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*Navigating news from the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority*  
**APRIL 2025**

**EDITION HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Earth Day clean-up challenge
- Election listening session
- Koningsdam's Lək'wəŋən welcome
- Europa 2's inaugural call
- Swiftsure returns in May

**A Message from the CEO**



Passengers from the Koningsdam at the cruise ship terminal on April 4. Image: Colin Smith

## Dear Harbour Community,

Cruise season kicks into high gear this weekend with five ships in port, including the return of Holland America's *Koningsdam* on Friday after a 21-day voyage circling the Hawaiian Islands and Pacific Northwest. This year, we will welcome 33 different vessels from 13 cruise lines—among them, two exciting new arrivals: MSC Cruises and Virgin Voyages.

I recently returned from Seatrade in Miami, the cruise industry's premier global event, where interest in the Pacific Northwest market remains strong for the 2025 cruise season. Victoria continues to stand out as a destination that blends vibrant natural beauty, cultural charm, and a welcoming, well-managed port experience.

As conversations continue about the future of Victoria's working harbour, it's encouraging to see a shared commitment among local federal candidates to invest in a resilient, sustainable waterfront. I was keen to participate in a listening session hosted by the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, where we helped highlight key opportunities for the growth and evolution of our harbour and visitor economy. There's broad recognition that our harbour plays a vital role in both economic development and environmental stewardship. We're committed to this vision and working with all who share it.

With the sun shining, I'm looking forward to a vibrant summer season. Among the highlights are the 80th anniversary of the Swiftsure International Yacht Race and much-anticipated return of Symphony Splash after a five-year hiatus. We're proud to help steward and support community-based events that bring people together and showcase our vibrant waterfront.

Sincerely,  
Robert Lewis-Manning, CEO



## Latest News



Left to right, GVHA's Richard Davies, Cynthia Sam, Bruce Clark and Janet Lapaire.

### Earth Day clean-up

On Earth Day (April 22), GVHA staff joined the Earth Day Power Hour Clean-Up organized by the Victoria Sustainable Tourism Alliance. We collected debris along the waterfront near the Wharf Street and Johnson Street marinas. It was surprising to see how much can accumulate — from beverage containers and shopping bags to cardboard, plastics, and even a cast iron drain rim. Hats off to our GVHA maintenance crew who do this important work every morning. Learn more about our [commitment to a healthy harbour](#).



Robert Lewis-Manning at the election listening session.

## Election candidate perspectives on port investment

With the general election approaching on April 28, GVHA CEO Robert Lewis-Manning participated in a candidate listening session hosted by the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce. The event featured Laurel Collins (NDP, Victoria), Elizabeth May (Green, Saanich-Gulf Islands), Will Greaves (Liberal, Victoria) and Grant Cool (Conservative, Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke).

Robert spoke about the global diversification opportunities tied to investing in port infrastructure, the unique capabilities of the deep-water terminal at The Breakwater District at Ogden Point, and the desire among First Nations to guide responsible harbour development. He asked the candidates how they would attract investment and develop policies to ensure Victoria's working harbour remains productive, safe, and sustainable.

Across party lines, there was a shared vision of a harbour that balances economic growth with environmental responsibility and local collaboration. Common themes included diversifying trade routes, with candidates pointing to Asia-Pacific opportunities, improving infrastructure, and investing in marine-sector training to ensure labour readiness.



A member of the Ləkʷəŋən Traditional Dancers welcomes the Koningsdam. Image: Colin Smith

## Traditional Ləkʷəŋən welcome marks start of cruise season

Victoria's 2025 cruise season officially began on April 4 with the arrival of Holland America's *Koningsdam*. Under bright spring skies, Christine Sam of the Songhees Nation and the Ləkʷəŋən Traditional Dancers offered a traditional welcome to the ship's passengers and crew. Captain Robert Jan Kan was presented with an eagle carving by Songhees artist Clayton Albany. In return, the captain gifted a commemorative plate to mark the occasion. View this season's [cruise ship schedule](#).



Left to right: Robert Lewis-Manning, Staff Captain Jonathan Schofield, Councillor Alicia Thomas, and Ship Captain Sören Anderl.

## Europa 2 makes inaugural call

On April 20, GVHA welcomed the *MS Europa 2* on her inaugural visit to Victoria. With up to 500 guests and 370 crew, the Hapag-Lloyd luxury liner was greeted by Councillor Alicia Thomas of the X̱w̱seps̱əm (Kosapsum) Nation and GVHA CEO Robert Lewis-Manning. Captain Sören Anderl was presented with a commemorative plaque, a framed print by Coast Salish artist Darlene Gait, and a book on the Songhees Nation. In return, he presented a piece of the ship's history—a number 2-shaped steel segment from the original construction.



Planet Express in the 2024 Swiftsure Yacht Race. Image: Tom Hawker

## Swiftsure races back in May

The [Swiftsure International Yacht Race](#) — the Pacific Northwest’s premier long-distance sailing event— returns to Victoria on the Victoria Day long weekend (May 24-25). Organized by the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, the event attracts sailors from B.C., Washington State, and beyond. Competitors will moor at the Lower Causeway marina, and the public is invited to view the vessels up close in the days leading up to the race. Here's to fair winds this year!



ReLove Market offers vintage fashion.

## Vintage finds at ReLove Market

Kicking off our summer event line-up, ReLove Market will bring a curated selection of vintage and secondhand fashion vendors to Ship Point Pier on Saturday, May 17 (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.). ReLove is a well-known name in Victoria's sustainable fashion scene, with a retail loft at 569 Johnson Street. The ReLove Market will set up on Ship Point Pier four times this summer (June 7, July 20 and September 6). Learn more at our [events calendar](#).

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## Our Vision

Canada's most *K'wamK'wam* (vibrant)  
and *X'wčičtəs* (harmonious) harbour.

## Our Mission

Ensure the long-term stewardship of *Lək'wəŋən* territory  
by creating Canada's first co-managed port.

Galvanize support and investment in land, sea and people.

Ensure a productive and inclusive working harbour  
leading in regional sustainability.



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