

## King Tides

King tides (also known as perigean spring tides) are extreme high tide events that occur when the sun and moon's gravitational forces reinforce one another at times of the year when the moon is closest to the earth. They happen twice a year, but are typically more dramatic during the winter. This year we had King tides during the weekend of January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The photos below clearly show how high the tides were with the Delta dock submerged.



## Donation Ladner Legion

On Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup> John H. received in name of the CLI a \$1,000.00 donation from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #61, Ladner, BC.

Thank you very much for this generous donation!



## Vancouver International Boat Show

On Tuesday January 13 crewmembers rigged the booth at the Vancouver Convention Centre instead of BC Stadium due to preparations for the FIFA World Cup 2026. At the Convention Centre the CLI had a booth on the same floor as the showcased vessels.

The Delta sailed in the morning to the Granville Island marina to be part of the floating boat show.

During the boat show many visitors were interested in the CLI and visited the booth and Delta Lifeboat.



This year "Oscar" was also on display. Although he was first laying in the stretcher, Monika suggested to move him to a chair facing the aisles. This encouraged more engagements, especially when crewmembers rigged a fishing line to his wrist which gave Oscar the possibility to "wave" to the passersby. This brought many smiles on faces and engagement with the booth team.

At the end of the boat show 30 potential crewmembers signed up which is something that hasn't been seen before. The total of donations this year was approximately \$11,500.00. Thanks to all our volunteers who everyday relentlessly asked visitors to support the Lifeboats / CLI.





## Delta at the Floating Boat Show

The Delta Lifeboat once again participated in the Vancouver Boat Show. Departing Ladner station at 1700 on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January, the transit to False Creek was made in foggy but calm conditions. Securing with other vessels in the show, the Delta Lifeboat drew much praise over the 5 days for her condition, history and the dedicated service of her crew.

Many donations were gratefully received and new members signed up. During the show, we held a very useful meeting with a senior Department FO officer regarding the upcoming herring fishery. DFO (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) asked if they could conduct some training with CLI. A discussion about the same subject was conducted with a senior member of the RCMP division.

Thick fog covered the lower mainland for the last 3 days of the boat show, so when Delta departed for Ladner on Sunday evening all systems and good lookouts were required as the visibility was down to zero. Departing False Creek was very challenging with several of the small ferries moving around with no radar and no foghorns. This created several close quarter situations.





Following meetings in Esquimalt before Christmas, two RCN Lieutenants involved with the programme, visited Delta on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 for further discussions and a short trip on both Delta and Fraser Lifeboats. The trips aboard were conducted in zero visibility but gave an excellent demonstration into both of the lifeboat's capabilities.

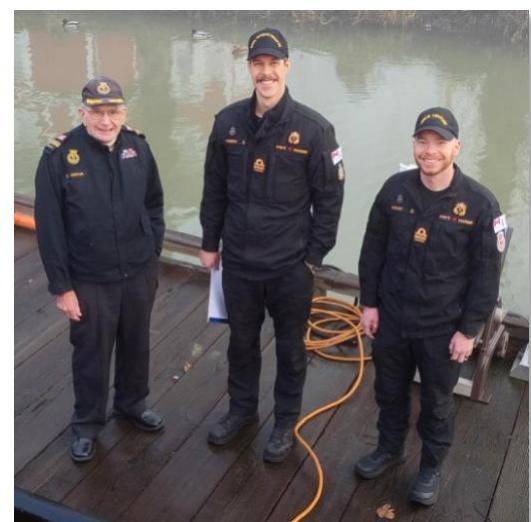
This is a wonderful opportunity for CLI and a clear demonstration of the respect that senior RCN personnel have for the CLI's capabilities.

It is possible that RCN personnel may be drafted to the CLI for the herring fishery patrols. If this does happen and proves successful, future deployments may be planned.

After the meeting John did a walkthrough with the Lieutenants on the Delta Lifeboat, and Ron and Richard did the same on the Fraser Lifeboat. Then both vessels departed for a short cruise to the end of Ladner Reach and back with a Lieutenant on each of the vessels.



Ladner  
Reach and  
back with a  
Lieutenant  
on each of  
the vessels.



The Lieutenants got a good impression of the capabilities of both vessels and what knowledge and practice the lifeboat crews could bring to the junior naval officers.

After the Fraser Lifeboat dropped off the Lieutenant at the Delta Lifeboat station, the Fraser Lifeboat crew said their farewells and returned to Steveston Station. The visibility was slightly improved to 100 yards.



## TowEx.

On Saturday January 24 the Delta and Fraser lifeboats performed towing exercises in Sea Reach and Ladner Reach. The photo on the left shows the Delta Lifeboat crew preparing to throw the heaving line and take the Fraser Lifeboat in tow. When it was the Fraser's Lifeboat turn to tow the Delta Lifeboat, two tugs and barges came into Sea Reach and the lifeboats had to relocate to Ladner Reach to continue the exercises. Coxswain in training Richard was given the chance to command the Fraser during this training session.

As fog does not happen very often in the lower mainland, it was a whole new experience for some of our new crew members, but a good time to demonstrate why blind navigation training is so important. Opposing commercial traffic was very heavy. One crew member queried whether he was needed as a lookout as he couldn't see anything? The reply "of course – you are now listening for foghorns and their approximate bearing". Delta Lifeboat safely secured at the Ladner station at 21:00.

## Possible Future Training for Royal Canadian Navy officers

Discussions have been ongoing with the RCN officer training unit in Esquimalt regarding Naval officers being drafted to CLI lifeboats for navigation, general seamanship and sea time training.

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1/23/26, 7:57 AM

Translink committed to support Westham Island residents - Delta Optimist



## Timeline for re-opening of Westham Island Bridge still in doubt

Ian Jacques

27 minutes ago

*The Westham Island Bridge remains closed to vehicle traffic following Tuesday night's incident involving a marine vessel. / Jim Kinnear Photo*

Translink is still trying to determine a reliable timeline to re-open the damaged and closed Westham Island Bridge.

Translink, which owns the bridge, provided the latest update on the closure late Thursday evening.

On Tuesday night, a marine vessel hit the Westham Island Bridge, causing damage that required the bridge to be closed to vehicle traffic.

Crews moved quickly to assess the damage and pursue the fastest possible repair.

"TransLink has now received an updated assessment from our structural engineer following today's (Thursday) inspection work," said Translink in a news release. "The assessment has provided a better understanding of the extent of the damage.

"Because of this new information, the original plan for repair is no longer possible. The damage is more significant, and we still don't know the full extent."

Translink says that during the next several days, crews will begin additional detailed surveys and inspections to support the engineering design needed for this repair.

"At this time, we do not have a reliable timeline for reopening the bridge to vehicle traffic," added Translink. "While early estimates suggest repairs could take several weeks, the schedule needs further refinement and will depend on a number of factors — including inspection findings, design requirements, materials availability, and permitting.

"We know residents and businesses need certainty, and we don't want to provide a timeline until we can stand behind it. Safety will continue to guide every decision as we move forward."

Translink says that in the meantime, the continue to focus efforts on supporting the Westham Island community. The bridge will remain closed to all vehicle traffic until further notice. Pedestrian access will continue, with ongoing monitoring.

"TransLink is also working closely with the City of Delta and partners to help residents get where they need to go, including shuttle service and additional supports for people who may need extra assistance," says Translink. "We understand how disruptive and stressful this situation is for the Westham Island community, particularly for residents and businesses who rely on the bridge every day."

"We remain committed to keeping the community informed and will share updates as soon as new information is confirmed."

