



Derelict Boat Move

Saturday March 29. The CLI was asked to move a derelict boat from Ladner Harbour to the Ferry Road boat ramp for scrap/recycling at Captain's Cove Boatyard. The derelict boat had been moored at the Ladner Lifeboat Station opposite the Delta Lifeboat. It had been there for a considerable time as the owner passed away some years ago. A plan was made and adjusted after considering inputs from all crewmembers. It was decided to do an alongside tow all the way to the boat ramp, knowing that with the high tide there would be enough depth underneath the Delta Lifeboat. While leaving the Station, the help of the RHIB was required to push the Delta Lifeboat to starboard because the prop walk and the derelict boat along the port side which pulled the Delta Lifeboat to port more than usual. Once out of the slip the Delta Lifeboat proceeded to the boat ramp. In return the CLI received many photos and videos of the whole operation. At arrival the Delta Lifeboat moored at the boat ramp dock and the RHIB was used to tow the derelict boat to the dock. There it was put on a trailer for transport to the boat yard. The whole operation went relatively smoothly although communication with the RHIB needs to be improved.



Delta and Fraser Lifeboats Fly the Flag



DELTA OPTIMIST

THURSDAY | APRIL 3 | 2025

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River group hopes for balance for boats, nature

Delta society trying to keep channels from silting up

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A solution to sediment clogging up secondary channels of the Fraser River may be a grain of sand closer, following a wide-ranging meeting at the Ladner Yacht Club.

It may be possible to keep the river healthy and maintain navigation by involving all interest groups, said Simon Everatt, with the South Fraser River Enhancement Society.

"A significant step," was taken towards keeping those channels clear following the March 18 meeting with the mayor, Tsawwassen and Musqueam First Nations

leaders and Water, Land and Resource Stewardship Minister Randene Neill.

The group noted a Ducks Unlimited project where sediment dredged from the river was re-used to restore habitat and provide flood protection.

"This approach presents an opportunity for the provincial government to maintain safe waterways, while simultaneously safeguarding coastal communities from rising sea levels and storm surges that threaten areas such as Sturgeon Bank," Everatt said in a news release.

He added that material that can be dredged from the Ladner channel is heavy silt which is good for habitat rehabilitation.

"The re-use of the sediment is the way to go," he said.

The group says a dedicated dredging program is needed to keep the Fraser River's secondary chan-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

First Nations, city and provincial politicians met on the Fraser River, recently.

nels flowing properly so they can be used by boats.

A dredging channel doesn't require the whole width of the river, just a channel about 15 metres wide and a depth of 3.5 metres, on low tide.

Efforts to keep water flowing in the main channel of the Fraser have reduced flow in the secondary channels, increasing sedimentation, the society said.

"Except for a minor

dredging effort in 2023, these channels have been largely neglected since 2015," the release said.

He said the group is "hopeful" that getting input from all interest groups can lead to a sus-

tainable solution. "I think we're getting somewhere. In the past, our letters to the ministry had just been ignored. Now, we seem to be having a bit more back and forth with them ... I'm hopeful. We'll see, I guess."

The South Fraser River Enhancement Society has asked for an exemption for Delta to the province's moratorium on issuing long-term water-lot leases for floating homes.

Delta has the largest concentration of float homes in B.C., with 148 homes on the Ladner Harbour Channel.

Everatt said the City of Delta regulates float homes, which are connected to city water and sewer services, or which have tertiary sewage treatment systems.

Float home owners pay taxes on their water lots and their float homes, along with lease fees and utilities.

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April 3, 2025 The Delta Optimist A19

Arts and Entertainment

The Marine Art of John Horton set to open in Victoria

The Maritime Museum of BC exhibit will be on display from April 4 to June 1

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Celebrated Delta marine artist John Horton will present a retrospective exhibition of marine paintings opening at the Maritime Museum of BC in Victoria this Friday.

The Marine Art of John Horton: from Nine to Ninety, will fill the museum's entire gallery at 744 Douglas Street with works exemplifying Horton's signature detail and unmatched historical accuracy.

