

**News Release**

For Immediate Release

15 April 2021

**The Maritime Museum of BC reflects on its Origins and Prince Phillip's Involvement**

Many people are unaware of the royal connection that helped the Maritime Museum of BC get started in the 1950s. With Prince Phillip's recent passing, the organization has been reflecting on its own past and the role Prince Phillip played.

During their 1951 visit to Victoria, Queen Elizabeth (then Princess) and Prince Phillip toured the navy base in Esquimalt. He inquired about a naval museum on this coast but was told there was none. He then set about to change that. When he got home to England he contacted the Greenwich Museum and asked them to send some objects to BC to help start a new naval museum. These objects, along with objects from local individuals, started the Maritime Museum of BC as a naval museum on Signal Hill just outside the gates of the HMC Dockyard in Esquimalt. Eventually the Museum outgrew that space and moved into the Bastion Square courthouse in 1965. It was then that the organization was named the Maritime Museum of BC.

Here is the list of objects gifted to the Maritime Museum of BC from Greenwich Museum as per Prince Phillip's request:

- Bust of Horatio Nelson (0026)
- Pocket Globe (0039)
- Pocket Sundial
- Late 18th Century, Wooden Telescope (0047)
- A first Edition, three volume set of Vancouver's Voyages to the North Pacific (1798)
- Ship plan of the HMS Childers, circa 1811
- Ship plan of the HMS Endeavour, circa 1768
- Ship Plan of the HMS Discovery, circa 1790
- And approximately 50 photographs



Bust of Nelson, Maritime Museum of BC

*Photo courtesy of Maritime Museum of BC*



Pocket Globe, Maritime Museum of BC

*Photo courtesy of Maritime Museum of BC*



Wooden Telescope, Maritime Museum of BC

*Photo courtesy of Maritime Museum of BC*

And here are some photos of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Phillip on tour in BC in 1951:

  
The  
**MARITIME MUSEUM**  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA



The Royals are welcomed to Esquimalt

*Photo courtesy of Maritime Museum of BC*



Ceremony at the Legislature

*Photo courtesy of Maritime Museum of BC*

The  
**MARITIME MUSEUM**  
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Prince Phillip aboard HMCS Crusader making the trip from Vancouver to Victoria, 21 October 1951

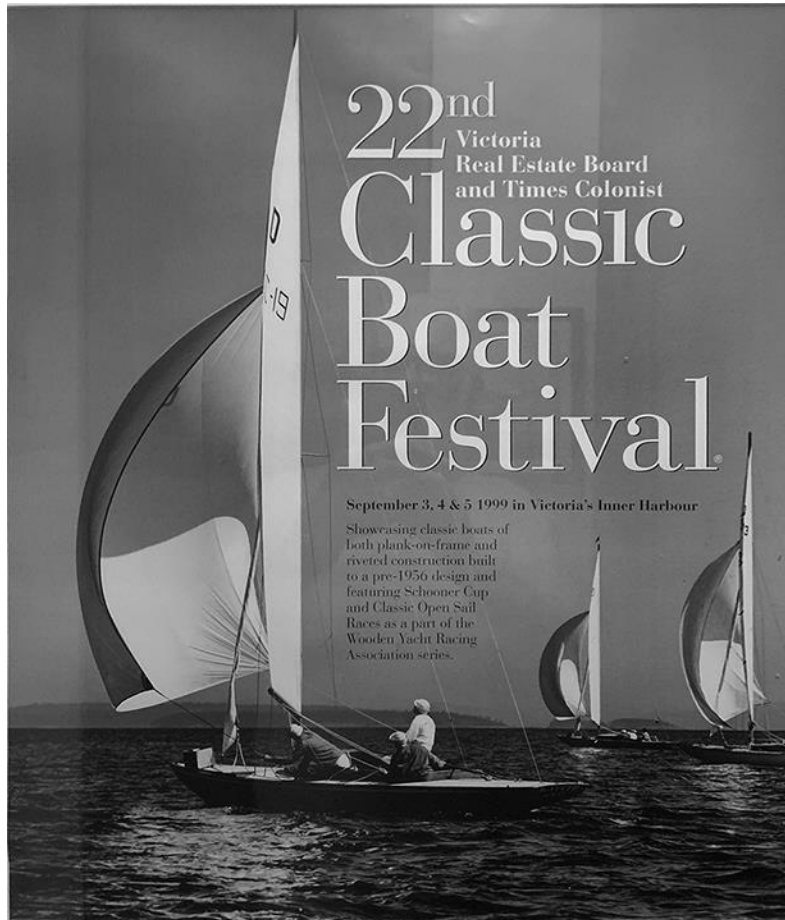
*Photo courtesy of Maritime Museum of BC*



Princess Elizabeth and Prince Phillip greeting Lieutenant Colonel Pauline, 22 October 1951.

*Photo courtesy of Maritime Museum of BC*

  
The  
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He was even featured on the 1999 Classic Boat Festival poster! He is one of the crew in the foreground.

*Photo courtesy of Maritime Museum of BC*

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