

~ Sending on Behalf of the Assistant Commissioner~

CCG Western Region

## W x NW Newsletter

Issue 79

May 20, 2022

*A bi-monthly account of Western Region news and updates.*

### Western Region highlights

- Our thoughts are with everyone returning to clean up their homes and the CCG base in Hay River this week. On May 12, an evacuation order was issued as unprecedented flooding impacted the community. Engineer Chris Wilson was able to stay on board the Eckaloo to ensure the vessel was safe during the flooding, while other members of the crew were displaced to different locations as they supported the community. With the flood waters receding, CCG employees in Hay River have a tremendous amount of work ahead of them as they work to make the base and the Eckaloo operational once more. Bravo Zulu to all of the Hay River crew who went above and beyond during the flooding.
- After three years of hard work by a large number of folks, CCGS Sir Wilfred Grenfell steamed under its own power on Thursday. Congratulations to everyone involved and especially to Chief Marine Engineers Derek Schute, Ryan Braidwood, and Roger Horton, VMM Ian Hatt, and Captains Marriott and Bennett and crews! The ship will be officially welcomed to operations on June 11th, during CCG Days.
- CCGS Vakta was launched this week and the crew in Gimli is preparing for the summer. While there are still some pockets of ice, sea trials are expected to go ahead next week.
- We mark another significant accomplishment with the operationalization of the Cape Lazo radar. As the first of the six new OPP radars to be completed, the Cape Lazo radar is being used to support operational and technical training, including for MCTS Officers who begin training on the new system this week.
- On May 11 – 12 the ER team was in Bella Bella to co-lead Exercise Serpent Point, with participants from the Heiltsuk, Wuikinuxv, Nuxalk, and Kitsoo/Xaixais Nations. Leading up to the exercise, members of the Nations attended ICS training in Logistics, the Safety Officer position, the Environmental Unit, and setting Objectives. With 20 people attending in person, and many more calling in, the ER team spent two days going over what happens in the first 24 hours of an oil spill including a simulated Unified Command Objectives meeting to demonstrate how objectives are created and decisions are made during a response. Exercise Serpent Point was the first time all four Nations have been able to get together with CCG to discuss oil spill response.

- AC Derek gave this interview to Our City Tonight, as part of CCG's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. You can [watch it here](#). OIC Paul Tobin's interview and tour of Sea Island as part of the 60<sup>th</sup> will be shared once published.
- Two weekends ago the ICRT, RAMSARD, ER and IRP teams hosted a successful day of training with Guardians from seven Nations on Quadra Island. The Campbell River MLB crew acted as the On Scene Coordinator during an on-water exercise in a scenario where three campers left from a marina in a skiff but did not return. In the afternoon participants rotated through four stations, learning the fundamentals of towing, boom deployment, knot tying, and throw line accuracy. The day ended the day with a person in the water and hypothermia packaging competition. With four Guardian vessels, a PRV3 from ER Hardy, an FRC from ER Victoria and the SAR 540, participants got a great taste of the depth of expertise held by our teams. Bravo Zulu to everyone involved.
- Do you know a friend of a friend, or a relative, who's a cook and might be interested in working for CCG? Let HR know! And while we hire more, sending a shout out to all of the cooks on CCG ships who are being so flexible, filling the gaps, and cooking up a storm.
- May 18<sup>th</sup> was the inaugural [International Day for Women in Maritime](#). We recognize all of the women who work so hard, and lead the way on all levels, in CCG.
- And, sending congratulations to Roger Girouard, winner of the [2022 APEX Career Contribution award](#) which recognizes Canadian public sector executives. He was recognized for his leadership excellence, a strong commitment to team-building and testament to personal sacrifice by placing service before self.

### **A little bit of CCG history – Western Region**

Two major oil spills in the late 1980s bring increased focus on tanker safety and the need to protect British Columbia's coastline from marine pollution:

- On December 22<sup>nd</sup> 1998, the tug Ocean Service collided with the barge Nestucca, releasing more than 230,000 gallons of fuel oil into the ocean near Grays Harbour, WA. Oil washed ashore in Washington, Oregon, in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and on the shores of Vancouver Island.
- On March 24, 1989 the tanker Exxon Valdez runs aground on Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound, Alaska, releasing 10.8 US gallons of crude oil into the ocean and resulting in many years of clean-up.

