Spirit III was built in Salisbury, Maryland by the Chesapeake Shipbuilding in 1997. To bring the

Spirit of Ethan Allen III into Lake Champlain, the top two decks had to be cut off. The ship is 43 feet high and it had to get under 17 foot tall bridges. It took 28 days to take the boat apart and six months to put it back together.

[28 Audio Track]

To the left of these condos beyond the trees, you should see a small building with a double row of windows near the shore's edge. This was once Blodgett Manufacturing. You may have had an opportunity to enjoy a pizza while dining at a restaurant. Chances are that it was baked in a Blodgett Oven. These ovens, along with a wide variety of other commercial kitchen products, are shipped worldwide. So, the next time you're at your favorite pizzeria, glance over behind the counter at the oven door and see if it has the name Blodgett on it. Today the old Blodgett Factory is called HULA, an incubator for startup companies.

Directly behind the old Blodgett building, you'll see a long rectangular brick building with a tall brick smokestack. For many years this was the General Electric Lakeside Division, although it has since been acquired by General Dynamics. General Dynamics is an armaments plant where they used to build the famous, or maybe I should say the infamous, vulcan gatling gun that was instrumental during many wars. The gatling gun had a capability of rattling off about 4,000 rounds per minute. Today, they no longer build weapons at this plant, but instead is home to many small businesses.

[29 Audio Track]

Directly ahead and to the right, you should see the Queen City, Burlington, Vermont. If you look up at the skyline of Burlington and look to the right of the cluster of buildings, up on the hillside you should see a tall tower with a white superstructure and a gold ball on top. This is the Ira Allen Chapel, located at the University of Vermont. Ira Allen and his brother Ethan Allen owned a large land company that was named after the Winooski River. It was known as the Onion River Land Company and in 1791, Ira Allen donated all the land that the University lies on today.

If you look closer to the shore from the Ira Allen tower, you will see a large gray building. I mention this building because at eleven stories tall, it is the tallest building in Vermont. Eleven stories, that's the Vermont version of a skyscraper! To the left of that building you will see another large rectangular brick building. This one also looks as if it has a gold ball on top, although it does not. That gold ball belongs to City Hall. This building was known as the Hotel Vermont. All of the visiting dignitaries to the area, and all of the government officials would stay at the old hotel, which was one of the finest around. In fact, several United States presidents stayed there.

If you look up into the City of Burlington, you will see a pyramid roof building. That's the old Masonic Temple. To the left of the Masonic Temple, the more modern looking buildings you see are bank buildings. In fact, Burlington, Vermont is the banking capital of Vermont, but not the state capital. That distinction belongs to Montpelier, 40 miles to our southeast. In fact, Montpelier is the smallest state capital in American.

[30 Audio Track]

To the left of us, you will see the Burlington Breakwater. To the left of the breakwater are a couple of those large yellow buoys placed by the Vermont Underwater Historic Preserve. These buoys mark the bow and the stern of a wreck known as the General Butler. The General Butler was a large sailing cargo vessel. She had a full load of marble on board. One cold, snowy December day while attempting to make port in Burlington, the rudder post on the vessel broke and the captain lost steerage of the vessel. The captain tried to chain the rudder post back together to regain his steerage, but was unsuccessful and the General Butler hit the Burlington Breakwater with her full load of marble on board, ripping a large hole in her hull. The captain and the crew were able to jump onto the breakwater for their safety and were then rescued. The General Butler slipped beneath the surface and sank where you see those yellow buoys today. Divers tell me you can still see the chain still partially wrapped around the rudder post. Sadly, zebra mussels have begun to attack the wreck.

[31 Audio Track]

I'd like to ask everyone to be seated while we dock the Spirit. We thank you for choosing to ride aboard the Spirit of Ethan Allen III and I hope you enjoyed your cruise on Lake Champlain. Hopefully, our cruise today has given you some insight into Vermont and Lake Champlain's rich historical past. I think you will agree that Lake Champlain is indeed a great lake and that Vermont is a great state! We who live in Vermont are proud of our state and enjoy living here.

If in the future, you are in need of a great location for a wedding, anniversary, association, or corporate dinner, the Spirit of Ethan Allen III is Vermont's most unique banquet facility. Bring your friends, family, and co-workers so they too may catch the Spirit.