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Navigating news from the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority
MAY 2025

EDITION HIGHLIGHTS:

- World Ocean Day
- Inaugural cruise calls
- Premier on the Pier
- Swiftsure Yacht Race
- Benches and books

A Message from the CEO



Visitors browsing the attractions at Fisherman's Wharf.

Dear Harbour Community,

As the days grow longer and the Inner Harbour comes alive with the energy of a vibrant new season, we're reminded of the unique role our waterfront plays in bringing people together – from residents to visitors from across the globe, from elected officials to small business owners.

This month, we welcomed B.C. Premier David Eby to Ship Point, where he held his weekly media conference in front of the Canada sign. It highlighted the harbour's importance as a gathering place for dialogue and connection.

We also celebrated several exciting milestones. Royal Caribbean's *Anthem of the Seas* made its inaugural visit to Victoria and was warmly welcomed by the Łək'wəŋən Traditional Dancers and Christine Sam of the Songhees Nation. Our heartfelt thanks to the Nation for sharing their traditions and leadership with grace and generosity.

The season's first [Ship Point Market](#) launched with ReLove, showcasing sustainable fashion. We also celebrated the 80th anniversary of [Swiftsure](#) – an event that captures the spirit of our coastal community. GVHA is proud to sponsor this long-standing Victoria tradition.

Looking ahead to June, we're pleased to partner with our friends at Eagle Wing Tours to host [World Ocean Day](#) at Fisherman's Wharf, a vibrant, family-friendly celebration that brings together 30 community-based organizations committed to ocean health.

GVHA is also partnering with [Greenline Ferries](#) to test an all-electric passenger vessel as part of our commitment to innovation and sustainability. Watch our social media for more on this exciting project.

Thanks to all [cruise community](#) partners for their support and warm welcome to cruise passengers. The cruise season is now in full swing with thousands of passengers experiencing Victoria as part of their bucket list holiday.

Whether you're joining us for a market, a race, or a crab boil, we invite you to experience all that the harbour has to offer.

Thank you for being part of this dynamic and growing community.

Sincerely,

Robert Lewis-Manning, CEO



Latest News



Children in costume at the 2024 World Ocean Day event at Fisherman's Wharf. Image: Colin Smith

Celebrate World Ocean Day | June 8

Join us on Sunday, June 8, for [World Ocean Day](#) at Fisherman's Wharf from 11am to 4pm. This free, family-friendly event, organized by [Eagle Wing Tours](#) and supported by GVHA, inspires action to keep our ocean healthy. Explore interactive activities, marine exhibits, a touch tank, live diving presentations, ocean conservation displays, a colouring station, and

much more.

Nearly 30 local organizations will join us, including Pacific Wild, Ocean Networks Canada, Peninsula Streams Society, Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea, the Canadian Orca Rescue Society, and Royal Canadian Marine Search & Rescue. Visit our [World Ocean Day page](#) for the event schedule and full list of participants.



A member of the Ləkʷəŋən Traditional Dancers in front of the *Anthem of the Seas*. Photo: Greg Forsberg

Two more inaugural cruise calls

Since our April newsletter, GVHA has welcomed two more cruise ships making their inaugural visit to Victoria. On May 15, we greeted Royal Caribbean's *Anthem of the Seas* with a warm welcome from the Ləkʷəŋən Traditional Dancers and Christine Sam of the Songhees Nation. The *Anthem of the Seas*, which carries more than 4,000 guests, will make 21 calls to Victoria this season.

On May 4, GVHA CEO Robert Lewis-Manning, Chief Jerome Thomas of Xʷsepsəm (Esquimalt) Nation, and GVHA board chair Mark Mawhinney welcomed the *Caribbean Princess* to our port. The ship carries 3,140 passengers and 1,200 crew.

GVHA is grateful to Royal Caribbean and Princess Cruises for choosing Victoria. We were proud to celebrate these special occasions with our partners.

Visit our [Cruise Schedule](#) for a full list of upcoming arrivals.



Premier David Eby faces the cameras on Ship Point Pier.

Premier David Eby visits the Inner Harbour

Earlier this month, B.C. Premier David Eby gave his weekly media conference while standing on Ship Point Pier, with the Lower Causeway marina and the Parliament Buildings in the background. The Premier addressed a series of issues, including the latest on US-Canada relations, and took questions from the media.



A yacht sailing in the Swiftsure race in 2024. Image: Tom Hawker

Swiftsure sails into the harbour

Yachts filled the Inner Harbour for the 80th anniversary of the [Swiftsure International Yacht Race](#) – the premier long-distance sailing event in the Pacific Northwest, featuring nearly 100 yachts from Canada and the United States.

