



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Victoria Classic Boat Festival Celebrates 40 Years

This year marks a special anniversary for the Festival and an important milestone in its history. This past year, the Classic Boat Festival Society transferred the operation of the Festival to the Maritime Museum of British Columbia. David Leverton, Executive Director of the Maritime Museum, stated that, “We are pleased to be playing a more active role in what has become an annual event and look forward to being part of this Victoria tradition for many Classic Boat Festivals to come.”

The Festival has grown over the years and this year includes special programming for families with a focus on inspiring young minds while showcasing the tireless efforts and passion it takes to preserve these wonderful vessels. In addition to the many classic boats that will be on display, the Festival is also hosting a number of new family-friendly activities including Pirate School, Wooden Boat model building, face painting, and Adventures with Captain Cook.

The Festival is also showcasing classic boats from the Ex-Forest Service Vessel Squadron who are celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year. There will also be some other amazing maritime organizations throughout the region including Fleet Port Townsend Wooden Boat Foundation, SALTS, Seattle Centre for Wooden Boats, Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre, Silva Bay Shipyard School, and the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding, to name a few. These dedicated organizations provide opportunities for education, training, skills development, and economic growth both locally and internationally.

Ian Pontz, Festival Chair, indicated that “The boat owners and those that support them are why we are still celebrating our maritime heritage after 40 years.”

Ian Robertson, CEO of the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority stated that, “We are especially pleased to welcome the people who work on the vessels into the Harbour: the captains, first mates, owners, family-members, and employees who spend hours polishing bright work, sanding and lacquering teak, and tinkering in the engine room are sometimes as much as an attraction as the boats themselves. They are the ones who can tell stories about each vessel, recount history, and who dedicate immense amounts of time, effort, and money to keep each vessel looking brand-new.”

The Victoria Classic Boat Festival opens at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 1 and runs until Sunday, Sept. 3.

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For further information about the Victoria Classic Boat Festival please contact:

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