

Captain Paul Labine
Cochenour 1970
Miss McKenzie 1988

Paul Labine was born on July 9th, 1970 at Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital, back before the hospital moved to its current location in Red Lake. His parents were Don and Mary Anne Labine who were living in their little house at 56 Elliot Street in Cochenour at the time.

In 1972, the Labine family moved away for their father's mechanical engineering career, first to Thunder Bay and then to Calgary, Ottawa and Vancouver, but almost always came back to Cochenour and Red Lake for summer vacations.

In 1985, Paul became actively involved in the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets which instilled a desire to work at sea, so it was with great excitement that in the summer of 1988—just after turning eighteen—he got his first real job as one of the captains of the Miss McKenzie II that ran between Cochenour and McKenzie Island. To qualify for this job he had to get his Master, Small Craft certificate of competency (license) from Transport Canada over in Thunder Bay. He enjoyed the experience immensely, enough to confirm that he wanted to make it his career.

After a brief stint in the Canadian Navy, he went to the Marine Institute in Newfoundland for four years to train as a ship's officer in the Merchant Marine. After many years of working around the world on various types of ships (from LNG Carriers, to Ultra Large Crude Carriers, to Bulk Carriers and even two ice breakers), much training and attaining a captain's license, he finally came back to work in Canada with BC Ferries as a captain. Even after all these travels he loves to return in the summers for vacations and boat on Red Lake whenever he can.