Following the Exxon-Valdez spill, the Public Review Panel on Tanker Safety and Marine Spills Response Capability concluded that a catastrophic marine oil spill - a spill of over 10,000 tonnes - can be expected once every fifteen years in Canadian waters. In the 1990s CCG and ECCC developed two main elements of a private-sector funded response capability, and in 2001, the *Canada Shipping Act* was amended to improve Canada's spill response capability.

*Thanks to Clay Evans sharing this history.*

## Event: Queer at Sea exhibit at the Maritime Museum

Queer and trans communities have long been a part of BC's maritime history and the [Maritime Museum of BC's newest exhibit](#) showcases some of the histories and contributions of the 2SLGBTQ+ community to BC's maritime culture. If you want to visit:

Exhibit Dates: [17 May - 5 November, 2022](#)

Location: [744 Douglas Street, Victoria BC](#)

Hours of Operation: [Tuesday to Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM](#)

You may also want to check out the Queer as Funk concert at the Bay Street Armoury, [June 10th](#), to raise funds for the Queer at Sea exhibit. More [information here](#).

## Things to ponder

- “If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.”  
The Dalai Lama
- Spelling errors abound, even on the Stanley Cup. Jacques Plante was on a Stanley Cup winning team five different times but his name on the cup was spelled differently each time. Sort of makes you feel better about that typo eh?
- Speaking of typos, if a word is misspelled in the dictionary, would we know?
- Why does 'slow down' and 'slow up' mean the same thing?
- Dogs have about 1,700 taste buds while humans have between 2,000–10,000. Now you know why they eat what they do.

## Other resources

- Remember when \$50 bought a lot of groceries? Not so much right now. Here are four tips for [saving money](#) at the grocery store.
- Follow this [livestream from NOAA and partners](#) as they use [ROVs to investigate historic shipwrecks](#) from the US Civil War, World War I and World War II along North Carolina's outer banks.
- Summer is coming (eventually) so now's the time to consider a new sport. Why not give disc golf a try? It's relatively inexpensive, there are lots of courses around, and the whole family can play. [Here's how to get started](#).

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## CCG Western Region

# W x NW Newsletter

Issue 81

June 17, 2022

*A bi-monthly account of Western Region news and updates.*

## Western Region highlights

- The first annual 3-on-3 Ball Hockey Tournament hosted by ITS was held at Victoria base yesterday as part of National Public Service Week (NPSW). A total of 36 people on four teams participated. The attention to detail by the ITS organizing team was

amazing: a working scoreboard, a count-down clock, penalty box, trophy and more. Congratulations to “Engineering Madness” (Marine Engineering) for winning the ball hockey tournament and bragging rights! And special thanks to Fleet for hosting a BBQ lunch for NPSW too.

- The crew of the CCGS *Sir John Franklin* recently completed a groundfish trawl survey with DFO Science. Captain Barker reported that the researchers were extremely pleased with the ship’s capability, with 132 successful bottom tows conducted over approximately 3,000 NM from La Perouse Bank to Cape Scott. Despite losing 1.5 days due to weather, the trawl survey was completed one day earlier than anticipated! In addition, there wasn’t any damage to the bottom trawl nets, as the modern Auto Trawl system on the OFSV ships is quite efficient and forgiving on the gear, even if nets get caught up on the bottom.
- And that’s a wrap for Coast Guard Days for 2022! Our Victoria base had a lot of visitors over the two day event - 350 local students on Friday and more than 1,500 visitors on Saturday. With all of the exposure of the variety of programs CCG has to offer, we hope that some of our visitors will now apply to join the Canadian Coast Guard! A special thank you to all our ambassadors who made the event such a success. The feedback forms are overwhelmingly positive, with the hovercraft, the Grenfell, the helicopter, and the mountain top building mentioned as the top attractions for visitors. Bravo Zulu to all!
- For the first time since 2019, the “Race to Alaska” kicked off this week, an on-water race that involves any boat without an engine travelling from Victoria to Ketchikan, Alaska. Although all race participants are ultimately responsible for the safety of themselves and their crews, MCTS, JRCC and our SAR stations along the coast are all poised to provide assistance as required.
- This week, a number of our programs participated in the WCMRC exercise “Arachne Reef” in Nanaimo. Personnel from ER, IM, VOC, IRP, and IBMS came together to integrate into WCMRC’s Incident Command Post (ICP), playing in key roles including Unified Command, Planning, Logistics, Operations, Finance, Liaison, and SIMCELL. With this exercise, WCMRC will achieve their 10,000 tonne oil spill certification through Transport Canada, and their 20,000 tonne oil spill certification through Lloyd’s (this is the first time WCMRC has completed a 20,000 tonne oil spill exercise). Although “Arachne Reef” didn’t have an on-water component, it was a full-scale in-person ICP exercise.
- Congratulations to CCG’s “Coasties Team 2” for completing the Big Canada Run and placing 117<sup>th</sup> out of 245 teams! The virtual west to east route started in Victoria, BC, went up to Whitehorse, Yukon, and finished on the coast of NL, covering 10,000 km. Karen Lawson was the winner for the most steps for Team 2 and completed 1,568.7 km! CCG Western is once again joining forces to virtually walk/run across Canada and needs your help to do it! If you are interested in participating virtually this year, please email [Carolyn Schier](mailto:Carolyn.Schier) by June 27<sup>th</sup> for more information and the 15% discount code.

