

June Newsletter

Victoria's Largest Whale Watching Company, Victoria Inner Harbour

PRINCE of WHALES

HYDROPHONES TO HEAR WHALES!

3 HOUR TOURS

from
\$59

Lower Walkway Level | **Out of Town Call 1-888-383-4884**

Reservations Required Call 7am-11pm 383-4884

Powered by **MERCURY**
The Water Calls

Ticket Office | **Info Centre**

What's New at the Prince of Whales

With summer at our doorstep, we are kicking into high gear in anticipation of another strong season. Our June rates are

now \$69.00 for adults and \$59.00 for children aged 16 years and younger. These rates apply to our fast cabin cruiser and the

zodiac-style open boat. We do offer a 15% commission. All you have to do is call on your guest's behalf.

Our office is open from 7:00am to 11:00pm.

Call 383-4884.

Complimentary Trips Available on Standby

We are offering complimentary trips to our tourism industry colleagues throughout

our season until October 31st. This will be offered on a **standby basis**, based on avail-

ability upon departure.

Be sure to call our office at 383-4884 at

least an hour in advance to find out if the seats are filling up.

Orca Calves – Update!

Some **fantastic** news! In addition to the new calves (J38 and J39) in the J Pod, there are little ones in K & L also! K35 and a calf by L55 (“Nugget”) are the newest additions confirmed by the Orca Network.

According to Susan Berta and Howard Garrett of the Orca Network, “Things look good with everyone so far, though they still have a few more whales to confirm and identify before they can report on numbers and whether [any orcas are] missing, but the

preliminary news is great!”

Ocean conditions have favoured salmon since 2000, and there has been a small increase in the population in the past year or two. But the Puget Sound food web remains permeated with various dioxins and heavy metals like mercury.

There is no immigration into the Southern resident community, so every newborn orca is especially precious while the population grows.

Well-wishers are watching them closely in hopes they will make it through their perilous early months and years.

Permission granted from the Orca Network..



J39 with mom J11 .
Photo courtesy of the Center for whale research.

Luna the Whale – Update!

Recent reports about the lonely killer whale who was separated from L pod have now included the decision between the Canadian and American scientists not to reunite a lonely killer whale with his pod.

“We believe that interfering in what may be a natural and potentially important process is not in the best interest of this whale,” Marilyn Joyce, the Marine Mammal Coordinator for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, said in a statement.

Known as L98 to scientists, Luna has puzzled the scientific community as to why he got separated from his pod

and raised fears of becoming increasingly more socialized towards humans. The repercussions of his socializing have them worried about an incident that would put humans and this wild orca at risk.

In response to this dilemma, a restricted fund account has been jointly set up thanks to the Veins of Life Watershed Society and The Whale Museum in Canada and the United States respectively in hopes of establishing a network to educate people educating residents and visitors in Nootka Sound, British Columbia, about Luna's presence and his situation, and to prevent human/boat interactions with the whale. The monitoring of



Photo: Veins of Life Watershed Society/Luna Stewardship Project

Luna's condition is done by recording observations and collecting information from residents. In all, this is a team effort at a community level on behalf of Luna's situation. For more information, please check out these website links:

www.orcanetwork.org
www.salishsea.ca/m3/luna/luna.html

More Opportunities to Promote Your Business

Prince of Whales has two excellent marketing vehicles for you to promote your business and asks for your support.

Reciprocal Brochure Racking

We have some empty brochure racks in our suit change room that need to be filled!

All we ask is for you to rack 100 of our brochures in exchange for us racking 100 of your brochures.

Reciprocal Website Links

On our

www.princeofwhales.com site are two pages that would be appropriate for informative links to local businesses. There is the "Links" page, "Other Adventures", and "Accommodation".

We are always looking to make it as dynamic and informative as possible, not to mention creating an affordable way for other businesses to get the word out about all the great things they have to offer.