"This exhibit is an incredible boon for Victoria," said Collections and Exhibits Manager Heather Feeney. "Horton's devotion to perfectionism, his technical and historical accuracy, and his

deep connection with the stories of the vessels he depicts is evident in even one example of his work. The opportunity to view a retrospective exhibition is a rare dream for anyone with an appreciation for marine art."

One special piece joining the exhibition is a new oil painting of the MMBC's 1897 sailing vessel *Dorothy*.

Dorothy, Running into Sansum Narrows depicts the gaff-rigged sloop in a stiff breeze, echoing her 128 years on these waters, and her recent refit and summer operations in the Salish Sea.

Dorothy - the vessel - won a prestigious international Best Restored Sailing Vessel under 40 feet at the Classic Boat Awards in 2024, along with a



JOHN HORTON PHOTO

Dorothy, Running into Sansum Narrows depicts the gaff-rigged sloop in a stiff breeze, echoing her 128 years on these waters, and her recent refit and summer operations in the Salish Sea.

Victoria Classic Boat Festival award during the 2024 Festival. Her refit was a shared effort

amongst so many *Dorothy* supporters: it started with shipwright and artist Tony

Grove and was completed by the dedicated volunteers at Ladysmith Maritime Society led by boatwright and historian Robert Lawson.

"A single painting embodies so much maritime history and so many stories," said Feeney.

Horton is a noted maritime artist and founding member of the Canadian Society of Marine Artists, a member of the Federation of Canadian Artists, the Honourable Company of Master Mariners of Canada, the Royal Naval Sailing Association and a lifeboat commander with the Canadian Lifeboat Institution. He is a recipient of the Order of British Columbia.

The Maritime Museum of BC is open Tuesday to Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Plan your visit at: <https://mmbc.bc.ca/visit/plan-your-visit/>.

A6 The Delta Optimist April 10, 2025

Smoke on the water, fire in the Delta sky on the weekend

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From a fire in a North Delta suburb, to boats ablaze on Friday and Saturday, Delta firefighters have been busy.

Following an early Thursday house fire on 84A Avenue and 115th Street, now being investigated as an arson, Delta firefighters on Friday rushed over to Annacis Island at about 8 p.m. to extinguish a fire on an old boat in the slough off the Annacis Channel.

Heavy smoke was seen for kilometres and firefighters had to access the fire via a nearby business.

Delta Fire and Emergency Services Deputy Chief Mike Donoghue said probably someone was living on



DELTA FIRE DEPARTMENT PHOTO

On Saturday, April 5, just after 8 p.m., firefighters were called to the 4300-block of River Road West, fighting a more-intense fire involving two house boats.

the boat, but no one was around at the time, "so we don't know how it started."

Delta police were also

on scene.

The following night, on Saturday, April 5, just

CONTINUED: see Page 7

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DELTA FIRE DEPARTMENT PHOTO

A fire broke out in a North Delta home early Thursday morning, April 3. There were no injuries.

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after 8 p.m., firefighters were back on the water, in the 4300-block of River Road West, fighting a more-intense fire involving two house boats.

Both house boats were fully ablaze when firefighters arrived, but

everyone got out safely.

"The crews did a good job. When they got there, fully involved. "They stopped it from spreading ...," said Donoghue.

"So, it was a busy weekend for Delta fire, that's for sure," he said. Six fire trucks and 24

firefighters responded but the two-house boats were destroyed, said Donoghue.

"Everyone got out, no injuries. Fire is under investigation," he added.

The cause hasn't been identified but the fire is not considered suspicious, he said.

