

Reprint **Island Tides**

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Salish-Class ferry names announced

After sorting through the more-than-expected 7,100 name and vessel-class suggestions received by BC Ferries during the course of this spring's naming contest, the company has announced the names of its three new intermediate-class vessels. Scheduled for delivery in 2016 and 2017, it will be a while yet before westcoasters get to ride their new ferries.

Salish Orca, *Salish Eagle*, and *Salish Raven* have been named for the Salish Sea and its three most iconic species. In late May, a panel of 12 judges, comprised of local media (including *Island Tides*), BC Ferries employees, and Ferry Advisor Committees shortlisted three vessel-class names and nine vessel names in a marathon day-long deliberation.

The names *Salish Orca*, *Salish Eagle* and *Salish Raven* were chosen to honour the Coast Salish people and the Salish Sea where these vessels will operate. To celebrate Salish culture, BC Ferries is working with the First Peoples' Cultural Council to select Coast Salish artisans to design artwork for the exterior and interior of the vessels.

The vessel names were announced on July 28 on the 3rd floor of the Kwakwaka'wakw Big House at Royal BC Museum's First People's Gallery.

The majestic setting was graced by Chiefs of the Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo), Songhees, and Esquimalt (Victoria) First Nations and the announcement commenced with a procession, singing, drumming, dancing, and a blessing.

'These names honour the Coast Salish people and truly reflect both the west coast travel experience and the culture of British Columbia,' said Mike Corrigan, BC Ferries' President and CEO. 'I would like to thank the members of the judging panel who had a difficult job to select only three names from the thousands of great names that were submitted. I also want to thank all the people who embraced the contest and enthusiastically submitted their suggestions.'

'We are looking forward to working with Coast Salish artists and the BC Ferries team on this inspiring project to adorn the new ferries with Coast Salish art,' says Tracey Herbert, Executive Director of the First Peoples' Cultural Council. 'This collaboration

is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the vibrant and thriving cultural heritage found on the coast of the Salish Sea.'

Chief Clint Williams, Sliammon Nation (Powell River) said 'I am pleased that BC Ferries has chosen the names for the ferries as they honour the Elders, Chiefs, People and the Traditional Territories of the Coast Salish people.'

'I thoroughly enjoyed working with the other members of the judging panel and felt it was a good process,' said Kim Barton-Bridges, Contest Judge and Chair of the Northern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee. 'It is cool to think that these vessels, and the names that we helped to choose, will be a part of BC's history.'

Christa Grace-Warrick, owner of *Island Tides* Regional newspaper commented, 'I enjoyed being a member of the judging panel and appreciated the amazing number and variety of submissions. Discussing and narrowing down the choices was a fantastic day-long team process. Now, hearing the final selection is exciting.'

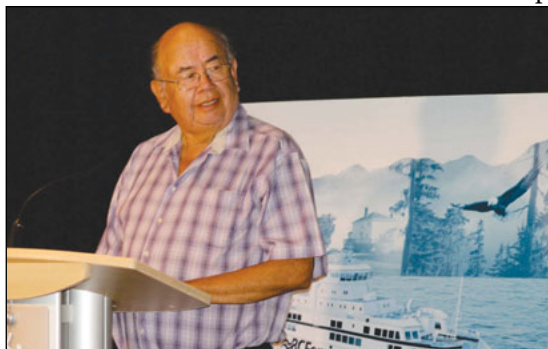
'Thanks to contest participants, our new ships will

have names of which British Columbians can be proud. It was truly a public process and reflects how much British Columbians care about their ferry system. BC ferries is almost as iconic as the ship names chosen.'

All three ferries are currently under construction at Remontowa Shipbuilding in Poland. *Salish Orca* is scheduled to arrive in British Columbia in the late summer of 2016 and is expected to be in service replacing the 50-year old *Queen of Burnaby* on the Comox-Powell River route in the late 2016-early 2017, following extensive crew training and familiarization.

Salish Eagle is scheduled to arrive in the fall of 2016 and will replace the 51-year old *Queen of Nanaimo*, sailing on the Tsawwassen-Southern Gulf Islands route.

Salish Raven is scheduled to arrive in the winter of 2017 and will also service the Southern Gulf Islands in the busy part of the year and be the back-up vessel during refits on both routes in the



Chief Andy Thomas of Esquimalt Nation offers a welcome.

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winter. *Raven* is expected to start service in the summer of 2017.

Naming Contest

Among all 7,000+ entries for BC Ferries vessel naming contest, nine entrants submitted one or two of the complete names finally selected. BC Ferries says it's important to note that hundreds of entries contained parts of each name, such as 'Salish' or 'Orca' but only nine entries contained both parts chosen by the panel and the BC Ferries Committee.

So, in accordance with the contest rules, since no one entrant submitted all three names in full, three individual draws were performed; one for each vessel name. Each entrant that

submitted one of the vessel names in full was included in the respective draw for that name.

Three individuals' names were drawn for the three grand prizes of \$500 in ferry travel: Brian Douglas of Cobble Hill was drawn for *Salish Orca*, Pat Burns of Vancouver was drawn for *Salish Eagle*, and Mark Crawford of Saanich was drawn for submitting *Salish Raven*.

The six undrawn name-pickers will receive a round-trip BC Ferries' travel voucher. ✉