



# FINAL

## **Victoria Esquimalt Harbour Society Member's Meeting**

City of Victoria Antechamber, 1 Centennial Square

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

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### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**VEHS directors:** Hannah Horn, Bruce Hale, (Finest at Sea), Ryan Burles (Blackball Ferry Line), Nick Banks (Prince of Whales), John Mullane (Victoria West Community Assoc.)

**VEHS members:** Margo Goodhand (Fisherman's Wharf Community Assoc), David Stocks (3GA Marine), Don Prittie (Canoe Cove Marina), Mike Fournier (Ralmax), Jane Vermeulen (Township of Esquimalt), John Sanderson (Burnside Gorge Community Association)

**GUESTS:** Kevin Carrigan (Fisheries and Oceans Canada & Canadian Coast Guard), Michael Lowry (Western Canada Marine Response Corporation), Ian Robertson/Dave Cowen (GVHA), David Lemon (ASL Environmental Sciences, Inc), Doug Bancroft (Canadian Scientific Submersible Facility)

**NOTE TAKER:** Trish Suzanne

**APOLOGIES:** Jonathon Sectar, Mayor Lisa Helps

### **Hannah Horn Called to Order at 5:15 pm. Introductions**

3GA Marine is VEHS's newest member. David Stocks, President, provided a quick overview of 3GA Marine and its work in marine engineering, mainly refitting. The Coast Guard and BC Ferries are main clients.

Jane Vermeulen, Councillor at Township of Esquimalt introduced herself as the appointed representative to VEHS. Thanks to Jane for stepping up and also to our previous representative for Esquimalt, Olga Liberchuk.

**1. Presentation: Kevin Carrigan, Regional Director, Oceans Protection Plan (Fisheries and Oceans Canada and CCG).  
Update on the Oceans Protection Plan and what this means for our harbours and region**

The Oceans Protection Plan is a \$1.5 billion investment spread over a number of federal ministries. Most funding is going to CCG, to enable the organization to better deliver its core mandate, with a focus on increased first response capability. This means more ships, more staff and more authority for an efficient and effective emergency response. Initiatives include:

- A stronger community-based response network. First Nations partnerships are key to this.
- New information sharing systems : Marine Awareness Information System (MAIS) and Collaborative Situational Awareness Portal (CSAP); six new radar sites; and microwave technology for a more robust system that relies less on land lines and increases VHF coverage.
- Clarified authorities and roles to deal with ship source pollution and hazardous substances.
- Increased emergency towing capacity, including lease of two offshore vessels capable of towing large ships in distress. These will operate on the south and north coasts.
- Transport Canada is seeking input on a needs analysis on emergency towing requirements on the West Coast
- Four lifeboat stations - in Victoria, Port Renfrew, Tahsis and Hartley Bay.
- A new logistics depot in Port Hardy.
- Regional response plans for South and North Coasts. The Greater Vancouver Integrated Response Plan has been completed and is undergoing a first revision. A Juan de Fuca Response Plan is under development (CCG contact: Sarah Hughes). CCG will be seeking input from marine stakeholders.
- CCG is integrating emergency response with Search and Rescue (SAR) and coordinates community level response through seven marine emergency response coordination committees in the region, with one in Victoria.

*Discussion*

Q: The Atlantic Eagle and Atlantic Raven are here for three years under contract. Will CCG be purchasing them?

A: These are leased vessels. After three years, if these vessels prove their worth, CCG will look at options like building their own vessels. There are also options to extend the lease.

Q: What is the difference between AIS (commercial) vs the Collaborative Situational Awareness Portal (CSAP) for tracking marine traffic?

A: AIS is based on satellite, refreshed every 12 hours. CSAP uses the CCG terrestrial based AIS that is refreshed every 6 seconds.

Q: Will the new vessels be used for research?

A: Nothing would preclude using these vessels for science, although their primary role is emergency response. They have a tremendous physical capacity.

Q: How long will the finishing touches take on the Franklin?

A: Hopefully, it will be in operation by next fiscal year



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## 2. Presentation: Michael Lowry, Manager of Communications, Western Canada Marine Response Corporation - Update on WCMRC activities in Victoria and Esquimalt areas

Michael Lowry made a presentation to VEHS members in 2017. This year's presentation was an update given the many new developments in the past year. WCMRC works closely with the Canadian Coast Guard and are responsible for the cleanup of oil spills on the entire west coast of BC, with manned bases in Burnaby, Duncan and Prince Rupert. Several unmanned vessels are stationed in Victoria.

WCMRC is funded by industry – mainly shipping and oil companies with 2300 members. Membership is mandatory for vessels above a certain tonnage. Small fishing lodge facilities and Harbour Air are also subscribers.

Recent initiatives will reduce response times to 6 hours in the Straits of Georgia and Juan d Fuca and 2 hours in Vancouver harbours. The WCMRC base in Duncan will be moving to Nanaimo. Beecher Bay will have a response centre. Sidney's response base is at Van Isle Marina. A temporary office/warehouse has been set up in Victoria. These changes are a result of the Trans Mount project and the potential increase in tanker traffic.