Often it's those partnerships between businesses that create

win-win situations for promotion. The Prince of Whales wants to be a part of that, and believes that through such marketing initiatives, visitors are aware of the range of activities in our awesome city and will decide to stay longer! And that's our philosophy.

If either of these opportunities are of interest to you, please contact Julia Retallack, our Tourism Sales Development rep at 383-4884 or email julia@princeofwhales.com.

Words from Anna Hall, Biologist & M.Sc. Candidate

The waters of south Vancouver Island, adjacent to Victoria, are home to one of the greatest densities of marine mammals found anywhere on earth.

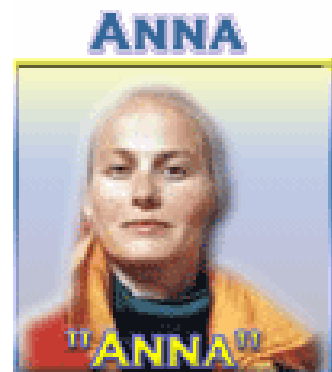
It is with the greatest pleasure that I share these animals with visitors from around the globe. Although killer whales form the focus of our trips, the experience is enhanced by sightings of porpoises, seals, sea lions and sea birds.

Upon first sighting of wild whales, our passengers are transported to a world that is "miles" from their everyday life.

Discussions of marine biology, ecology and conservation ensue and form the foundation for a new awareness to these animals' sheer presence and fundamental ecological requirements.

Regardless of initial expectations, most leave feeling amazed and somehow honoured to have shared some time with the world's largest dolphin – the killer whale. It is this, that brings me back for my ninth season of whale watching with Prince of Whales where I aim to not only impart biological knowledge, but also a respect for wildlife that will

transcend the limits of the trip. From which, collectively we can help provide marine animals with the best possible chance of survival in a world so increasingly influenced by our own behaviour.



Navy Sonar Testing – What Happened

The US Navy Guided Missile Destroyer "Shoup" DDG 86 conducted sonar operations for five hours in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and created one of the most obvious displays of marine mammal harassment that experienced observers have seen anywhere.

The whales and porpoises in the region could not escape the intense mid-frequency (3 kHz) long duration "pings" from the ship's SOS 53C sonar. Furthermore, several porpoises are reported to have "coincidentally" stranded and died following the sonar

event. The carcasses of these mammals have been collected for forensic examination for acoustic pressure trauma (bleeding in ears and brain), with the necropsies taking place in two weeks.

By chance, J pod of 22 killer whales was in Haro Strait at the time of the sonar operations. Observers noted that they abruptly stopped their feeding and gathered in a tight group to swim close to shore at the surface for the duration of the sonar exercise.

At the time of printing, the

National Marine Fisheries Service office in Washington DC is reportedly working to resolve this matter quickly with the Navy.

Permission granted by Ken Balcomb of the Center for Whale Research.
(www.whaleresearch.com)



The J Pod.

Meet Our Staff!

A cohesive staff unit is something the Prince of Whales values very highly and strives to maintain each season. Taking pride in the unique talents and strengths each staff has, efforts are made to ensure those talents are utilized in the best way possible.

A typical seasonal operation, the Prince of Whales is very pleased to have a high level of staff retention year after year. Alan McGillivray, Owner of Prince of Whales, is pleased to welcome the following

new and returning staff: Tracey Ball, Business Manager, and fantastic front office staff: Jill Baxter, Michelle Crow, Caley Fitzpatrick, Nicola Hewson, Caroline Maxwell, Duncan Mills and Scott Murray.

On the cabin cruisers are our fabulous naturalists: Laura Byrne, Anna Hall, June Pretzer, and Rhonda Reidy.

Chris Hall, our Head Skipper and "whale master" welcomes Brad Armstrong, Shamus Baier, Brady Clarke, Brandon Harvey,

Shaun Hill, Mark Malleson, James Rogers, Andrew Marshall, Rick Mathes, Tony Mulhall, Phil Rouget, and Richard Strong.

And also new to the roster is Julia Retallack, Tourism Sales Development.

