A sail through our organization.
Acknowledging our First Nations

Greater Victoria Harbour Authority acknowledges with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territories we operate and the Songhees Nation and Esquimalt Nation whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.
The Greater Victoria Harbour Authority

What We Do

The Greater Victoria Harbour Authority (GVHA) is a not-for-profit organization that owns, operates and manages harbour lands, marine assets, and infrastructure in Victoria’s harbour. Our mandate is to protect and manage Victoria’s working harbour with a focus on stewardship, environmental safety, and the sustainable development of harbour assets. We are committed to working in partnership with First Nations and to help support their cultural and economic aspirations in the harbour. Our organization employs more than 35 full-time and 15 part-time staff members.

Victoria Harbour is a Hub

Victoria’s harbour is one of the most beautiful in the world and a point of pride for all who live here, including the First Nations upon whose traditional land and waters we operate. It is also a welcoming arrival and departure point for over one million international visitors annually.

Our harbour assets serve our community recreationally, and foster our regional marine and tourism economy via the cruise ship industry, commercial and industrial marine operations, ecotourism businesses, and marinas for pleasure vessels.
GVHA Assets at a Glance

We own and operate high-profile community assets along with commercial and marine holdings.

1. The Breakwater
2. Victoria Cruise Ship and Deep-Water Terminal
3. Public Boat Launch
4. Fisherman’s Wharf and Fuel Dock
5. Raymur Point Customs Dock
6. Steamship Terminal
7. Causeway Marina
8. Inner Harbour Lower Causeway
9. Ship Point
10. Broughton Street Pier
11. Wharf Street Marina
12. Hyack Terminal
13. Johnson Street Marina

Welcoming the Community

Each year we host and support dozens of community events on our properties, with an emphasis on activities which promote a working harbour. This includes events hosted by First Nations, fundraising events for charitable causes, concerts, and marine-themed fun for families.
Cruise Ship Economics

The Victoria Cruise Ship Terminal is the busiest cruise port of call in Canada, welcoming 15 cruise line brands and more than 700,000 visitors annually between April and October. The economic value of the cruise industry to Greater Victoria is more than $130 million annually.
GVHA Activities

Business

» First Nations relationship development

» Sustainable development of Victoria harbour land and marine assets

» Strategic and business planning for our harbour assets and facilities

» Financial self-sustainability and management

» Accountability to our member agencies, First Nations, stakeholders and community

Operational

» Management of these facilities, their use and rental; provide cruise terminal land and water infrastructure and services

» Maintenance, repair and expansion of docks, marinas, deep-water port and cruise ship terminal, and heritage spaces

» Manage and maintain multiple marina reservations system
The Future

Looking Ahead

Our priority is to foster and support a vibrant working harbour that links the past with the present, and links people and communities together for a strong, sustainable future. It is critical that we prioritize the viability and enhancement of harbour assets and the economic opportunities which will define our region and province in the years ahead. The need for our organization to pursue strategies that ensure long-term financial sustainability of all that we do is paramount to our future.

On the Horizon

Strategic Plan Highlights

We have a 10-year Strategic Plan in place. Key goals are as follows:

1. Economic, social and environmental benefit for the region
2. Financial self-sufficiency and responsible stewardship of GVHA properties
3. A trusted advocate for the working harbour
4. Governance and accountability
5. Business performance and customer focus
6. Organizational effectiveness
Business Plan Highlights

Our 3-year business plan (2019-2022) focuses on these priorities.

» Strengthening customer and stakeholder relationships

» Investment in the maintenance or replacement of existing operational infrastructure

» Completing analysis, planning, and consultation to launch the transformational initiatives and investment in new infrastructure that will optimize and diversify GVHA revenue and benefit our region, with respect to our core properties and operations at the Breakwater at Ogden Point, Fisherman's Wharf, and the Inner Harbour

» Fostering a positive internal culture and the proud shared legacy of our assets and operations
All About the Harbour

The Breakwater

The Ogden Point Breakwater was built in 1916, is a 762-metre concrete breakwater and Victoria’s most famous barrier-free walking destination.

