



Annual CLI dinner and fundraiser

On Thursday December 5th the CLI held its annual CLI dinner and fundraiser event at the Beach Grove Golf Club in Tsawwassen. MLA Ian Paton was again so kind as to auctioneer a day cruise to the Gulf Islands on the Delta Lifeboat. It went for a bid of \$1,000.00. Mayor George Harvey mentioned the working relationship of the CLI with the City of Delta and the importance of the work we do. Outgoing Deputy Fire Chief of Delta Fire & Emergency Services David Ayton tuck commemorated the relationship with John Horton and the Delta Lifeboat. President of the CLI Bob McIlwaine received from John Horton the “Duke of Kent” gold medal for 20 years of service. Crewmember John More donated \$1,000.00 and Tsawwassen Legion President Tanya MacNeil made a substantial donation on behalf of the Legion. To make electronic payments possible the CLI’s iPhone Square was used to pay for entrance, 50/50 draw and silent auction fees. Crewmember Jim Fox won the 50/50 draw. The buffet was enjoyed by all. The dinner was well attended with almost 100 attendees and the tally of proceeds surpassed last year.

Ian Paton



George Harvey



David Ayton



Tanya MacNeil & John Horton



Bob McIlwaine & Brian Cook



Ladner Carol Ships

Friday December 6th, many CLI crew and their guests gathered on the Delta Lifeboat for the Carol Ships sailing past the apartments and houseboats near Ladner Harbour. The string of festively lit vessels had their ethereal light amplified in the mirror calm of the river water creating an extensive cascade of colour in the dark of winter. Each boat was a separate masterpiece of illumination gliding along. We hailed the shore with bellows of "Merry Christmas" as people waved to us. As we drifted along between the homes it was like being a traditional caroler, visiting each warm hearth for a moment through the shared sightlines across the water. When we returned to the harbour, the Fraser Lifeboat and an RCM-SAR Vessel joined us for a shared feast. John Horton cooked enough pasta and sauce from scratch to feed the entire crew of all three vessels, as well as hot chocolate and tea. We wrapped up a lovely evening of community celebration with full bellies and big smiles.





Ladner Carol Ships

The last event of 2024 for the CLI lifeboats was to join the annual parade of Ladner Carol Ships along the Ladner waterfront. On December 6th and 7th, the Fraser Lifeboat and Delta Lifeboat participated in the parade, primarily as safety vessels. It also allows us to raise our profile in the community, “showing the flag”. Along with all the other boats, the Fraser Lifeboat and Delta Lifeboat vessels were decorated in bright coloured lights and primed to have visitors aboard. As in the past, the parade was to gather at Wellington Point, which is at the west end of Ladner, and would then proceed at slow speed east along Ladner Slough, close to the float homes.

to the CLI calendar, the Fraser Lifeboat was to have mustered aboard at 6.00pm as they had further to travel. The Delta Lifeboat calendar showed that the crew were to muster at 6.30. However, this did not allow any flexibility in the time required to travel to Wellington Point, which normally takes about 25 - 30 minutes. When 6.30 rolled around, and some of the signed-up crew had not arrived, we started to prepare to cast off and go without them. At 6.35 we could not wait any longer. The command was given to “Let go 1, 3 & 4”. Those lines were cast off, hung on the “trees” and just as we started to spring ahead on #2, two missing crew were seen running down the ramp and on to the dock. As there was little wind we were able to remain stationary while they scrambled aboard. That was the only excitement of the evening.

According



We proceeded along the slough to Wellington Point, and mingled with the other vessels, as they started to form up behind the lead vessel. The weather was overcast, but calm. We were the last in the convoy, until Fraser Lifeboat arrived and then they became “tail-end-Charlie”. Shouts and greetings were exchanged with the people gathered on the decorated houseboats and float homes as the parade proceeded along the slough. Delta Lifeboat turned in when we reached the Ladner government floats, tying up in our normal spot. Fraser Lifeboat continued up the slough to Sharkey’s Pub, before turning and tying up behind Delta Lifeboat. RCM-SAR7 were invited to join us aboard Delta Lifeboat for a hot drinks and cookies, which they accepted by rafting to the Fraser Lifeboat. They were with us for about half an hour. They were also asked to pass on the invitation to the Saturday crew, which they said that they would. We had about 20 crew and guests aboard that evening, enjoying the camaraderie, as well as the food and drinks supplied by the crew.

On Saturday evening we were able to get away on time, so took a side trip around Gillian’s Island, arriving at Wellington Point in time to join the flotilla. Fraser Lifeboat arrived at the same time, and accepted our suggestion that they precede us in the parade, making Delta Lifeboat the “tail-end-Charlie”. There were many people greeting us as we slowly made our

way eastwards. Fraser Lifeboat followed us to the dock and once again we had a full complement in the wardrobe, where everyone savoured the company and the goodies. Unfortunately, RCM-SAR did not join us. They missed out on enjoying the hearty beef stew that John More provided. He also managed the galley in his normal efficient manner, making sure that everybody was well looked after. It was a nice end of the 2024 CLI calendar. We can now look forward to more good times in 2025 aboard Fraser and Delta Lifeboats.