June brings another yacht race to the harbour. The [Van Isle Yacht Race](#), known as the Van Isle 360, is a 588-nautical mile circumnavigation of Vancouver Island. It features 40 vessels and takes place over 14 days. It begins and ends in Nanaimo. Yachts will moor at the Causeway Marina between June 11 and 13.



ReLove's vintage and secondhand clothing market staged on Ship Point Pier in May.

Dates for markets at Ship Point

Discover art and handmade items from local artisans at GVHA's [Ship Point Market](#) over four weekends this summer – June 13-15, July 4-6, August 1-3, and September 12-14.

The markets will operate from 4pm to 10pm on Fridays, 12 noon to 10pm on Saturdays, and 10am to 5pm on Sundays. There will also be a Canada Day market from 10am to 10pm.

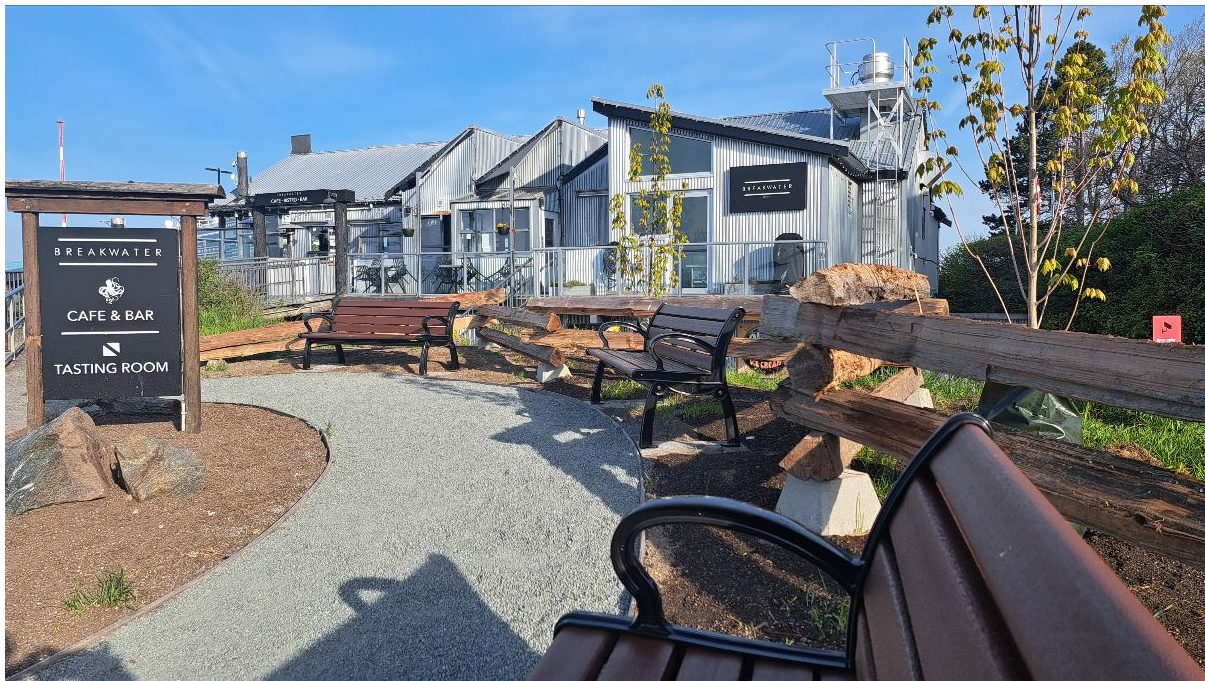
In addition, ReLove's vintage and secondhand clothing market will return to Ship Point on Sat, June 7, Sun, July 20, and Sun, Sept 6. Visit GVHA's [events calendar](#) for details.



Diners enjoying a feast at CrabFest in 2024.

CrabFest is coming

Mark CrabFest in your calendar for Sun, June 29. Taking place at Ship Point from 11am to 7pm, CrabFest will offer a feast of fresh, local seafood, including a classic B.C. crab boil with Dungeness crab, mussels, prawns, potatoes, and corn. Aside from delicious crab, the event offers chef demos, live music and a 'Seasider Kids Zone' filled with fun activities. Visit the [CrabFest website](#) for tickets.



Three new benches installed near the Breakwater.

Benches and books

GVHA has added three new benches near the Breakwater Cafe & Bistro, perfectly placed overlooking the spectacular view of the Breakwater and beyond.

Just a short stroll away, a new [Little Free Library](#) has been installed at the [James Bay public boat ramp](#) at 75 Dallas Road. Funded by an Indigenous Library Grant Award from the Little Free Library organization, this collection will feature books about Indigenous topics, written by Indigenous authors. GVHA is proud to support and maintain this library and will be restocking it regularly with new titles.

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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