



FINAL

Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society Members Meeting May 20th, 2015 at 515 pm at James Bay New Horizons, 234 Menzies St

MEMBERS PRESENT:

VEHS directors: Hannah Horn, Susan Low, Stephen Baxter, Jon Sector, Brian Henry, Bernie Talbot

VEHS representatives on GVHA Board: Nick Banks

Other members: Paul Ridout, John Briant, Travis Wilson, Janice Mayfield, Shawn McBride, Don Prittie, Mike Graham, Ian Robertson

GUESTS PRESENT: Paul Devries and Roy Haakonson of the BC Coast Pilots, Greg Wirtz of Cruise Lines International Association, John Varga of Grayline Sightseeing, Mike Howe of ILWU Local 508

REGRETS:

NOTE-TAKER: Jacqueline Suzanne

1. Welcome and Introductions – Hannah Horn

Meeting called to order at 5:15pm

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

- Moved Don Prittie approved, Seconded Susan Low.
All in favour, carried.

3. Approval of minutes of the January 21, 2015 meeting. Moved by Bernie Talbot. Seconded by Janice Mayfield. All in favour, carried



4. Presentation #1: Paul Devries and Roy Haakonson, BC Coast Pilots

BC Coast Pilots and their relationship with Victoria and Esquimalt

Roy Haakonson delivered a speech including a slideshow and video regarding the history and job responsibility of the BC Coast Pilots.

Highlights:

The BC Coast Pilots have provided service throughout BC for 148 years (established in 1864).

The BC Coast Pilot's professionalism, safety and environmental stewardship are key mandates when guiding foreign vessels over 350 tons through BC waters.

With high industry standards, each BC Coast Pilot experiences rigorous job conditions while providing world-class experience piloting marine vessels.

As industry demands increase, training advances with state of the art technology and processes, including portable pilotage units and tug escort procedures.

The future of the BC Coast Pilots includes more accessible pilot transfers using helicopters, ongoing measures to protect the environment and maintaining a supply of trained pilots to meet increased demands e.g., energy projects.

Discussion:

Q: In reference to helicopter transfers, do you take into account the winter weather while transferring pilots to vessels?

A: Yes, its actually easier to hover helicopters when it is windy compared to a calm day, so winter weather is better suited to helicopter transfers. Moving pilots offshore using helicopters reduces the transfer time, particularly in the north, and improves efficiency. It is also safer.

Q: Are there lots of pilot injuries when climbing the ladder up the vessel?

A: Unfortunately, many pilots have been killed worldwide. BC Coast Pilots haven't had a death in fifteen years. However, there have been many injuries.

Q: Is the biggest challenge getting pilots?

A: At this time, there are no concerns about getting more pilots. If the demand grows, there may be a challenge. Using helicopters will mitigate the pilots' lengthy transfer time so fewer pilots will be needed. BC Coast Pilots has an active recruitment program, going into schools and colleges to recruit students about jobs in the marine industry as a marine pilot.

Q: How will the construction of the Panama Canal change the industry?

A: Globally, we need to anticipate and adjust to bigger ships, including on the BC Coast (400m – 500m in length). There has been an explosion in ship sizes in recent years (6% growth in size per year – the size of ships has doubled in the last 10 years and will double again), creating challenges for port facilities and infrastructure in general. For example, there are ships now that are too large to go under the Lion's Gate bridge or the power lines at Seymour Narrows except at lower tides.



FINAL

5. Presentation #2: Greg Wirtz of Cruise Lines International Association – NW & Canada (CLIA)

Global Cruise Industry

Greg Wirtz spoke regarding the Global Cruise Line industry including a slideshow presentation.

Highlights:

Cruise Lines International Association – NW & Canada is made up of 12 cruise line companies and has been based in Vancouver since 1986. The growing cruise market sees a 7% annual growth at one 100% occupancy. Americans currently make up half of cruise line passengers globally. The future market opportunity is in Asia with room for growth especially for trips to Alaska and the Caribbean. Larger cruise ships are being built and a 55 new cruise ships are on or order to be built in the next five years at a cost of \$25 billion to meet the growing demand.

The cruise line policies and practices are to foster a safe, secure healthy environment. Cruise ships have stringent waste management policies, reduced air emissions and installed advanced wastewater treatment systems to satisfy environment regulations. By 2016, all ships will comply with low-sulphur fuel specifications (<01% sulphur within the NA Emission Control Area, which includes Victoria) or operate with scrubbers.

Moving forward the cruise lines will continue with public engagement, communication and environmental operations.

Discussion

Q: What can organizations like the Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society do to support the cruise industry?

A: Provide continuous support and engagement. Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society can be a catalyst in building alliances and promoting open communication.

Comment about the importance of getting the message out about the benefits of the cruise industry to the local community. Examples include affects on locals through direct and indirect jobs that cruise provides (tourism, service industry, people who work on the docks).



6. Presentation # 3: John Brian, Western Stevedoring

Ogden Point Ground Transportation

John Briant, General Manager of Western Stevedoring presented a slide show about accommodating cruise ship passengers ashore with ground transportation during the cruise ship season between May and September.

Highlights

Ground transportation at Ogden Point accommodates 500,00 passengers arriving on Cruise ships annually during the cruise ship season (an increase of 500% since 2001). A very high proportion of the cruise ship passengers (86%) go ashore in Victoria with one out of four walking off the terminal. Managing transportation has challenges including age of bus fleets, emissions, noise, optics, volume and capacity. On passenger arrival the first impression of the City of Victoria is important; accommodating passengers is a customer service issue.

By 2017, larger ships with a potential of a 45% increase in capacity, will require more buses and drivers. The Greater Victoria Harbour Society, Western Stevedoring and local communities are collaborating to find solutions.

The next step is to work with the cruise industry to set up bus rates that can support fleet investments and renewal. Also, managing community expectations around transportation emissions and noise.

Discussion

Q: Victoria has a unique short season, how does that effect ground transportation?

A: The short cruise season, short utilization periods (evenings, a small number of days a week) and being located on the Island, combined with low rates create challenges for ground transportation businesses.

Q: Can rapid transportation resolve the issue?

A: A successful program has been implemented to use BC Transit green buses as shuttle buses into town but these comprise only around 20% of the bus transportation. The larger proportion (33%) are bus tours e.g., to, Butchart Gardens so BC Transit buses and rapid transportation are not options.



FINAL

7. Other Business

- Welcome to new VEHS Secretariat, Jacqueline Suzanne.
- New GVHA CEO, Ian Robertson introduced himself before he had to leave for another engagement. He will be speaking to VEHS at the September 16 meeting and will introduce the GVHA Strategic Plan at that time.
- The VEHS Board has agreed to create of a bursary in the marine trades in Dave Featherby's name to acknowledge his years of service as Harbourmaster. Ryan Burles is heading this project. More information to come.
- The Board as voted to end the half-off offer for new membership fees, effective June 1 2015.

8. Announcements

- GVHA quarterly public meeting May 21 at the Comfort Inn, 3020 Blanshard Street
- Public meeting on the Burnside Gorge Neighbourhood Plan, May 21 at Gabriel Ross on Rock Bay Avenue

Closing of meeting

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm

Next member meeting: June 17th at 5:15pm at James Bay New Horizons