



CTV NEWS  
VANCOUVER

## Dozens of homes off-kilter on Fraser River, locals blame lack of dredging



St. John Alexander  
Journalist, CTV News  
Vancouver

On Tuesday August 1 CLI represented by Brian Cook was interviewed by CTV's John Alexander about the lack of dredging and consequences for the Delta Lifeboat.

Residents living in houseboats along the Fraser River in Delta and Richmond often have a hard time getting into their homes, due to lack of dredging on the waterway. When the tide is low, the houses tilt significantly. Floors suddenly have steep slopes, stairways are askew, and entryways rise four feet off the ground. That makes it impossible for many residents to use their front doors without a stepladder.

"Windows popping, leaning over, fridges opening, stuff sliding off the table," described Michael Owen, manager of Ladner Reach Marina. "It doesn't need to be that way." Then when the tide is high, the homes settle back, only to be off-kilter again within hours when the tide goes out.

The Fraser River is dredged on a daily basis, but its secondary channels have fallen behind. As a result, ships and recreational

boats are frequently trapped.

"If we run aground there's always a danger of capsizing, and you just can't operate a business," said commercial fisherman Roy Manning sitting outside his vessel the Ocean Achiever. "I mean you look at a small operation like this, but it's \$1 million business in the community, for groceries, fuel."

Even the lifesaving Delta Lifeboat can only set out when the tide is right.

"These are many of the reasons that we've got to get the money brought forward federally and provincially," said Delta South MLA Ian Paton. There have been many talks with various levels of government, including town halls, but so far only cities have committed funding for annual dredging, and that's not enough to get the job done. "It's like telling the City of Merritt to plough the Coquihalla. This is a national waterway," argued Owen.

## Photos around Bowen Island paddling event that didn't make the July newsletter

photos by crewmembers





## Hazard to Navigation

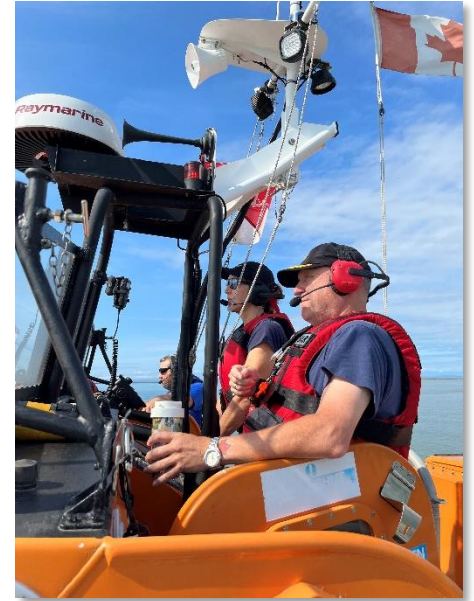
Fraser Lifeboat came across a unique hazard to navigation in Sea Reach yesterday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. It consists of a small dingy anchored with a solar light and mannequin in a bikini. 2 Floats spaced out each side were also seen. Though it was done for no wake purposes, this impedes navigation in a navigable waterway and a definite hazard at night. Coast Guard was alerted.

## Civic Day Safety Patrol

On BC Day Fraser Lifeboat went out onto the Fraser River with plans to conduct a routine 'holiday Monday' safety patrol with an expected increase in recreational traffic as people returned from long weekend adventures on the water. The patrol begun with a leg up towards New Westminster and it quickly became evident that there was an aboriginal fishery opening taking place.

After spotting the first couple of vessels along the wall at Woodward Bend, Vancouver Traffic asked Fraser to report any other fishing vessels to them for planning purposes. By the time the patrol had reached Lafarge, there had been more than a dozen vessels reported and now Traffic services had determined that there was a fishery opening until 2100 that evening.

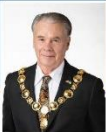
Fraser continued her patrol route, returning down river to Sand Heads providing updates on fishing vessel density and keeping an ear on traffic reports from commercial vessels in the river. This provided the Fraser Lifeboat crew with some skill refreshers thinking through commercial traffic patterns, as well as spotting and calling out fishing vessel net positions which is a critical skill for lookouts during a busy fishery.



