

How well do you know the S.S. Sicamous and some of our Okanagan history?



Photo: Aaron Barry Photography

Q: How many stops did the SS Sicamous make on regular runs from Penticton to Okanagan Landing?

A: There were 14 regular stops between Penticton and Okanagan Landing, but the ship would stop in other places on request when signaled from shore.

Q: Where did the coal come from that was used to run the ship?

A: Most of the coal used came from mines nearby Coalmont or Midway.

Q: How did the coal get from the train to the ship's engines?

A: It was shoveled by hand in stages by Firemen, deckhands, or coal passers. First, it was moved from the train to the wheelbarrow and dumped in the bilge, and from the stockpile in the bilge to the burner as needed to keep the fires burning.

Q: How fast did the ship travel?

A: The ship's top speed was approximately 18 knots (21 mph) if conditions were good.

Q: How long did it take to travel from Penticton to Okanagan Landing and return?

A: The ship left Penticton at about 6 AM, arrived in Okanagan Landing at noon, and returned to Penticton between 6 PM and 8 PM depending on the stops they had to make along the way.

Q: How many people did it take to run the ship?

A: It took 31 to 33 employees to run the ship, plus a mail clerk and two express room clerks when the ship was hauling mail.

Your Support Helps to Keep the S.S. Sicamous Afloat!

The S.S. Sicamous first launched in 1914 and retired in 1936. It was paramount in connecting many of the communities along the shores of Okanagan lake. With dedication and hard work by volunteers, the story and history of the SS Sicamous can now stay afloat. Many volunteer and staff hours are put in to keep the SS Sicamous in historic condition. This summer be sure to come and visit our amazing Museum and Heritage Site!

S.S. Sicamous Heritage Park
1099 Lakeshore Drive, Penticton • 250-492-0403 • www.ssicamous.ca