

News Release

For Immediate Release
27 July 2022

The Maritime Museum of BC Wishes a Happy 125th Birthday to 1897 Sailing Yacht Dorothy!

Dorothy, a 30ft sailing yacht in the Collection of The Maritime Museum of BC (MMBC), is having a big summer. Not only did she make a big move from Gabriola Island to Ladysmith last month, but today she turns 125!

[Heather's shot of Dorothy at Ladysmith]

Dorothy is currently at the Ladysmith Maritime Society for continued restoration work.
Image courtesy of The Maritime Museum of BC

Built of red cedar on oak frames in 1897 in John J. Robinson's James Bay boatyard on the site of today's Laurel Point Inn in Victoria, she quickly established a reputation as a fast racer. Her designer was Linton Hope, a British yacht designer and eventually an Olympic sailor, so she was bound to be speedy!

Dorothy was donated to the MMBC in 1995, and has been undergoing extensive restoration work by artist and shipwright Tony Grove on Gabriola Island for 10 years. At the end of June 2022, with the help of a donated BC Ferries trip, *Dorothy* was brought to the Ladysmith Maritime Society to continue restoration work. The goal is to get her back into the water to sail this coast once more.

[Photo of Dorothy, the one being used for Colouring Contest]

Dorothy was built in 1897.
Image courtesy of The Maritime Museum of BC

The MMBC is fortunate to have a fund allocated for this work. It has been built up over the years thorough targeted donations and a lumpsum received from a volunteer group in Ontario who had hoped to restore a wooden yacht built in New Brunswick a few years before *Dorothy*; when their project faltered they generously turned their remaining funds over to *Dorothy*. Long-time museum members will remember how John West assisted by Eric Waal spearheaded the current restoration.



The
MARITIME MUSEUM
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Learn more about *Dorothy* and get a behind-the-scenes look at Tony Grove's work on her over the years on our [website](#).

Happy 125th Birthday to *Dorothy*! With such careful work towards her restoration and a community of support filling her sails, the MMBC looks forward to celebrating her 150th one day.

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For further information, please contact:

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