

# Port plays a major role in the community

As chair of the Port of Nanaimo, it was an honor to attend all the events hosted on the waterfront this summer.

Our harbour and our waterfront were filled with excitement with several festivals, bathtub races, silly boat regatta, dragon boats and Snowbirds, to name a few. The Port of Nanaimo plays a significant role in providing security on the water and providing support through community contributions.

The board of directors acknowledges all the volunteers who dedicate portions of their summer supporting our local charities and community. We also recognize our staff, who volunteer and work during these important events in our city; without you we simply could not participate at the same level.

Port of Nanaimo welcomed Robbin Sinclair to the Port Authority this summer. She replaces former board member, Audrey Cope, who served a three-year term. Robbin is a welcome addition to the Board team as she brings a wealth of knowledge and we are all excited to work with her over the next few years.

I also acknowledge two new additions to our Board during November, Barbara Coe and Fred Denning. Director Denning replaces Richard Ringma, a long-term

Nanaimo City Council has reappointed Michelle Corfield to the Nanaimo Port Authority (NPA) Board for a second three-year term, until June 30, 2021.

"Nanaimo's port plays a vital role in our economy. Michelle has a wealth of knowledge and experience which will be beneficial to her second term on the board," said Mayor Leonard Krog.

Director representing the industry user group and serving since September, 2011.

Over the next few months, you will continue to see increased activity at the Assembly Wharf as the Vehicle Processing Centre is completed, we are looking for our first ship to arrive with cars in January. This innovative new facility will provide increased employment and other opportunities for our community.

The Port of Nanaimo is committed to the efficient and effective move-

ment of trade and understands it is integral to the economy. However, of equal importance is the safety and protection of the environment. Vancouver Island stands at the threshold to BC's coast. Nearly every freighter coming to BC makes landfall off Vancouver Island. To respond to the increased traffic within the Salish Sea, the Port of Nanaimo has been developing a Marine Domain Awareness Program designed to provide oversight on the water and ultimately, timely and appropriate response to marine incidents. Our investment in Marine Domain Awareness is a critical component that we believe contributes to a world-class safety program.



**Dr. Michelle Corfield**  
*Chair of the Board*



*Same scene, one hour later, at the Nanaimo Assembly Wharf shows how quickly environmental conditions can change.*

## Marine warning systems explained

Nanaimo was covered in a blanket of thick fog on Nov. 19. Typical of a port city that brought a symphony of navigation signals – fog horns. These “sounding signals” are vital to mariners.

The Port of Nanaimo received numerous phone calls from residents annoyed with the constant chatter surrounding them. That presents us with a great opportunity to explain this mariner activity for harbour neighbors.

Each Ship's Master is fully responsible for the safety of the vessel at all times and may elect to use all approved sound signals (governed by the Collision Regulations of the Canada Shipping Act, 2001) to prevent the risk of collisions.

If you go by sound alone the first two prolonged blasts would signal a deep-sea vessel in-bound to the Assembly Wharf C, plus the first out-bound sailing of the Duke Point - Tsawwassen ferry. As the deep-sea vessels approach the

deep-sea anchorage area the vessels at anchor sound, which, in essence means a vessel at anchor may, in addition to ringing its bells, sound three blasts in succession – one short, one prolonged (four to six seconds) and one short blast, to warn of position and of the possibility of collision to an approaching vessel.

The Departure Bay - Horseshoe Bay ferry departed Departure Bay shortly after 6 a.m. sounding one prolonged blast and other deep-sea vessels replied.

Deep-sea vessels are requested to limit the use of the ship's whistle while in Port, except as required by the Collision Regulations or by an Emergency.

So, when you hear a series of fog horns it is the sound of rules for ships talking to each other, indicating their position to assist safe movement within the harbour. It is the sound of harbour activity, and except for a few concerned neighbors, the sound of music to a port city's ears.