



## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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### **Maritime Museum Of B.C. Flagship *Tilikum* Sets Sail For Her New Port**

The pride of the MMBC's fleet, *Tilikum*, a 38 foot converted First Nation's war canoe which sailed almost entirely around the globe at the turn of the last Century, is scheduled to be removed from the Maritime Museum's former home at Bastion Square to a new temporary home at Ogden Point on October 20<sup>th</sup> where she will be put on temporary display at the cruise ship passenger terminal.

"*Tilikum's* travels have landed her in many ports around the world over her more than 115 year lifetime," said MMBC Chair Clay Evans, "this is just another harbour on her journey as we maintain our search for a new home port."

"Although we are deeply saddened by the circumstances surrounding the vessel's move from Bastion Square we are very appreciative of the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority's assistance for temporary storage of both these vessels and many of our large artefacts at Ogden Point."

The few remaining staff of the Maritime Museum of BC, along with numerous volunteers are continuing their efforts to pack up the remarkable collection of remaining artifacts in an effort to comply with the Province's request to vacate the museum's long-time home at Bastion Square by October 31st. The building, which is was originally a Provincial Court House has been deemed unsafe and requires a great deal of remedial work to enable it to be put back into use.

"It's been a massive undertaking for our dedicated staff and volunteers" said Evans. "We are moving more than 39,000 artifacts to safekeeping in several



The  
**MARITIME MUSEUM**  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

different locations with the understanding that the entire collection can once again come together in a permanent home to be displayed for past, present and future generations to reminisce, learn and enjoy. The Province of British Columbia and Victoria in particular, have a powerful connection to our coast and the North Pacific Ocean that needs to be not only preserved but proudly exhibited to the thousands of tourists and others who visit Victoria. Our west coast's maritime heritage is undeniable and eternal and is an integral part of who we all are."

"*Trekka*", a 20 foot sailboat which has sailed around the world three times, is the smallest of the museum's fleet and has already been moved to storage at Ogden Point, while "*Dorothy*", a 30 foot wooden sloop, Canada's oldest registered sailing yacht, is being refurbished up-island.

The museum's Society Office has been moved to a smaller space at Nootka Court across from the Empress Hotel. Numerous displays have been placed there, along with a library and archives for the general public to visit and for research. The displays are open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Tuesdays through Saturdays.

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