



Greater Victoria Harbour Authority and City of Victoria begin work on Ship Point repair project

Salish Sea Industrial Services awarded as site contractor for project

Oct. 19, 2018, Victoria, BC – Greater Victoria Harbour Authority (GVHA) and the City of Victoria have awarded Salish Sea Industrial Services as the contractor for the joint \$1.8-million Ship Point repair project.

Work will begin on the pier on Monday, Oct. 22 and is anticipated to wrap up by March 2019. The repair work will replace the original timber piling pier structure built in 1949 with new steel pilings. Repairs will focus only on the original pier structure and are in line with the City of Victoria’s master-planning process for the site.

“Ship Point plays a major part in the identity of Victoria, serving as a site for dozens of public and family-friendly events throughout the year, making it a vital community amenity for our organization,” says Ian Robertson, CEO of GVHA. “This repair work will allow us to revitalize the pier for the short-term, while we work with the City of Victoria on realizing the long-term potential for this site.”

In 2017, a detailed structural analysis of Ship Point was undertaken, and it was determined that the structure needed critical repair work; a portion of the original pier was closed at that time.

“The City is pleased to partner with GVHA in repair of the Ship Point pier, which will help ensure that we responsibly manage our aging assets, and make improvements to the quality, function and enjoyment of our waterfront infrastructure,” says Fraser Work, Director of Engineering & Public Works for the City of Victoria.

The company will employ five full-time staff and local subcontractors on the site for the duration of the 5.5-month project.

Launched in 2012, Salish Sea Industrial Services Ltd. is a marine construction business owned jointly by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations in partnership with Ralmax. A key aspect of this enterprise is the training element that is built into the operation. The Salish Sea Aboriginal Training Program provides applied-learning, mentoring, and apprenticeship opportunities for members of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations as well as First Nation members seeking training and employment within any of the Ralmax Group of Companies.

“We are pleased to have been awarded by GVHA and the City of Victoria for this work. We are competitive in the marketplace and this contract represents the fifth project we have undertaken for GVHA in the past several years. Victoria harbour serves as an important transportation highway and economic catalyst for the entire region. This is as true today as it was for our ancestors and we are proud to be competing as equals earning our livelihoods once again on our traditional waters,” says Karen Tunkara, Director Salish Sea Industrial Services, Songhees Nation.

“A huge part of our success is the training program that feeds into Salish Sea Industrial Services. It was designed and informed by the Nations with the support of Ralmax. Today we have 23 First Nation members who are working as a result of this program. These men and women are accomplished and respected professionals earning incomes that sustain their families. In addition to delivering quality workmanship, they return each day to their communities where they serve as mentors and role models for others,” says Robert Thomas, Esquimalt Nation Director of Salish Sea Industrial Services.

The old pier and north apron of Ship Point form the original structure; the pier extension was constructed in 1979. GVHA owns 65 per cent of the pier, with 35 per cent ownership belonging to the City of Victoria.

For more information, visit www.GVHA.ca.

About Greater Victoria Harbour Authority

Greater Victoria Harbour Authority (GVHA) is a not-for-profit organization governed by a local Board of Directors. It owns and operates deep water, marina, and upland holdings throughout Victoria's harbour including the large vessel Ogden Point port facility where a dynamic cruise tourism industry contributes more than \$130 million annually to the regional economy; the Fisherman's Wharf float home community and small business hub; and the Inner Harbour's luxury yacht and marine tourism facility at Ship Point. www.gvha.ca

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