



WESTERN CANADA
HERITAGE VESSEL
REGISTRY

Statement of Significance

Meander

1934



MARITIME MUSEUM
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Meander

Year built:	1934
Builder:	W.R. Menchions & Co. Ltd
Build Location:	Vancouver, B.C.
Vessel Type:	Motor Yacht
WCHVR Category:	B.C. Historic Vessel
Owner(s):	Dennis Feroce and Janice Iliffe

PRÉCIS:

Meander was built as a private yacht for a prominent Vancouver businessman. She was seconded into military service as a coastal patrol vessel (**HMCS Meander**) during WWII. Postwar she was owned by various private owners and charter companies until purchased by the United Church of Canada in 1950 and operated as the coastal mission boat **Melvin Swartout II** until 1963. After another session as a charter boat, **Meander** was purchased in 1975 by her present owner Dennis Feroce. In 1977 Dennis offered the boat to Greenpeace as the protest vessel **Greenpeace IX** where it was involved in a major demonstration against coastal oil transportation. **Meander** has been the liveaboard home for Dennis and Janice since 1995 and remains in beautiful condition in her 92nd year.



Meander at home in False Creek, Vancouver ca. 2015

Statement of Significance

The classic, canoe-stern motor yacht **Meander** was built at W.R. Menchions & Co. Ltd shipyard in Coal Harbour, Vancouver. She was launched on April 16, 1934. The design was created by Robert Allan in late 1933 for Mr. George Kidd, President of the Vancouver Power Co., and chairman of the Vancouver Board of Trade in 1934–35. It was noted by Bert Menchions in his memoirs that the shipyard crew made a serious concession in their mid-depression wages from \$5 to \$4 per day in order to get this rare bit of valued work!

The yacht is stoutly built from the finest materials available: yellow cedar hull planking; bent 2" x 3" white oak frames at 9" centres; teak deck planking, and yellow cedar ceiling (inner hull planking). Measuring 67'-2" length overall by 14'-6" beam with a load draft of 5'-5", **Meander** is powered by a 6-cylinder Gardner 6L3 diesel engine, rated at 102 bhp at 800 rpm, a machine which has been in continuous service since new.

Meander was "impressed" by the Royal Canadian Navy in 1939 for WWII coastal patrol duty, serving as **HMCS Meander** in the Fisherman's Reserve. Reportedly, the vessel was returned to the Kidd family at the end of the war, but it soon changed hands. In 1945, **Meander** was sold to Pacific International Airways, but the boat's log shows her owned by Mr. Edward Lowe of San Francisco. Logbooks from this period show her cruising the coast from Alaska to San Francisco, but primarily in the Seattle-Vancouver-Gulf Islands areas. The vessel remained in Canadian registry however. In 1948, the boat was bought by Sydney & Walter Wilson and operated under Meander Charters LTD. In 1950, **Meander** was bought by the United Church of Canada, and from 1950 (or '51) to 1963 worked as the United Church Missionary Vessel **Melvin Swartout II** on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, initially out of Port Hardy, then in 1953 moved to Bamfield. From 1963 to 1972, **Meander** was owned by Frederick Alexander Menzies of West Vancouver, operating as a charter yacht. On Mr. Menzies' death she was bequeathed to his son Robert Menzies. In 1972, **Meander** was sold to Art and Norma Clements. The boat was purchased in 1975 by Hedley Rendell and Dennis Feroce.

Meander has remained in Dennis' hands ever since, and since 1995 with he and his wife Jan Iliffe, who has beautifully restored the interior. In 1977 Dennis offered the use of the boat to the fledgling Greenpeace organization as **Greenpeace IX**, and she soon lost her beautiful white hull to the rainbow colours of that organization. In May of that year the Kitimat Pipeline Company hosted the annual conference of the North Central Municipal Association of Mayors. With about 250 people aboard the CP Steamship's **MV Princess Patricia** transited Douglas Channel to demonstrate how safe this route might be for tanker traffic. With the support of many coastal native bands and fishermen, Greenpeace organized a

maritime protest led by **Greenpeace IX** and including the United Church Mission boat **Thomas Crosby 5** and many coastal fishboats that intercepted and disrupted the voyage of the politicians.

Meander has a special place in the history of Robert Allan Ltd. It has always been considered as the project that put Robert Allan firmly on the map as an independent naval architect of note. Not quite “Job #1”, it was certainly his first significant and high-profile commission and undoubtedly the single project which enabled him to survive the difficult depression years.,

Meander has a unique place in BC maritime lore with her history as a vessel of prominence in the yachting community of the 1930's, as a wartime patrol vessel, a missionary ship, a vessel of protest, and ultimately as a family home. Nearing a century of service, she remains in beautiful condition and is a pleasure to behold.

Statement of Significance for:

Motor Yacht *Meander*

Prepared and acknowledged by the
Western Canada Heritage Vessel Registry

Lead Assessor: Robert G. Allan

Signature: _____

Date: September 2, 2026

SOURCES:

- Nauticapedia
- Workboats for the World; The Robert Allan Story



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