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Navigating news from the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority
JUNE 2025

EDITION HIGHLIGHTS:

- MS Riviera inaugural call
- New rainbow crosswalk
- First Nations' Guardians
- Oceanographic testing
- Crabfest at Ship Point

A Message from the CEO



The GVHA group at the bottom of Grouse Mountain.

Dear Harbour Community,

Two of my greatest passions are hiking and helping seafarers. Earlier this week, both came together when a team from GVHA participated in the Annual Day of the Seafarer Peak Challenge, which involved hiking up the Grouse Grind in North Vancouver. Other B.C. ports and marine industry companies also competed to raise funds for the International Sailors Society Canada (ISSC), which provides support programs for seafarers.



At GVHA, we believe it's important to appreciate and understand the positive impact seafarers have on our world and the safety issues they face on a daily basis. Seafarers are a critical element of our port. You can donate to this worthy cause on the [ISSC website](#).

I am also extremely grateful to British Columbia's Minister for Tourism, Arts, Culture, and Sports, Hon. Spencer Chandra Herbert, who joined us yesterday on the Day of the Seafarer (June 25) to welcome the MS Riviera cruise ship on its inaugural call into Victoria. The vessel will make eight more calls this season, each in port for 10 hours or longer.

It has been exciting to see our waterfront properties come alive in recent weeks, including the 30th anniversary celebration of HMCS Calgary at The Breakwater District and the Van Isle 360 Yacht Race at the Lower Causeway Marina. I also enjoyed the

Coast Guard's recent open house, which helped many people learn about this organization's important role in protecting the harbour.

Summer promises to be busy with thousands of cruise passengers and hundreds of boaters set to arrive. We're looking forward to it.

Sincerely,

Robert Lewis-Manning, CEO

Latest News



The welcome party from the inaugural visit of the MS Riviera to Victoria.

B.C.'s Minister of Tourism welcomes the MS Riviera

This week, the MS Riviera made her first visit to our port. GVHA CEO Robert Lewis-Manning, Chief Jerome Thomas of the Xwsepsəm Nation and the Esquimalt Singers and Dancers led the welcome, joined by Spencer Chandra Herbert (pictured in light blue jacket), B.C.'s Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture, and Sport, who delivered remarks highlighting the importance of cruise for Victoria's tourism industry. The welcome party

presented the Riviera's captain, Maksym Melnikov (pictured at centre of group), with a commemorative plaque and a framed print by Coast Salish artist Darlene Gait.

The ship, which carries 1,250 guests and 800 crew, will make eight more calls into Victoria in 2025. For each call, the Riviera's guests will have at least 10 hours to explore the city. Visit our [Cruise Schedule](#) for full details.



The new crosswalk at Fisherman's Wharf

A colourful step forward at Fisherman's Wharf

Our new rainbow crosswalk is now welcoming visitors to Fisherman's Wharf. Thanks to the hard work and leadership of GVHA marinas manager George Milne, it was unveiled just hours after the conclusion of World Ocean Day. We think it's more than just paint on pavement. It's a symbol of belonging in a place where float homeowners, family-run food vendors, working fishing vessels, and visitors from all walks of life come together.



Canoes filled with National Guardians asking permission to come ashore in the Inner Harbour.

Guardians visit the Inner Harbour

Earlier in June, Victoria hosted the National Guardians Gathering. First Nations' [Guardians](#) are experts who care for their Nations' lands and waters through work rooted in Indigenous knowledge and culture. Their work supports Nations in decision-making and offers solutions to the challenges of climate change and the lasting impacts of colonialism.

The Gathering began with a special First Nations' tradition when crews of paddlers requested permission to come ashore at Protocol Corner in the Inner Harbour. Bradley Yuxwelupton Dick granted permission to the paddlers, while hundreds of delegates from the event looked on. It was a thrill to see representatives from Nations across Canada in the harbour.



A member of the Ocean Networks Canada team with an oceanographic sensor.

Local testbed for global ocean insights

A group from [Ocean Networks Canada](#) (ONC) was at Wharf Street Marina earlier in June conducting staff training for its oceanographic monitoring program called Community Fishers. Coastal communities throughout Canada monitor ocean conditions via this program by using special sensors to collect and upload data into the ONC's data portal.

The data is used by more than 50,000 researchers, communities, and decision-makers around the world. The sensors collect information such as temperature, pressure, chlorophyll (algae in the water), turbidity (particulates in the water), and dissolved oxygen. Wharf Street Marina was the perfect location to practice the sampling procedure.



Diners enjoying a seafood feast at CrabFest in 2024.

Upcoming feasts and festivals

BC CrabFest will cook up a seafood feast at Ship Point on Sunday from 11am-7pm. This free, family-friendly event offers an ocean-to-table spread of fresh crab, prawns, mussels and more – all sourced from dedicated local fishing families. Beyond the buckets of crab, this festival has interactive demonstrations and live entertainment to celebrate B.C. seafood. Visit the [CrabFest website](#) for tickets.

[Festival Mexicano](#) returns to Ship Point on July 12 and 13. Come down to the harbour to experience delicious Mexican cuisine, dynamic music, dance performances, and family-friendly fun.



The Greenline electric ferry in the Inner Harbour.

Harbour hosts electric ferry trials

GVHA hosted FRS Clipper and [Greenline Ferries](#) at Ship Point Pier earlier in June as we learned about the future of sustainable marine transportation. FRS Clipper and Greenline were conducting technical trials to showcase an electric passenger ferry. It featured the Artemis EF-12 Escape, a high-speed, zero-emission passenger vessel. Designed to carry 12 passengers, it can reach speeds of up to 30 knots – nearly twice as fast as conventional ferries, using half the energy. Its hydrofoil design lifts the vessel above the water, enhancing efficiency.

GVHA CEO Robert Lewis-Manning, Sidney Mayor Cliff McNeil-Smith and City of Victoria Mayor Marianne Alto were among the passengers to experience an all-electric journey from downtown Victoria to Royal Bay and back again.



This year's Canada Day celebrations will include live music and a drone show over the harbour.

Canada Day celebration

The annual Canada Day celebrations will bring thousands of people to the Inner Harbour on July 1 for a multicultural celebration, which includes live music, food, fireworks, and the first-ever drone show over the Inner Harbour. Please note, there will be full-day road closures around the Inner Harbour, including Belleville Street in front of the Legislature

lawn and part of Menzies Street. Government Street, from Humboldt to Superior, will close in the early evening. For full details of road closures, visit Victoria's [Canada Day website](#).



A booth at Ship Point Market in June.

Upcoming summer markets

GVHA is hosting a special [Ship Point Market](#) on Canada Day from 10am to 10pm, drawing artists and artisans to the Inner Harbour. The market will return on the following weekend of July 4-6.

Meanwhile, [Market on the Pier](#) can be found at Ogden Point while 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 from dozens of local vendors.

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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