

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Anchors Aweigh with the Library
Maritime Museum of BC family passes now available at Greater Victoria Public Library**

Victoria, BC – Courageous explorers, uncharted waters, tragic shipwrecks. Greater Victoria Public Library cardholders can immerse themselves in British Columbia’s storied maritime heritage for free just by borrowing a pass from the library.

Beginning April 28, twenty family passes to the Maritime Museum of British Columbia will be available to borrow. The pass provides free general admission to the museum for two adults and up to three youth (ages 12-18), and children under 12 are free. Passes are valid for seven days and can be redeemed for a single visit.

“Working in collaboration, GVPL and the Maritime Museum of BC offer library cardholders an enhanced, hands-on learning opportunity to discover our province’s rich legacy of seafaring and nautical exploration,” said Maureen Sawa, CEO, Greater Victoria Public Library.

“We are very pleased to be collaborating with the GVPL and look forward to offering residents of the Greater Victoria region barrier-free access to the Museum under the terms of this program,” stated David Leverton, Executive Director of the Maritime Museum of BC.

The Maritime Museum of BC is the sixth partner in the library’s culture and recreation pass program.

“Libraries and museums share a commitment to providing opportunities for lifelong learning; we are proud to welcome the Maritime Museum of BC as our new partner,” said Sawa.

The Maritime Museum of BC opened in 1955 as a naval museum adjacent to the HMC Dockyard in Esquimalt. Since 1965, it has enjoyed a downtown location to promote and preserve B.C.’s maritime heritage and showcase its collection of more than 70,000 items, including three sailboats – Dorothy, Trekka and Tilikum – each with its own incredible history.

GVPL cardholders can request to borrow the new pass beginning April 28, with the first pass holders eligible to visit the museum beginning May 1. These first pass holders are invited to attend a special launch event for Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Watson’s new book *Ice Ghosts: The Epic Hunt for the Lost Franklin Expedition* at the museum on May 3 at 2 p.m.

GVPL’s pass program includes access to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, the Royal BC Museum, the Robert Bateman Centre, Craigdarroch Castle, and Saanich Recreation Centres. The passes have been checked out more than 11,000 times.

For more information, visit mmbc.bc.ca or gvpl.ca.



**GREATER VICTORIA
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

MEDIA RELEASE

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About Greater Victoria Public Library

Greater Victoria Public Library builds community and supports literacy and lifelong learning by providing free access to information, space, tools and expertise. GVPL provides services and collections in 11 libraries and online at www.gvpl.ca to more than 315,000 residents in 10 municipalities. The library is your place to connect, discover and imagine.

About the Maritime Museum of British Columbia

The Maritime Museum of BC delivers popular tours and educational outreach programs geared to children, adults, and seniors featuring topics such as immigration, pirates and privateers, women at sea, and the fur trade. The Museum cares for more than 35,000 unique artifacts, as well as a large library and archives research collection, which is available for public access.