### Things to ponder:

- Voice actor Don Messick was the voice of Papa Smurf, but did you know that he also was the voice of Scooby-Doo, Ranger Smith on *Yogi Bear*, and Astro and RUDI on *The Jetsons*?
- A.A. Milne created *Winnie the Pooh* for his son, Christopher Robin. Pooh was based on Robin's teddy bear, "Edward", a gift Christopher had received for his first birthday, and on their father/son visits to the London Zoo, where the bear named "Winnie" was Christopher's favourite. "Pooh" comes from the name of Christopher's pet swan.
- The Stevie Wonder song "Isn't She Lovely" is about his newborn daughter, Aisha. If you listen closely, you can hear Aisha crying in the background during the song.

### Other resources:

- Father's Day is on Sunday, June 19. Even though these Statistics Canada stats are a bit dated, they still paint a picture of [fatherhood in Canada](#).
- You may be surprised to know that in the underwater world, it is male seahorses, pipefish and seadragons that [carry the eggs and birth the babies](#).
- The YouTube channel [Dad, How Do I](#) is full of useful "Dad advice" videos, including how to tie a tie, how to jump start a car, or how to unclog a sink.
- At least one of these [Dad Jokes](#) are sure to make you laugh (or at least smile in amusement!).
- Is food the way to a Dad's heart? While we can't say for certain, these [recipes might be worth testing the theory out](#).
- Is it more accurate to say "couldn't care less" or "could care less"? Even the [dictionary experts say it's debateable](#).

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*Issue 82*

**July 8, 2022**

*A bi-monthly account of Western Region news and updates.*

### Western Region highlights

- Sending a big hi and welcome to the Western Region to the seven new MCTS Officers joining us this week! MCTS Victoria welcomes five and Prince Rupert MCTS welcomes two new officers who will contribute to being our eyes and ears on the water, just in time for the busy summer season!
- At the same time we said goodbye to CCGS Sir Wilfrid Laurier as the ship and crew departed for a season of work in the Arctic on July 6<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to hearing about your adventures.

- And, with the theme of coming and going continued, the mountain top building that was on display during Coast Guard days at Victoria base has now made it to its permanent home on Denny Island. The building was barged to Denny Island and then MCI arranged for the building to be lifted in two pieces to the prepared foundation using a heavy lift helicopter where it was positioned and bolted together. In the coming months MCI will begin the process of commissioning the power and fuel system and then hand it over to E&I who will install all the electronics and radar. Once fully operational, the building will support VHF and radar communications.
- Members of the ER team spent the long weekend responding to a 65ft wooden ex-tug boat “Santa Rita” sunk at the dock in Goldstream, a sensitive ecological area with clam beds and salmon spawning grounds. The team worked with the Malahat First Nation and the Goldstream Boathouse Marina to deploy boom and absorbent material at the site, and along the shoreline to protect sensitive areas. CCG Divers from Sea Island plugged fuel vents and assessed how the vessel was sitting on the ocean floor. The tug was then raised to the surface and inspected before being lifted on to a barge and moved to a salvage yard for deconstruction and removal from the marine environment by Amix Marine Services.
- As a COVID precaution, recertification for Rescue Specialists (RS) has been taking place directly at stations and onboard ships. This modular training delivery method is proving very beneficial as training is taking place on-site and in the “real world” where the RS works. It is also beneficial for ship and station crews who are not RS’s but who may be involved in a real SAR call to be indirectly involved in the training too, something that wasn’t possible with off-site RS training. Coming up this month, the SAR Training team will be conducting RS recerts in Bella Bella, Prince Rupert, Gimli, and onboard the Tanu and Gordon Reid. This advanced emergency medical care ensures that we are able to respond to all kinds of cases with the best possible outcomes.
- The Seymour Narrows radar project is complete and the radar is now active! This radar project involved building a 125 ft tall radar tower and an equipment building, installation of a 1km powerline to Browns Bay, and construction of an access road and helicopter landing pad. Seymour Narrows (near Ripple Rock) is one of six radars being installed on the BC coast to increase marine safety and reduce the risk of marine emergencies. Thanks to MCI and E&I, the Seymour Narrows radar is now operational and providing MCTS with a more reliable and accurate picture of vessel traffic in the area.
- Thanks to everyone who participated in the Victoria Pride Parade, walking in front of the CCG light station and Laurier float (see the video on CCG social media) and waving to thousands of people! If you missed out and live in Vancouver, please contact [CCG West Strategic Services / Services Stratégiques Ouest](#) before July 22<sup>nd</sup> to be part of the upcoming Vancouver Pride Parade.
- And, last but not least, despite the unsettled weather, we are officially in the busy (some say silly) season. Bravo Zulu to all of the station crews, IRB crews, JRCC officers, the ROC, MCTS and everyone else working hard to keep people on the water safe.