Organizational Responding to Changing Times

Tuesday June 10th. In a recent general information meeting among its volunteers, the CLI Board rolled out its newly revised volunteer organizational structure. The most notable change was the addition of a fourth functional group to be known as the





“Community Outreach Team”. This group was added to consolidate the talent and abilities of the many volunteers in our ranks interested in public communications and relations. This new team will aim at broadening community awareness of CLI’s efforts and contributions toward maritime safety for pleasure boaters and the commercial fishing sector. The group will also advance a more structured and focused approach to fund raising and toward stepping up new recruitment numbers.

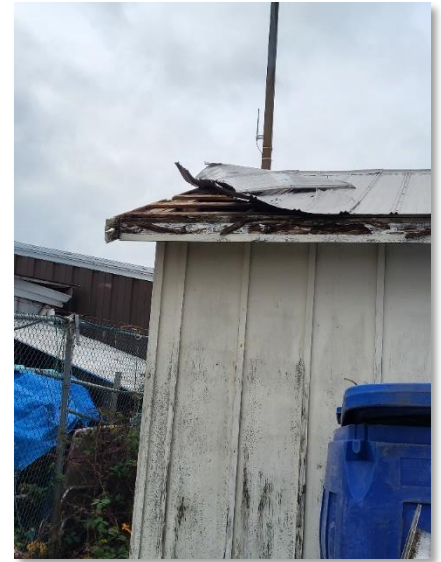
The other three - pre-existing - functional groups include: Engineering and Maintenance; Lifeboat Operations and Crew Training, and First Aid Co-ordination and Training.

In conjunction with this functional restructuring of its volunteer organization, the CLI Board is also moving forward with adjustments to its fiscal and general financial management. These are planned specifically in response to anticipated changes in economic conditions and industry activities on the Fraser River.

CLI Shed Steveston Harbour



During the December storms part of the roof has been blown off resulting in water ingress in the shed. PJ and Nick did some emergency repairs but because the shed is used for storage like the boat show gear a more permanent solution will be needed. The shed is falling apart, rats are roaming through the shed damaging floater jackets and other gear. Replacement of this shed is eminent.



Coronation medal

On the 14th of December Carla Qualtrough, our MP for Delta South, presented 30 very worthy Delta residents with the King Charles III coronation medals on behalf of the governor General. Each person had a fantastic story to tell of community service.

Long time CLI supporter, Elizabeth Murray and senior CLI Cox'n John Horton both received medals. Elizabeth for her work and support of the Canadian Scottish Society and the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster, and John for his recording, through his art, of Canada's rich marine history, his work as a war artist, and long contribution to search and rescue.

In February 2024, John also received the British Nuclear medal in recognition of his involvement in the UK's nuclear programme in the 1950s!



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December 19, 2024 **The Delta Optimist** A3

Community leaders honoured with King Charles III Coronation Medals

Delta MP Carla Qualtrough honoured members of the Delta community with the King Charles III Coronation Medal during a ceremony at Ladner's Harris Barn on Saturday, Dec. 14.

This prestigious recognition celebrates individuals who have made significant contributions to their communities, provinces, or territories, or achieved exceptional accomplishments abroad that bring credit to Canada.

In May 2023, to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, the prime minister announced the government's intention to award Coronation Medals to Canadians who exemplify service, generosity, and leadership. The medals highlight outstanding individuals from all walks of life who inspire and strengthen their communities through their dedication and achievements.



PHOTO COURTESY CARLA QUALTROUGH

Delta MP Carla Qualtrough presented 30 King Charles III Coronation Medal during a ceremony at Ladner's Harris Barn on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Here in Delta, a public call for recommendations revealed a remarkable list of local heroes. After a thorough selection process, 36 extraordinary Deltans were chosen to receive this honour, recognizing their invaluable contributions to the community.

The Coronation Medals were awarded to individuals represent-

ing a wide spectrum of service, including public leaders, tireless volunteers, advocates, educators, artists, and young change makers. Among the recipients were local leaders such as the mayor and advocates, alongside unsung heroes like Rotary volunteers, dance instructors, and small business owners.

These individuals

exemplify the values of community, belonging, and purpose, inspiring the next generation through their dedication and generosity.

"These medals honour Delta's leaders, change-makers, and community heroes — those who lead us publicly and those who work tirelessly in the background," said Qualtrough. "From the

coach mentoring young athletes to the artist fostering creativity and the volunteer ensuring no one goes hungry, each recipient represents the heart and resilience of Delta. Delta is a very special community, and what makes it special is its people. Every day, in every corner of our community, people are making a difference. Whether

through acts of kindness, generosity, or service, the people of Delta embody the very best of Canada."

Recipients included: Leslie Abramson, Kimberley Arthur-Leung, Barbara Baydala, Peter Broznitsky, John Burr, Tsawwassen First Nation Chief Laura Cassidy, Julie Chadwick, Gord Collings, Laurel Crosby, Renie D'Aquila, Katherine Dennison, Jane Devji, Laura Dixon, Dr. Avis Glaze, Mayor George Harvie, Jacky Hillairet, John Horton, Victoria Huntington, Christa Kadach Horita, Carlene Lewall, Bruno Marti, Gail Martin, Bruce McDonald, Taylin McGill, Jill McKnight, Elizabeth Breeze Murray, Eliza Olson, Jyla Robinson, Jit Sangha, Major Rev. James Short, Anita Sihota, Dr. Jack Taunton, Elaine White and Tsawwassen First Nation Coun. Bryce Williams.

- Submitted

Fair winds and following seas in 2025

