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

**EDITION HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Cruise Season Sets Sail
- Wonderful Welcome for Disney Ship
- Summer Event Line-Up
- Business Plan for 2025/2026
- Welcome to the Flowers

## A Message from the CEO



Victorians gather at the end of the Breakwater to greet the Disney Wonder.

## Dear Harbour Community,

With the second cruise ship of the season arriving on April 4, we are preparing to welcome thousands of visitors to our city.

You may have seen news stories about Alaska senator Dan Sullivan's call for changes to the U.S. Passenger Vessel Services Act (PVSA) to allow cruise ships to bypass Canadian ports.

We understand your concern. This is a complex situation. However, we know cruise passengers want to visit Victoria and demand for our destination remains strong. We are a sought-after stop on cruise itineraries, and Victoria's appeal is well recognized by the cruise lines.

GVHA is actively engaged in conversations with the cruise industry, our local partner network, and government officials to promote a thriving cruise industry that benefits both sides of the border. There is a close connection between the Alaskan cruise industry and ports of call throughout the Pacific Northwest, including Victoria. This connection will help during this time of uncertainty.

To explain this complex issue, GVHA has provided some [background information](#) about the PVSA and current events.

We are closely monitoring the situation and working closely with our industry partners to ensure that B.C. remains an integral part of the Alaska cruise experience.

We are expecting a vibrant summer in the harbour, and it begins with the Koningsdam call on April 4. Read on to learn more about some of the events coming up this summer.

**Sincerely,**

**Robert Lewis-Manning, CEO**



**Latest News**



The Koningsdam marks the first of more than 300 ships calls expected this season.

## Cruise Season Sets Sail

The Victoria cruise ship season kicks into full gear on April 4, with the arrival of Holland America's Koningsdam at 10am. A representative from Songhees Nation will attend. The Lək̓ʷəŋən Traditional Dancers will perform to mark the occasion. In total, 320 cruise ship visits are scheduled to arrive in 2025, including five inaugural calls.

Coinciding with the arrival, the Market on the Pier will launch for the season at the Breakwater District. More than 40 vendors will offer local handmade goods, such as jewelry, art and body care. The market operates when cruise ships are docked at the terminal. Visit our website to learn more about the [2025 cruise schedule](#) and [Market on the Pier](#).



**From left to right: Mark Mawhinney (GVHA board chair), an unnamed officer, Captain Daniele Aschero, Chief Jerome Thomas (X<sup>w</sup>sepsəm Nation), Robert Lewis-Manning (CEO of GVHA) and Pierre Marechal (Wonder's hotel director).**

## **Wonderful Welcome for Disney Ship**

Victoria welcomed its first cruise ship of the season on March 6. The Disney Wonder made the early season call while repositioning from Australia and New Zealand. Basking in bright sunshine, Chief Jerome Thomas of the X<sup>w</sup>sepsəm Nation welcomed the ship's captain and senior officers and gifted a print by Coast Salish artist Darlene Gait to celebrate the visit.



Crowds browse local handmade crafts at a bustling Ship Point Market last July.

## Summer Event Line-Up

The Inner Harbour marina will host the Swiftsure Yacht Race (May 24–25), the Van Isle Yacht Race (June 11-13), Symphony Splash (Aug 2-3) and the Classic Boat Festival (Aug 29–Sept 1). Fisherman’s Wharf will host the annual World Ocean Day event on June 8.

Ship Point Pier will host a variety of events, including GVHA’s own summer market, ReLove vintage clothing markets (May 17 plus three other dates), Crabfest (June 29), the Dragon Boat Festival (Aug 8-9), and i-Land Caribbean Fest (Aug 29-31). Learn more at our [events calendar](#).



The Fuel Dock at Fisherman's Wharf on a beautiful July morning.

## Business Plan for 2025/2026

GVHA's Business Plan for 2025/2026 is now available on the GVHA website. It outlines key priorities for our organization. We understand that our work impacts many communities, and this document describes what we will focus on. [Read the Business Plan.](#)



Thank you to our friends at Horizon Nurseries & Landscapes for their hard work in planting thousands of pink English daisies along the Lower Causeway.

**Welcome to the Flowers**

Add some more flowers to Victoria's annual flower count. More than 2,000 pink English daisies have been planted into the Welcome to Victoria sign on the Lower Causeway. Our friends from Horizon Nurseries & Landscapes took advantage of a break in the wet weather to complete the work. Stop by for a look - or maybe a photo or two

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### **Our Vision**

Canada's most *K'wamK'wam* (vibrant)  
and *X'w'cičtəs* (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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