## Things to ponder

- DYK we are now officially in the Dog Days of Summer? Generally considered to be July 3rd to August 15<sup>th</sup>, the Dog Days come to us by way of the Romans, Greeks and Egyptians who believed that when the “Dog Star” Sirius returned to the sky, it brought heat, drought, fever and lethargy.
- And speaking of dogs:
  - Approximately 45% of dogs sleep in their owner’s bed. Also, 21% of dogs snore....
  - A Bloodhound can track a scent that is 12 days old and follow a scent for 210 kms. Their sense of smell is so accurate it has been used as evidence in a court of law.
- Then there’s the hot dog. The world’s longest hot dog was 60 metres with a 60.3 metre bun. The most expensive hot dog was USD\$149.45 with truffle butter, moose cheese and fruit smoked bacon.
- And a dog joke to finish us off: why are dogs like phones? Answer: Because they have collar IDs.

## Other resources

- Spending a bit of time on the beach this summer and want to up your sandcastle game? Here are some easy tips to [build a great sandcastle](#).
- And while these [games are for the beach](#), but they’d totally work in the back yard or in a larger campsite too.
- If you’re out fishing on the boat, or a friend gives you some of their catch, here’s how to [clean and prepare a whole fish](#).
- And because you’ve to cook that fish, meat or vegetables, here are a few [BBQ hacks](#) including using an onion to clean your grill and using Doritos as a Firestarter.

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CCG Western Region

# NW x W Newsletter

Issue 83

July 22, 2022

*A bi-monthly account of Western Region news and updates.*

## Western Region highlights

- Our SAR team was in Gimli, Manitoba last week conducting a Rescue Specialist re-certification course and SAR pod on the lake, as well as engagement with local communities to support the upcoming RAMSARD (SAR Risk Assessment) report for that SAR area. Gimli is a unique operating environment; with Western Region resources and crew, SAR Coordination based out of Trenton JRCC, and primary jurisdiction for SAR belonging to the RCMP, it's a very different world, that relies heavily on cooperation and engagement.
- It's that time of year again when the Sir Wilfrid Laurier is conducting Arctic Operations, including ice breaking and vessel escort, community re-supply and Aids to Navigation assistance, extensive Science work, ER exercises, as well as Search and Rescue assistance as required. Although the ship will be under Central ROC control for the next few weeks, Western Region ROC will maintain communication for crew change logistics, mechanical issues, helicopter issues, in addition to plans for returning back to our region.
- On July 19, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced funding for an expanded Ocean Protection Plan (OPP 2.0). Bravo Zulu to the Moytel hovercraft crew out of Sea Island for providing the transportation from downtown Vancouver to Bowen Island for Prime Minister Trudeau, Transport Canada Minister Omar Alghabra as well as our own Minister Joyce Murray to make the announcement.
- On July 20, a long standing vessel of concern called MV *Mini Fusion* was transported from Desolation Sound to Duncan Bay near Campbell River, and is now awaiting deconstruction. In order to minimize the risk to the environment during the transit, the vessel was loaded onto a drydock and VOC program officers accompanied the vessel during its transit. This vessel, previously known as the MV *Ocean Lady*, was used to transport 76 Tamil migrants to B.C. in 2009.
- The Western Region was recognized by United Way this year, winning the Quantum Leap Spirit Award! United Way organizers said the "Canadian Coast Guard quite literally embodied the name and spirit of the award this year, doubling both employee participation and fundraising totals." Thank you to everyone who participated, let's do it again next time!

