



## Derelict boat move

Saturday March 29. The CLI was asked to move a derelict boat from Ladner to the Ferry Road boat ramp for scrap/recycling at Captain's Cove boatyard. The derelict boat was moored at the Ladner Lifeboat station opposite the Delta Lifeboat. It had been there for a considerable time as the owner passed away some time 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. While leaving the station, the help of the RHIB was required to push the Delta to starboard because the prop walk and the derelict boat along the port side pulled the Delta to port more than usual. Once out of the slip the Delta proceeded to the boat ramp. A potential new crewmember, Kelvin, had joined the trip and was treated on a boat ride with the RHIB. In return the CLI received many photos and videos of the whole operation. At arrival the Delta 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 there were some points for improvement, especially communication with the RHIB.



## Welcome

### Hello Team,

I'm excited to introduce myself as one of the newer members of CLI. My name is Troy Tompkins, and I moved to Canada from the U.S. about three years ago with my wife, Mikaela, and our two kids, Genevieve and Xander. We currently live in Vancouver.

My journey into search and rescue was driven by three things: my love for the water, my passion for all things mechanical, and my strong desire to give back to the community. Being around water has always been a huge part of my life—whether it's surfing, sailing, fishing, or snorkeling, I'll take any excuse to be near (or in) the water. I also have a background in mountain climbing, though it's been a while since I last tackled a peak. Having kids has kept me busy, but I still hope to bag a few more summits... assuming my climbing harness still fits!

Another passion of mine is aviation, and one day I hope to complete my flight training. In the meantime, I channel my love for adventure into trying new things and meeting great people—something this team has already offered in abundance. I'm thrilled to be part of such a dedicated and skilled group and look forward to learning, contributing, and working alongside all of you. See you on the water!

**Troy**



# DELTA OPTIMIST

THURSDAY | APRIL 3 | 2025

everyone else?

DELTA OPTIMIST



Sign up for our FREE newsletter!

Scan the QR code

## River group hopes for balance for boats, nature

Delta society trying to keep channels from silting up

**PHIL MELNYCHUK**  
pmelnychuk@delta-optimist.com

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.

## Delta and Fraser Lifeboats fly the flag



## 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

**IAN JACQUES**

ijacques@delta-optimist.com

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

**PHIL MELNYCHUK**

pmelnichuk@delta-optimist.com

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

April 10, 2025 The Delta Optimist A7



DELTA FIRE DEPARTMENT PHOTO

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

**CONTINUED** from Page 6

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.

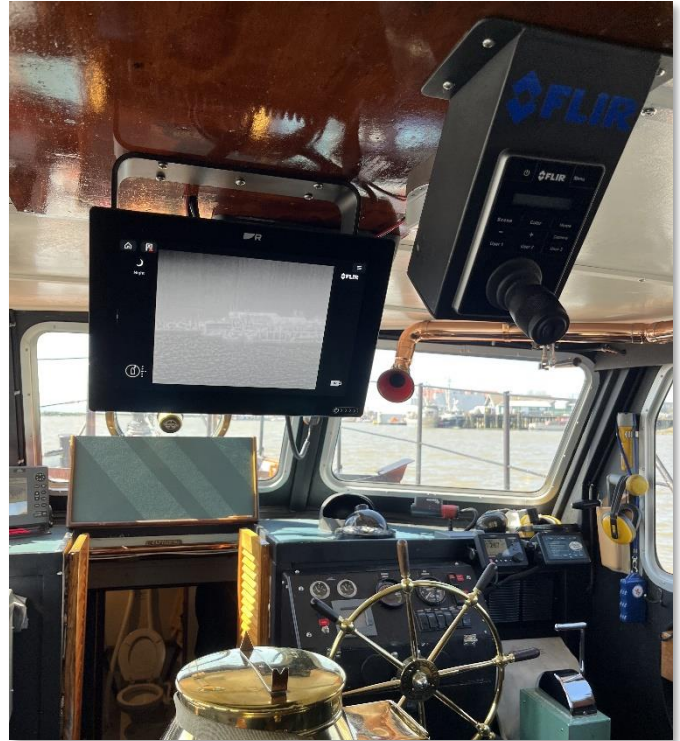


## Delta FLIR

Delta 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 will use this camera at night and during fisheries to make the fishing vessels and their 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).