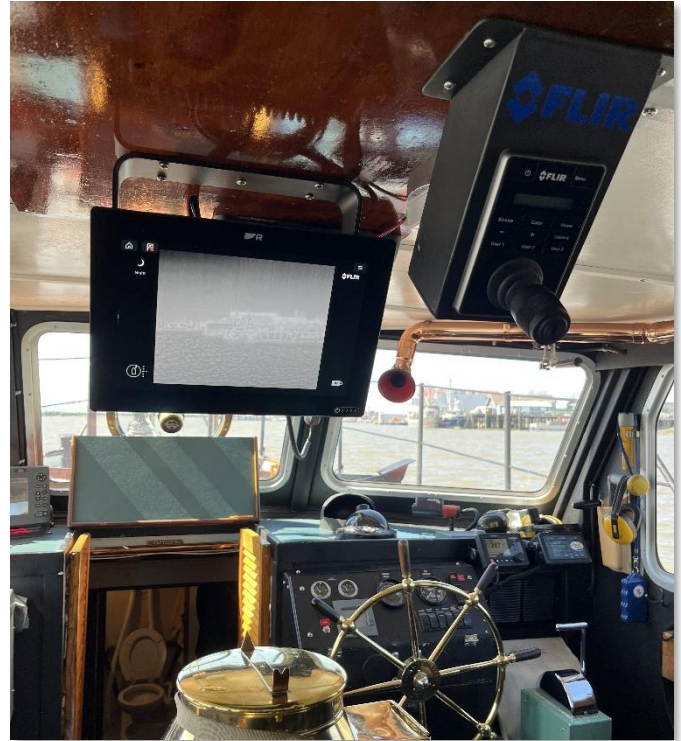


Delta Lifeboat FLIR

Delta Lifeboat now has a Forward Looking Infra-Red camera. FLIR refers to a technology that uses thermal imaging to detect heat emitted by objects. This technology is widely used in various applications due to its ability to provide real-time thermal images even in darkness or poor visibility conditions. The Delta Lifeboat will use this camera at night and during fisheries to make the fishing vessels and there

nets more easily visible. It will also be used when looking for logs and during searches, on land (shore search) or on the water (PIW).

Some challenges were encountered during the installation but finally success in installing the camera, MFD (Multi-function display) and joystick was achieved. We are still waiting to receive an additional cable to make the joystick operational. In the meantime, the camera can be moved by using the soft keys on the touch panel. In the coming months crewmembers can familiarize themselves with the thermal image during training sessions.



Electronic Flare

Fraser Lifeboat has now an electronic flare. This flare replaces the type A, B and C flares, it won't expire but has to be accompanied by a type D orange smoke flare.



RCYC PCCC Day

On Saturday April 12 the Royal City Yacht Club held their annual Pleasure Craft Courtesy Check (PCCC) at the Imperial Dock in Steveston. The CLI was again invited to perform the PCCC's. The Delta Lifeboat came down from Ladner and anchored at the westside of the dock with stern lines to the dock. CLI crewmember B.C. Fire Sprinklers, performed the fire extinguisher checks free of charge. Crewmembers received instructions, information sheets, forms and decals after which they started the inspections. For



many of the CLI crew it was good to see the club members again and for the new crewmembers, it was good to get acquainted with the RCYC members and to gain experience in performing a PCCC.

When all the PCCC's were done and all the RCYC members were handed their inspection reports and decals, the CLI crew was invited to a pot luck lunch on the dock. RCYC member Doug Maxwell handed CLI Director B Cook \$1,175.00 in donations from the appreciative RCYC members. Doug suggested for the CLI to come to one of their club evenings to explain about CLI and to share boating safety tips. This was again a great full event and looking forward to next year's event.



Southern Straits Race Safety Patrol

The annual Southern Straits Race was this year held from Thursday April 18th till Saturday April 20th by the West Vancouver Yacht Club. The Delta Lifeboat attended the race as a safety vessel. On Thursday April 18th the Delta departed at 1800 hours and proceeded to English Bay where an anchorage would be chosen depending on the wind direction. The voyage was uneventful and the decision was made to anchor at West Bay where the Delta Lifeboat arrived at 2110 hours.

Friday April 19th. After a hearty breakfast the Delta Lifeboat weighed anchor at 0900 to anchor off Dundarave Pier for the start of the race. 70 vessels entered the race spread over different categories. Although the weather forecast predicted 20-30 knots NW winds the day was started with only 4-6 knots winds. At 1050 hours Delta Lifeboat again weighed anchor to commence the Safety Patrol towards Halibut Bank, Sangster Island and the Ballenas Islands. A 2 - watch system of 4 hour on and 4 hour off was maintained to monitor the radios and keep a visual watch. North of Halibut Banks RCMSAR unit 14 (Gibson) came alongside for a meet and greet. After our famous cookies and coffee, the RMCSAR team asked to practice an alongside and stern tow because they had two new crewmembers aboard. Both activities were successfully done and



Both activities were successfully done and





offers were made to practice more regularly on Saturday mornings with both CLI vessels, both Delta and Fraser Lifeboats could be made available at short notice for exercises around Iona. After the exercises Delta Lifeboat continued the Safety Patrol and had no issue catching up with the sailboats. At 6pm the wind started to pick up and during the night we saw gusts up to 35 knots NW which was also noticeable in the sea state because the Delta Lifeboat had to plough through 6' waves. Vessels that rounded Sisters Island were able to hoist their spinnakers which gave them a speed of around 15 knots.

