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For a vibrant waterfront.

Harbour Currents

Navigating news from the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority

JULY 2025

EDITION HIGHLIGHTS:

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- [Five Facts about the Breakwater](#)
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Latest News



Symphony Splash concert barge in 2019.

[Symphony Splash Spectator Guide](#)

Symphony Splash and its famous concert barge returns to the harbour with four performances — two each day on Saturday and Sunday at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Visit the [Victoria Symphony website](#) for concert details.

To avoid overcrowding and to comply with safety regulations, access to the Lower Causeway viewing area will be limited to a set number of spectators. Picnic blankets and cushions are welcome. Camping chairs are not permitted. Access to the Lower Causeway will open at 2:30 p.m. via the stairs from Government Street opposite The Fairmont Empress.

Canoes, kayaks, paddleboards and other vessels up to 14-feet (4.27 m) in length are permitted in the viewing area. The use of engines or electric motors is not permitted during the event. All vessels must be paddled or rowed into the viewing area. Anchoring is not permitted within the harbour. Please ensure you have [appropriate safety gear](#), including lights after sunset.

Learn more at GVHA's [Splash Spectator Guide](#).



The Breakwater at Ogden Point with a cruise ship docked in port.

[Five facts about the Breakwater](#)

The Breakwater at Ogden Point is popular with residents and tourists alike. Here are some

facts about this beloved GVHA property.

1. The lighthouse at the end contains a [weather station](#).
 2. The Breakwater was built between 1914 and 1917 from more than one million tons of rock, including 10,000 granite blocks.
 3. In 2009, the [Unity Wall mural](#) was added to the walls of the Breakwater to honour First Nations' tradition and history.
 4. The versatile Breakwater is popular with divers, anglers, bird watchers, runners, and local residents who walk it every day.
 5. An estimated 500,000 people walk, run, or stroll the Breakwater each year.
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MS Riviera docked at Ogden Point in June 2025.

Good Cruise News

As we reach the mid-point of the cruise season, we're pleased to share three pieces of good news.

- A survey by Destination Greater Victoria revealed that **84.1% of Victoria residents** believe the cruise industry has a positive impact on our city;
- **87.6% of cruise passengers** arriving before 5:00 p.m. disembarked to explore Victoria, while 64.2% of passengers arriving after 5:00 p.m. still disembarked despite later arrival times;
- A recent [survey](#) of 102 ports ranked Port of Victoria at **No. 2** among the world's best cruise destinations. Port of Quebec ranked No. 3 and the Port of Vancouver at No. 6.



Members from Songhees Nation and xwsepsəm Nation at the annual summer job shadowing program.

ləkʷəŋən Job Shadowing Program

In July, GVHA hosted six members from the Songhees Nation and xwsepsəm Nation for our annual summer job shadowing program, which provides hands-on learning and pathways to direct employment. From working with our dock crew and mooring yachts to supporting waterfront maintenance, the program provides a unique opportunity for ləkʷəŋən youth to learn about employment opportunities in the working harbour.



From left to right: Randy, Carson, Leo, and Jane. Not pictured, Neil and Ally.

Meet the dock crew

This hard-working seasonal team supports marina operations from May to September, helping vessels arrive and depart safely while offering a warm welcome to visiting boaters. Each week during the summer, more than 175 boats arrive at our marinas. We're grateful for the crew's dedication and frontline service during a busy season.

Events



A team from the Victoria Dragon Boat Festival in 2024.

[Ready to Race: Dragon Boats Return Aug 8–9](#)

The [Victoria Dragon Boat Festival](#) returns August 8–9, featuring more than 30 teams racing in the Inner Harbour. The event includes music, dance performances, food, cultural activities, and vendors. Ship Point Pier is the ideal spot to see the races and celebrate Chinese culture.



Canada Day 2025 Ship Point Market.

[Upcoming summer markets](#)

[Ship Point Market](#) returns August 1-3 showcasing local artists and artisans on Ship Point Pier. Symphony Splash coincides with the market on Saturday and Sunday so plan your shopping accordingly.

Meanwhile, [Market on the Pier](#) continues at Ogden Point and operates when cruise ships are at the terminal. The vendors welcome members of the local community as well as cruise ship passengers. Discover handmade products, art, and more.

Our Vision

Canada's most k'wamk'wəm (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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