



Strong cruise ship season for Victoria in 2007 and anticipated for 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Victoria, B.C., Monday, December 17, 2007.... The 2007 cruise ship season ended last month with a total of 163 calls carrying 343,732 passengers. Although this was down from 186 ship calls in 2006, the number of passengers was similar. At Ship Point, 14 pocket cruise ships docked in Victoria's inner harbour bringing 924 passengers into the City. The strength of the cruise ship industry is good news for local retailers and attractions. Passenger ship visits make a significant contribution to the overall economy of the Greater Victoria region.

Cruise Tourism Community Initiative, which sets out the Best Practices for cruise tourism operations, was presented to the community and was well-received in its first season. Tours of the environmental systems of the cruise ships were offered to community agencies. Tour participants were very impressed with the environmental practices of the vessels.

The 2008 cruise ship season is shaping up to be a record year for the Victoria harbour with 210 calls currently scheduled from April to November. Victoria will see return visits from Holland America Line, Norwegian Line, Princess Cruises, Celebrity Cruises, Regent Seven Seas Cruises and Royal Caribbean International. New for 2008, the Victoria harbour will welcome the Silver Sea Cruises and midweek visits from the small luxury vessel the Tahitian Princess.

The Greater Victoria Harbour Authority (GVHA) owns and operates deep water, marina and upland holdings throughout Victoria's harbour including the large vessel Ogden Point port facility, Victoria's renowned Fisherman's Wharf, and the inner harbour's new luxury yacht and marine tourism facility at Ship Point. GVHA's vision is a harbour where people live, learn, work and play; a spectacular gateway into Victoria's past and into its future, monumental in look and feel, linking communities and all people together. GVHA is incorporated under the BC Society Act and is governed by a board of directors representing key stakeholders and the community at-large.

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