Deep-Water Terminal

This vast waterfront area of Victoria is home to the city’s deep-water port. It is also the site of a number of marine and marine-industrial activities, including the Victoria Cruise Ship Terminal, public walkways, and a pleasure craft boat launch.

The Inner Harbour Lower Causeway & Ship Point

The Causeway and Ship Point are the focal point of the Inner Harbour in downtown Victoria. They are a connected public pathway and picturesque centre of the city, with attached marinas that host community events, celebrations, and pleasure vessels year-round.
Fisherman’s Wharf

Fisherman’s Wharf is an historic, eclectic and popular destination located in a quaint neighbourhood adjacent to downtown. It is home to many activities including commercial fishing vessels, float homes, live-aboard vessels, Victoria’s only fuel dock, take out eateries and fishmongers, and eco-adventure operators.

Steamship Terminal

The modern-day Steamship Terminal building was constructed in 1924 and designed by architects PL James and Francis Rattenbury. It is Victoria’s original passenger terminal. Today, it is home to the Bateman Foundation Gallery of Nature, Steamship Grill & Bar, V2V Vacations, and Starbucks.

Marinas

We own and manage some of the most iconic marinas on the West Coast, right within the heart of Victoria’s harbour, including the Causeway, Ship Point, Wharf Street, Broughton Street Pier, Johnson Street and Hyack.

The Customs Dock at Raymur Point

Foreign vessels entering Canadian waters in Victoria must report to the Canadian Border Services Agency. Most vessels will clear at the Raymur Point Dock. The dock is located between Fisherman’s Wharf and the Coast Harbourside Hotel marina.
History & Governance

Working Together for our Harbour

Greater Victoria Harbour Authority was incorporated as a not-for-profit society and began operating its port facilities, divested from Transport Canada, in 2002. We are committed to the stewardship and sustainable growth of Victoria’s dynamic working harbour. Our Board of Directors is comprised of member agencies and their respective nominees for the Esquimalt Nation, the Songhees Nation, the City of Victoria, the Township of Esquimalt, the Victoria/Esquimalt Harbour Society, Destination Greater Victoria, The Chamber and the Capital Regional District. You may learn more about our history, governance structure, board of directors, and leadership team by visiting our website.
Welcome to The Breakwater District at Ogden Point

The Breakwater District at Ogden Point is a new brand and visual identity for the deep-water terminal at Ogden Point. The brand is designed to reflect what residents know and love most about the facility while inspiring them to explore further when visiting.

While The Breakwater District at Ogden Point encompasses the entire upland and marine lands at the deep-water terminal, the history of Peter Skene Ogden, for which the point of land immediately north of the breakwater is named, will be told in a way that highlights his accomplishments, legacy, and role in the development of Victoria and British Columbia.
The Breakwater has existed for more than a century and is one of the most loved and well used places in the city. Designed to celebrate the history of the deep-water terminal and set the stage for the future, the soft launch of the brand was implemented between January and August 2019. It included the painting of the east wall of the warehouse at Pier A, the installation of new wayfinding markers for cruise visitors, and the creation of a 75-metre mural between Pier B and the new pedestrian-only gateway.

**In 2019:**

- More than 400,000 people walked or ran along the Breakwater
- 700,000 cruise visitors & 300,000 crew members were welcomed by the Victoria Cruise Ship Terminal
- More than 1,500,000 visitors each year
Indigenous Partners

The Indigenous versions of the logos were created by Songhees Nation artist Butch Dick and Esquimalt Nation artist Darlene Gait, both who worked on the Unity Wall project along the north side of the Breakwater, reflecting the important and long-standing relationship we share with the Songhees Nation and Esquimalt Nation.

Both Nations are member agencies of our organization and integral partners in our plans for the future of The Breakwater District at Ogden Point.
Long-Term Planning

The development of the Breakwater District at Ogden Point is an active file for the GVHA, with a detailed peer review of the current and future transportation and market-readiness currently underway. Along with the strategic guidance of its board of directors and member agencies, the organization’s leadership team continues to assess the immediate, short, and long-term requirements for moving forward with development of the property.

Further public engagement and input from key stakeholders and First Nations will continue into 2020.