Office of Mayor George V. Harvie  
City of Delta



MAYOR'S OFFICE | Delta



July 7, 2023

Terri Bonnet, Regional Director,  
Small Craft Harbours  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
200 - 401 Burrard St  
Vancouver, BC V6C 3S4

Dear Ms. Bonnet,

**Re: Dredging of Tenured Channels and Basins**

I am writing to you regarding the urgent need for dredging of the tenured channels and basins within the Ladner Harbour, as outlined in the June 27, 2018, lease agreement between the Crown (the "Lessor") and The City of Delta (the "Lessee").

Delta is home to a thriving fishing industry, a recreational boating hub, and other marine activities. Our local harbours, including those within the jurisdiction of Small Craft Harbours, play a crucial role in supporting the economic and social fabric of our community. However, over time, the natural accumulation of sediment has significantly reduced the water depths of these channels and basins, impeding safe navigation and hindering the full utilization of these vital assets.

It has become evident that dredging of tenured channels and basins, a responsibility of the lessor, as stipulated in the lease agreement, has been neglected. As such, various stakeholders who rely on these waterways have faced significant challenges navigating our local harbour and channel. Concurringly, the lack of dredging has jeopardized maritime operations' overall safety and efficiency.

I respectfully urge you to prioritize the dredging of the tenured channels and basins as specified in the aforementioned lease agreement. The expeditious completion of these maintenance activities will undoubtedly strengthen our local economy, ensure the safety of marine traffic, and safeguard the sustainability of our coastal environment.


... 2

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I would be delighted to arrange a meeting at your convenience to discuss this matter further and explore possible strategies for moving forward. The residents and businesses of Delta would immensely appreciate your support in addressing this pressing issue.

Yours truly,



George V. Harvie  
Mayor

cc: The Hon. Carla Quatrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion and MP for Delta  
Delta Council  
Sean McGill, City Manager, City of Delta  
Trent Reid, General Manager of Parks, Recreation, and Culture, City of Delta

## Paddles Up: There's a free Dragon Boat Festival happening in Richmond this month

David Choi | Aug 10 2023, 2:04 pm

DailyHive



Thousands of dragon boat racers and fans will converge in Richmond next week for a huge community celebration on the shores of the Fraser River.

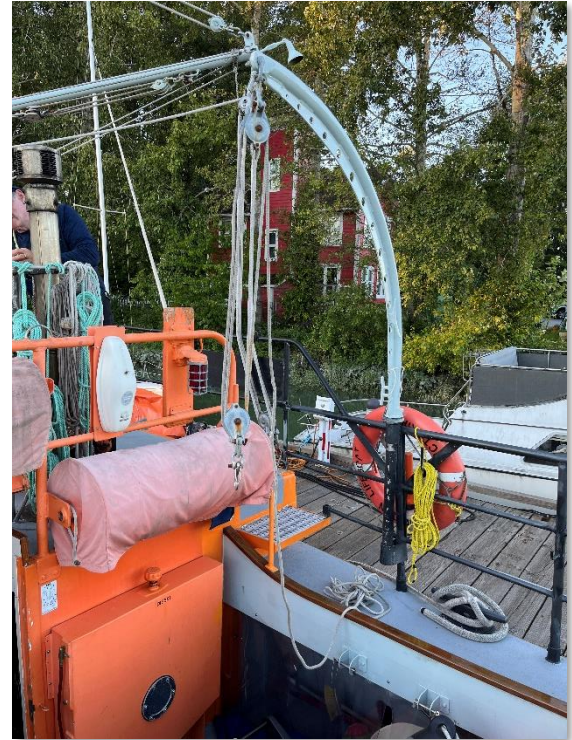
Freshco Richmond Dragon Festival is taking place at Imperial Landing Pier on Steveston's waterfront on Saturday, August 19.

The free family-friendly event is one of BC's largest dragon boat races and will feature live entertainment, artisan and food vendors, a massive licensed outdoor patio, and more.



