

# Boat Basin rebuilding plans awaiting funding approval

Design plans have been completed for the Port of Nanaimo's new downtown boat basin marina that will increase available moorage by 50 per cent, using the same footprint.

A request for funding has been made to the Federal Government for the \$15 million project, and once the funding is in place, construction will follow. The marina will be built in phases over a five-year period, beginning with the outside northerly floats.

After a plan was announced several years ago to have a private company revamp the marina, the public opposition necessitated a new approach.

"The Port got the message loud and clear that citizens wanted to have their say about what our downtown waterfront might look like," says Port of Nanaimo Chair Michelle Corfield. "We haven't rushed the information gathering process, and we've really gone the extra mile to make sure everyone who may be affected has a chance to provide input."

This time, the Port of Nanaimo initiated extensive public consultation and made it a priority in 2018 to hear from everyone who wanted to be heard.

"We held numerous meetings with stakeholder groups, which included commercial fishermen, tug operators, seaplane operators, marina tenants, food operators, floating restaurants, fuel dock operators, the Protection Island Neighbourhood Association and Snuneymuxw First Nation," says Co-CEO Mike Davidson.

Co-CEO Ian Marr says other users that were included in the design review process were Protection and Newcastle Island ferry operators, long-term



**An artists concept of the layout of the new marina when it is completed.**

pleasure boaters, transient boaters, the Nanaimo Dragon Boaters, Adventure Outfitters, operators of SuperYacht, kayak users, Canada Border Security and the RCMP Marine Division.

"We also considered residents and visitors access from the Harbourside Walkway. Marinas are assets for the community and attract people from both the water and the land," says Marr.

Hugh and Kristin Tuttle of InterTidal Design have prepared the concept plans for the marina, and an environmental assessment – along with bathymetry and subsurface investigations – which are nearly

completed. This will allow the Port to commence with detailed construction plans.

Port Vice Chair Donna Hais says plans also include the repositioning of the fuel dock out to the entrance of the marina, will provide improved access for larger vessels and reduce vessel congestion.

Letters of support for the Port of Nanaimo's funding application have been received from Members of Parliament, MLAs, Harbour Air, Vancouver Island University, Tourism Vancouver Island, floating restaurants in the harbour, and Protection Island residents.

## Marina enjoyed busy, exciting summer season

**By Patrick Belanger  
Marina Manager**

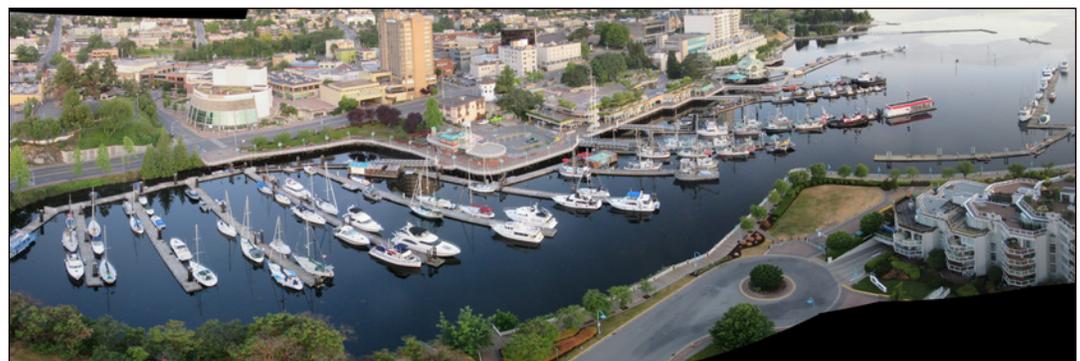
As summer draws to a close we reflect on a successful and busy time.

This spring we implemented the phasing in of new marina reservation and payment software. There was a substantial learning curve for staff who jumped to the challenge and the program has been a success.

The real proof of success will be in the constant database of information we now have at our disposal which will streamline future bookings.

Six summer staff worked in the Marina – Trevor, Avery, Dexter and Courtney returned from 2017 and Jason, a returning three-year summer employee.

We had one "rookie" in the office this summer, Kianna. All-in-all we had an excellent mix of experience and fresh perspectives.



The summer season started early for us as we were experiencing July and August-like numbers in May and it kept building.

The seasoned staff were busy through the summer and made the most of their experience with something to build on for their future endeavours.

It was exciting to see some of the larger vessels this year including the

SV Clan VIII and the MV Huntress, both attracting a lot of attention from admiring on-lookers.

As autumn is quickly upon us I remind our customers about preparing their vessels for cool, wet weather. Ask yourself when was the last time that you checked both ends of your electrical cord. And have you prepared a checklist for the coming winter? A simple inven-

tory can save some unexpected and unavoidable grief.

We extend our appreciation for boaters' business this year and encourage early reservations with us, especially around events which always book first. For long-term moorage please give us a call.

Have a great winter – Safe Seas and we look forward to seeing you in 2019.