## Things to ponder

- Every item of clothing you have ever lost is out there somewhere.
- Why are socks always separating? Because one of them always has to be right, so the other one left.
- The pain of losing a sock is... unpairable.



- If you save up all your dryer lint, you could spin it back into yarn and knit yourself a sweater that's the average colour of your entire wardrobe.

### **Other resources:**

- Everywhere you look there is fabulous fresh fruit. And it's hot. So why not make your own popsicles? [Check out these recipes](#) for some fun and creative ideas (there's also a few chocolate popsicle recipes because chocolate could be a fruit too right?).
- Emojis are readily used in personal settings, but can they be used in workplace settings? Read on for some [advice on when or where to use emojis in a professional setting](#).
- Our weather forecaster friends believe we are going to see a stretch of very hot weather in the next week. Read these [tips for staying safe when it's hot](#).



## **CCG Western Region**

# **NW x W Newsletter**

*Issue 84*

*August 12, 2022*

*A bi-monthly account of Western Region news and updates.*

### **Western Region highlights**

- In late August, the new Hardy Bay Base in Port Hardy will officially open. In addition to viewing the three totem poles, take a moment to stop in and see the beautiful 5'x5' Kwakiutl-designed cedar panel that was created by Kwakiutl Master Carver Stanley Hunt and now hangs in the boardroom of the Base. On the carved panel, there is a Sculpin Big House, which is a rendition of the Big House at the Royal BC Museum, to honor Mungo Martin who hosted the first legal Potlatch in 1952 in Victoria, after the Potlatch ban was removed. There is also a Sisiutl, a double headed sea serpent, which symbolizes protection, supernatural power and revival. It is also one of the most powerful symbols in Kwakiutl culture. The blue paint on the panel was selected to match our logo and represents the sea, the sky and the Canadian Coast Guard. The panel represents a new beginning, a time of celebration and partnership between the Kwakiutl and CCG.
- The "Sharing Science at Sea" Expedition aboard the CCGS Sir John Franklin is wrapping up this week. The 10 day expedition visited five communities in the Central Coast, including Kitimaat Village, Hartley Bay, Klemtu, Bella Bella and Bella Coola, and was an opportunity not only to share the kind of DFO science that is conducted onboard a CCG ship, but also ship tours, SAR demos, ICRT team exercises with community partners, and more! In addition to the one-on-one engagement with members of the First Nation communities, it was also an ideal time to try to recruit bright minds (young and not-so-young) that were captivated with what they saw and heard on the ship tours.

- Recently our Environmental Response team was in Peachland working with Peachland Fire and Rescue as well as fire crews from Kelowna, West Kelowna and Penticton Indian Band. The training included use of our boom trailer that contains response supplies which can be used throughout the region whenever there is a need. The equipment trailer allows for a variety of on-water needs, including pollution mitigation.

### **Things to ponder**

- In a regular year, no other month starts on the same day of the week as August. In a leap year, that other quirky month, February will start on the same day of the week as August.
- Sandwiches in August?! Absolutely! The sandwich was invented in August 1762 when the [Earl of Sandwich](#) (yes, that's a real guy) requested two pieces of bread with meat inside.
- Gold is said to be so rare that the world pours more steel in an hour than it has poured gold since time began.

### **Other resources:**

- Speaking of gold, did you know there's enough gold in the ocean for each of us to have nine pounds of it?! There's around 20 million tons of gold dispersed throughout the oceans. It is, however, diluted pretty much to a pulp—its concentration is only a few parts per trillion, according to the U.S. [National Ocean Service](#). The ocean floor also has undissolved gold embedded in it, but it's not cost-effective to mine it. However, if the ocean's gold *were* able to be mined and it were equally distributed among every person on earth, we'd each receive nine pounds of it.
- Even if you are an experienced baker, you may find some great reminders or “I didn't know that” kind of advice in this [baking rules article](#).
- August tips on prepping your garden for fall and getting the most out of your fruits and veggies. [Time to Prep](#)
- Check out these fabulous old photos and videos from the highways of BC in the 1960s in the [BC Ministry of Transportation's road trip time machine!](#)