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Reprint from Volume 19 Number 4

February 22, 2007

BC Ferries to manage Sidney's Anacortes ferry terminal

The Town of Sidney has announced a long-term lease arrangement with BC Ferries, under which BC Ferries will manage and develop the town's international ferry terminal to the benefit of both parties. Washington State Ferries will continue to remain the priority user of the terminal with its service to Anacortes, Washington. BC Ferries will assume management of the facility in September 2007.

The 40-year lease recognizes Washington State Ferries as a priority user; it also promotes use by other operators to enhance revenue and generate more customers for Sidney's business community. 'This new arrangement is designed to encourage a greater economic benefit to the Town and our business community by bringing additional passengers and tourists through our international ferry terminal,' said Don

Amos, mayor of the Town of Sidney.

David Hahn, BC Ferries' president and CEO commented, 'The new BC Ferries is prepared to use its expertise in all facets of the marine transportation industry to develop innovative new business opportunities for ourselves and for the communities we serve. This arrangement is a natural fit for us.'

In addition to Washington State Ferries, small cruise ships have started to use the dock at the terminal. For its part, BC Ferries does not have any immediate plans to operate any of its 36 ships out of the Sidney terminal, but may do so in the future. In consultation with the town, BC Ferries will develop a master plan for future development of the terminal. A community liaison committee will be established as part of this new initiative. ✍

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'This article was published (February 22, 2007) in 'Gulf Islands, Island Tides'. 'Island Tides' is an independent, regional newspaper distributing 15,000-20,000 copies in the Southern Strait of Georgia from Tsawwassen to Victoria, BC.'

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