## Delta Lifeboat Davit Alternative Location

On Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup> crewmembers prepared a davit to hoist the generator on to the deck. Normally the ones at the stern are used but there is another davit support on the stanchions at the starboard side that can be used. This davit location is closer to the generator storage location which makes the hoist more convenient. Moving the davit to the new location is straight forward and hoisting the generator went well. The stanchions and railing do flex though due to the weight. This setup can also be used to hoist the generator or outboard to the dock.



## Native Fishery Patrol

The Delta Lifeboat departed Tuesday August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1330 for a native fishery patrol. A total of 11 fishing boats were seen between Steveston and Lafarge. Although the crew observed many jumping salmon, the nets of the fishermen were nearly empty. Two tug and barges were escorted up river. No incidents were encountered. The Delta secured 2000 at her berth in Ladner.



A4 THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023

**NEWS**

RICHMOND-NEWS.COM

## Man pulled from river

ALAN CAMPBELL  
acampbell@richmond-news.com

A person in distress was rescued from the Fraser River in Richmond on Sunday evening.

Emergency services were called to the area of Triangle Beach — where Williams Road meets Dyke Road in south-east Richmond — at around 7:30 p.m.

Sukhwant Dhillon, of Sher E Punjab Radio, told the *Richmond News* that a rescue team from Richmond Fire-Rescue entered the river near Riverport Way.

According to Dhillon, the crew managed to pull the person to safety without injury.

Richmond Fire-Rescue chief Jim Wishlove told the *News* they were called in by the RCMP to help retrieve the person from the water, who was thought to be swimming at the time.

Wishlove said three "swift water rescue technicians," com-



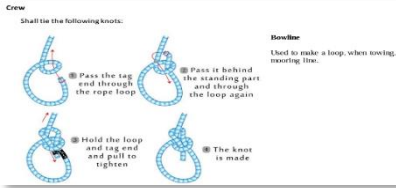
Sukhwant Dhillon, of Sher E Punjab Radio, was at the scene of this rescue on Sunday evening in Richmond.

plete with dry suits, took an inflatable craft into the river to rescue the male.

He said the firefighters were directed to the person by a civilian vessel, which had stayed in the area to pinpoint where the man was.

Wishlove said the rescue took about 30 to 40 minutes from start to finish, before the male was taken to hospital as a precaution.

Richmond RCMP confirmed it was in attendance at the incident and the person was safe.



## Practicing Knots and Stowage

Practicing knots is very important and encouraged keeping in mind that crew has to be able to deploy lines / fenders / mooring lines in a moment's notice. On our crew website we have a document "Knots" which shows you all the knots you should know and their usage. Take some time to go through it and keep on practicing.



## Richmond Maritime Festival

On Friday August 25<sup>th</sup> crewmembers sailed the Delta in the afternoon to Britannia Shipyards for the Richmond Maritime Festival. At arrival, the Delta the crew hoisted celebratory flags and prepared the boat for the festival. Mary and John Horton exhibited John's maritime paintings in the Seine Net Loft. At 1800 the crew attended a reception with all the boat owners, festival organizers, Richmond council members, mayor Malcolm Brodie and MLA Kelly Green. She is the MLA for Richmond-Steveston and also the Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture. Both mayor and MLA gave short speeches welcoming everyone to this recurring festival.



On Saturday the Delta received many visitors during the day. Children were intrigued by Oscar who was on display on the dock. Also, the bell on the bridge was a great hit with them like previous years. Every hour John More sounded the bugle call. There was a great interest in the Delta and amazement at the fact that she is still operational. On Sunday one of the Canadian Coast Guard



hovercrafts came into the harbour for a sail past. Although there were less visitors than yesterday the crew was still busy the whole day. Some visitors showed an interest in joining the CLI. Brochures were distributed and names were noted down. At 1800 the festival came to an end and the crew packed up for the return trip to Ladner harbour. The CLI got a lot of exposure during this weekend and hopefully some new members.

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You can find us on:

Like to JOIN?