Michael presented information on the new vessels being deployed for spill response with advanced technology for high speed travel, skimming and storage and night exercises. WCMRC continues to conduct response exercises with other organizations, including a 10,000 tonne certification exercise in November 2018.

The first Community Response package of response equipment is being piloted on Galiano Island (Whaler Bay). The intent is to place 8 or 9 more packages throughout the Salish Sea in 2019.

### *Discussion*

Q: Has there been a delay in the implementation with Trans Mountain being stalled?

A: WCMRC has paused work on further construction of bases until the Trans Mountain project goes ahead. The purchasing of larger vessels and hiring for those vessels are also on pause.

Q: What has the office in Victoria been doing?

A: The management team has been hired. They are doing updates on strategies in their areas. On the plus side, with the delay to Trans Mountain, people are getting more training and will be better prepared.

Q: What about the Vessels of Opportunity program?

A: The program we are building up now will be training every year for vessels. WCMRC has a website with an online registration form that interested VEHS members can fill out. Here is the link <http://coastalresponse.ca/vessel/>

Q: Do you have a vessel at Beecher Bay?

A: There is nothing at Beecher Bay right now. We have three or four vessels at Point Hope, a vessel at Van Isle Marina and at our base in Duncan and three or four vessels in Nanaimo.

Q: For Victoria the response spill time is currently 72 hours. If Kinder Morgan doesn't go ahead will you be adapting this over time?

A: This year we have an operating cost of \$18 million without Trans Mountain. In order to meet the new standards we have to have the legislation in place. However, the response time is 6 hours even without Trans Mountain.

### 3. VEHS Business:

Nick Banks approved the meeting agenda, John Mullane seconded. All in favour. Carried

Ian Robertson requested an amendment to item #2 of the October 16, 2018 meeting minutes to state that the Mercury Marine lease has *expired*. Don Prittie approved the minutes as amended, Bruce Hale seconded. All in favour. Carried

Chair update on business items from Oct 16 meeting.

**Fuel dock survey**

Nick Banks is putting together a survey on the requirements of harbour users for fuel servicing and capacity. This will be submitted to GVHA to inform an RFP for an upgraded fuel dock. The RFP should be completed by the first quarter 2019.

**Small engine repair in Inner Harbour**

VEHS recognizes the importance of marine servicing in the harbour. In the New Year once the Mercury Marine lease expires, there will be no service facilities in town.

Ian Robinson noted that GVHA is aware there is a need for marine servicing and this has always been key part of zoning in the master plan.

**Follow-up to municipal elections**

The VEHS Board will be sending letters to the incoming municipal councils for Victoria and Esquimalt congratulating the councilors and offering VEHS input on harbour initiatives. For example, the Mayor of Victoria's spoke of her intention for the harbour plan as a priority. We will let her know that we fully support this and have expertise to provide to such a planning process.



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## □ **VEHS economic survey**

A sub-committee has been struck, chaired by Doug Crowder. The economic survey will have two levels: the VEHS economic footprint and the whole harbour.

GVHA would be happy to participate anyway they can.

## □ **GVHA AGM**

VEHS asked a questions at the GVHA AGM that the members brought forward. Hannah will write up the answers and send them out to the members.

## - **VIEA Economic Summit report back (Bruce Hale)**

Bruce represented the VEHS at the 2018 VIEA Economic Summit in Nanaimo. The Summit was well organized with a trade show on business, economic development and educational programs and several informative breakout sessions. The first morning breakout was the Island Good pilot program. 110 Vancouver Island items were branded and there was a 56 percent increase in their sales, demonstrating that people will pay a premium for Vancouver Island products. Premier Horgan was the keynote speaker. The Summit ended with a speech by Jonathon Wilkinson, Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

At the Summit, Bruce talked to Nanaimo Port Authority about how they maintain and manage their assets. He also talked with Harbour Air about their issues and growth plans, Western Marine Institute about their education programs and to Michael Lowry from Western Canada Marine Response Corp.

## - **Local provisioning of cruise ships (Bruce Hale)**

The GVHA is in discussions with the cruise line Norwegian Express about local provisioning of some items for their ships during ports of call in Victoria. The cruise lines is interested in forming strategic partnerships and working more closely with Victoria community. Two items currently under discussion are craft beer and dairy products. The cruise line is limited to mainly provisioning the ship in Seattle because of lack of terminal space.

It is still early days with these discussions. In the meantime, Bruce and Bernie will canvas VEHS members about potential for local provisioning of ships, should the possibility arise.



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#### 4. Announcements:

Annual Herring Sale – Fishermen Helping Kids with Cancer, **December 1, 7 am to 5 pm**, Finest at Sea, 27 Erie Street.

Next VEHS Member Meeting Tuesday, **January 8 at 5:15 pm**, Victoria City Hall Esquimalt Meeting Room

Victoria Cruise Industry Alliance Job Fair for cruise industry **possibly Jan 19<sup>th</sup>**.

- Guest presenters Ian Robertson and Dave Cowen, GVHA midyear report to member agencies.
- David Leverton, future plans for the Maritime Museum of BC.
- Dave Mietla, VP of 3GA Marine

John Mullane moved to adjourn the meeting.

**Adjourned 7:04 pm**