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"Every Captain Dreams To Command Own Ship"



The coastal vessel D'Vora, formerly owned by Mercury Fisheries Limited, has been purchased by two Quebec City residents and is undergoing a \$125,000 overhaul.

Captain Raymond Duval and business partner, Leo Thibault, bought the ship from the Nova Scotia Government at the end of January. Captain Duval who for the past 18 years has traversed the oceans of the world in all kinds of ships, including passenger greyhounds, summed up the venture by saying "the dream of every captain is to command his own ship".

The D'Vora, built in Hull, England for the British Admiralty as a minesweeper in 1944, was purchased after the war by Norwegian interests and for a time sailed under the Israeli flag. She was later bought by Mercury Fisheries Limited and for the past two years has lain idle at various berths in Halifax Harbor.

Two years of idleness have dealt the lady a cruel blow. Although sound in structure, the paint has blistered from her woodwork and rust is starting to gnaw at her riveted plates, but after her face is painted and her

decks cleaned, her new captain expects her to look as good as ever.

Captain Duval said the ship will run mainly between Montreal and northern ports, carrying supplies and equipment for the many exploration projects being carried on there. She is being converted from steam to diesel power. The new engine of six cylinders will generate 800 horse power, and will not take up as much room, permitting the ship to carry a greater pay load.

The extensive overhaul is expected to be completed by the beginning of May. Two sister ships, the Keta and the Guard Marvoline were also overhauled in Dartmouth, so dockyard workers should know the type of construction they will be working on, the captain said.

The ship which has small cargo hatches will have these enlarged to facilitate handling of cargo. The ship is fitted with a refrigeration plant.

The ship is 750 tons deadweight and when ready for sea will carry about 700 tons of cargo. The vessel is 164 feet from stem to stern and has a 27 and a half foot beam.

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