During the first watch, 20:00 – 24:00, a call was monitored between the Canadian Coast Guard and a sailing vessel 7 nm east of Delta Lifeboats location. An EPIRB was activated which could mean they had a MOB or the vessel's EPIRB was active. While CCG tried to contact the vessel multiple times the Delta advised CCG that they were in close proximity and would turn around to help if needed. Finally, the vessel responded to the call and it was determined that the EPIRB was mistakenly activated. The Delta Lifeboat stood down and continued the Safety Patrol.

Saturday April 20th. Early in the morning the Delta Lifeboat kept station in the lee of the Ballenas Islands monitoring the race. The new FLIR camera came in very handy observing the passing sailboats. At 0430 hours the Delta Lifeboat proceeded to the race finish area with following seas and after the Delta Lifeboat stood down from the Safety Patrol entered the north arm of the Fraser River at 0930 hours. This route was chosen for a smoother ride and to give the crew a chance to clean ship. White caps were still present on the Fraser River but the Delta Lifeboat made good and arrived at the Ladner Lifeboat Station 1245. As Delta Lifeboat was to be going to 'Re-fit' shortly Crewmembers quickly prepared the Delta Lifeboat by taking of non-essential items off and transferring tools and paint from the shed to the Delta Lifeboat in preparation for the refit at Shelter Island following. The crew did an excellent job during this deployment and are looking forward to the next race. B.Z.



Delta Refit

Straight after the Southern Straits Race the Delta Lifeboat was scheduled for her biannual refit at Shelter island. Unfortunately, a mistake was made scheduling the haul out and Delta had to wait a week before the refit could commence. In order to lose not too much time crewmembers started to prep the Delta already at the Ladner Lifeboat Station.



National Day of Mourning

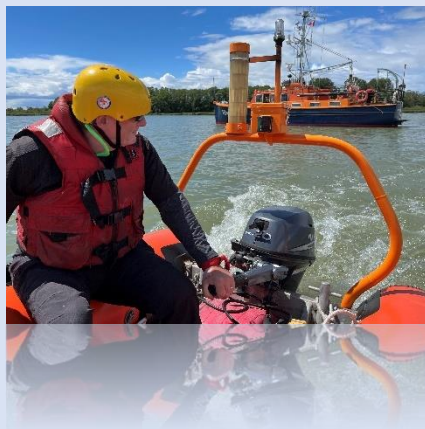
April 28th is the National Day of Mourning in Canada to commemorate all those who lost their lives on the job. There are ceremonies all across the country, with the flag being lowered to half mast and a moment of silence being observed at 11:00. Every year, people gather at the Fisherman's Memorial Statue in Garry Point to remember those who were lost or injured at sea. This observance is a way to honour those that have died while renewing a commitment to making sure as many people get home safe and are unharmed in the workplace. The Fisherman's Memorial is a large metal replica of a needle used to mend fishing nets. Commissioned in 1990, the memorial had 147 names when it was unveiled in 1996, with new names being added continuously over the years.

A large crowd gathered beneath pop up tents and umbrellas in the solemn wintery drizzle to speak in memory of those that were lost and lay wreaths at the base of the memorial. CLI Director B Cook placed a wreath on behalf of the CLI. There were many other delegations and families placing wreaths as well.

The Fraser Lifeboat and local RCMSAR vessel anchored off the rocks near the statue to pay homage to those we honour and remember. A duo bosun whistle salute before ceremonially ringing the eight strikes on the ship's bell that signal the final rest of sailors.

It was a moving ceremony that showed the deep importance of fisheries in our community as well as the dangers of working out at sea. By grieving together, we honour the sacrifice of those work on the water and remember to always keep safety in mind.





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