



News Release

For Immediate Release
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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WILL PRESENT BC MARITIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Four British Columbians and BC Ferries are being recognized for outstanding achievements in BC's marine sector by the Maritime Museum's annual SS BEAVER awards. The Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Judith Guichon, will present four of the awards at Government House in Victoria on Friday November 18.

"The aim of the SS BEAVER awards is to recognize extraordinary contributions by British Columbians in many marine-related fields" said Jan Drent, chair of the medal committee. " This year's recipients cover the sort of diversity of achievements the award is intended for"

The 2016 winners are:

- Captain Stephen Brown, a deep sea master mariner who transitioned to executive management positions ashore culminating in the position of President, Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia ;
- John Horton, a distinguished marine artist and also an outstanding marine search and rescue volunteer who has been involved in saving or assisting more than 2,000 people over a 35- year period;
- Captain David Woodman, another BC mariner who in parallel with sea-going pursued a life-long interest in Polar exploration, participating in 10 expeditions in the Canadian Arctic and publishing ground-breaking examinations of Inuit oral history about the Franklin expedition;
- Dr. John Harland, a retired Okanagan physician recognized worldwide as an authority on marine technology and author of standard books in this field. Dr. Harland will be presented with his medal at a later occasion.

A special award will recognize **BC Ferries** for their over five decades of providing essential coastal infrastructure at high operating standards. Two vessels well known to the travelling public – the *Queens of Burnaby* and *Nanaimo*- will be replaced next year by new state of the art vessels after operating for more than fifty years. These pioneering ships helped establish the foundation for today's very successful service by transforming car ferry operation on the coast.

Nominations for the award of the Maritime Museum of BC SS *Beaver* Medal for Maritime Excellence are submitted by the public. They are then evaluated through a rigorous screening process. The award itself is a gold-plated medal cast from materials salvaged from the wreck of the pioneering SS *Beaver* mounted in a small display case. The Hudson's Bay Company SS *Beaver* was the first steam-powered ship on the west coast of North America and operated for 52 years along BC's coast until grounding in



The
MARITIME MUSEUM
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

1888. The awards are presented by the Lieutenant Governor in her capacity as Honorary Patron of the Museum.

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