PJ, John O and Brian V encountered some challenges during the installation but of course they did succeed in installing the camera, MFD and joystick. B.Z. We are still waiting to receive an additional cable to make the joystick operational. In the meantime, the camera can be moved left/right and up/down by using the soft keys on the touch panel. In the coming months crewmembers can familiarize themselves with the thermal image during Thursday evening training.



## Electronic flare

Fraser lifeboat has now an electronic flare. This flare replaces the type A, B and C flares, 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 at the Imperial Dock in Steveston. The CLI was again invited to perform the PCCC's. The Delta came up from Ladner and anchored at the westside of the dock with stern lines to the dock. CLI crewmember Gord Knight, owner of 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 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 learn how to perform 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 which was well received. CLI crew and RCYC member Doug Maxwell handed Brian 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 present the CLI and to share boating safety tips. More to come about that. This was again a great 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 18<sup>th</sup> till Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> by the West

Vancouver Yacht Club. The Delta LB attended the race as a safety vessel. On Thursday

April 18<sup>th</sup> 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 arrived at 2110 hours.

Friday April 19<sup>th</sup>. After a hearty breakfast the Delta 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 weighed anchor to commence the safety patrol to Halibut Bank, Sangster Island and the Ballenas Islands. A 2-watch system of 4 on and 4 off was maintained to monitor the radios and a visual watch. North of Halibut Banks RCM SAR unit 14 (Gibson's, Bill's unit) came alongside for a meet and greet. After our famous cookies and coffee, the RMC SAR team asked to practice an alongside and stern tow because they had two new crewmembers. Both were successfully done and offers were made to practice more regularly on Saturday mornings when both CLI vessels,





Delta and Fraser, could be made available at short notice for exercises around Iona. After the exercises Delta 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 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.

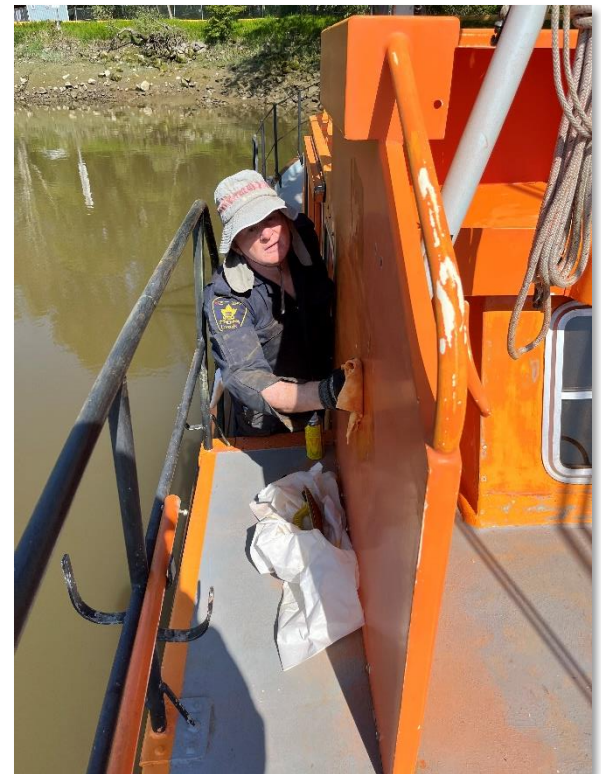
During the first watch, 20:00 – 24:00, a call was monitored between the Canadian Coast Guard and a sailing vessel 7 nm east of Delta's location. An EPIRB was activated which could mean they had a MOB or the vessel's EPIRB was active. While CCG tried to contact the vessel multiple times the Delta advised 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 stood down and continued the safety patrol.

Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>. Early in the morning the Delta 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 proceeded to the finish with following seas and after the Delta 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 made good and arrived at the lifeboat station 1245. Crewmembers quickly prepared the Delta by taking of non-essential items and transferring tools and paint from the shed to the Delta all in preparation for the refit at Shelter Island following this deployment. 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 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 lifeboat station.



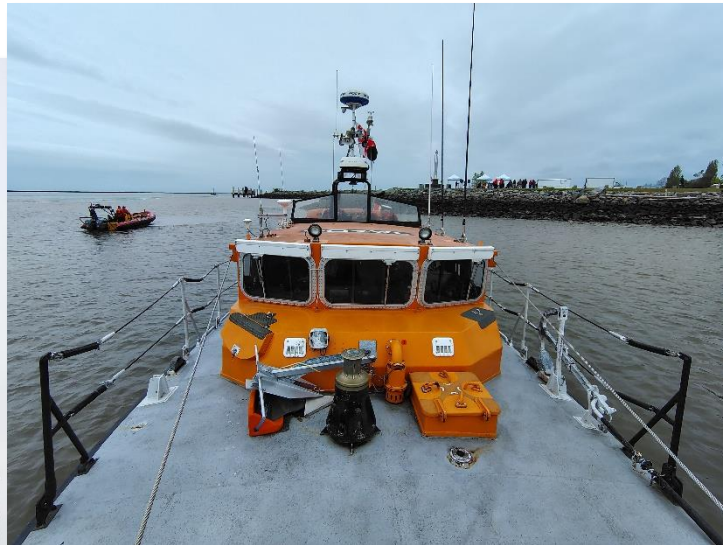
## National Day of Mourning by Krista Kienapfel

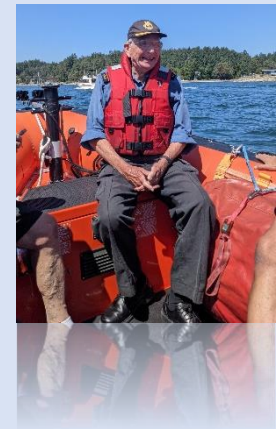
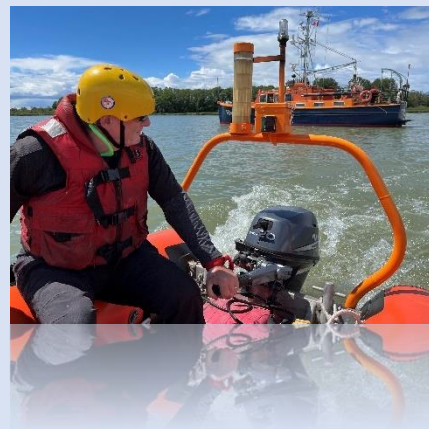
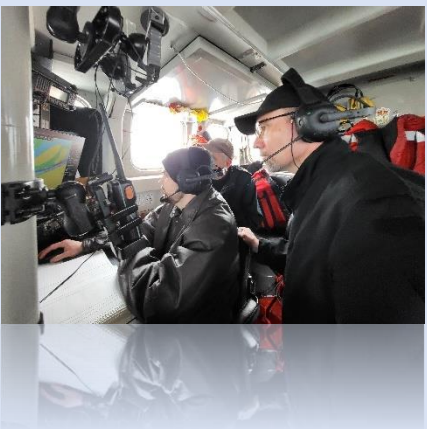
April 28th is the National Day of Mourning in Canada to commemorate all those who lost their lives on the job. There are ceremonies all across the country, with the flag being lowered to half mast and a moment of silence being observed at 11:00. Every year, people gather at the Fisherman's Memorial Statue 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. Brian 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 RCM-SAR vessel anchored off the rocks near the statue to pay homage to those we honour and remember. John Horton was at the helm, assisted by Troy for a duo bosun whistle salute before ceremonially wringing the eight strikes of 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.





# VOLUNTEERS MAKE WAVES

NOBODY LEAKS? WAVE MAKES?

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2025 APRIL 27 - MAY 3



CANADIAN  
**Lifeboat**  
INSTITUTION

