

► Launch of the OCEAN DIANA

# **Western Mariner**<sup>®</sup>

*The Magazine of the Coast*

**WORKING IN WOOD**  
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*Waterfront*  
**SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND**  
*Victoria, Sidney, North Saanich and Sooke*

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Docked at Victoria's Ogden Point cruise terminal is Cunard Line's 294 m (964-ft), 2,547 passenger Vista-class cruise ship QUEEN ELIZABETH (2010, Fincantieri Monfalcone Shipyard, Italy), with the UK-registered cable laying vessel CABLE INNOVATOR at right on the inside of Pier A.

# Southern Vancouver Island

## Victoria, Sidney, North Saanich and Sooke

Photos and text by Simon Hill

**W**ith a new spill response/escort base in Beecher Bay, *Western Mariner* expanded the range of our Southern Vancouver Island Waterfront this year to include Beecher Bay (see page 32) and Sooke (page 30) in addition to our usual stops in Victoria, Sidney and North Saanich.

Tourism is one of the major economic engines for Southern Vancouver Island, including for the region's many marine tourism operators, so it's heartening to see the industry back on track after the global disturbances of the past few years (see page 11). Southern Vancouver Island also continues to be a vibrant hub for small vessel construction (see pages 20, 21, 27 and 29), wood boat repair/construction (see pages 19 and 28), large vessel repair/refit (page 15), fishing (pages 12, 15, 22 and 24) and much more.

### VICTORIA



### Breezy callout

Returning from a call to assist a small sailing dinghy that got into trouble in the brisk morning breeze are the Canadian Coast Guard's 47-ft motorized lifeboat CAPE SUTIL (leading, on the right) and a fast response SAR RIB (following, on the left).



## SOOKE



*Jenkins Marine*



Getting hauled on the ways at Jenkins Marine in Sooke is the charter/work boat BLUE BEAR, with owner Ryan Chamberland aboard (photo above at left). The boat was designed by Jutson Marine Design and built by Northwest Aluminum Craft (Langford) in 2010. Chamberland owns the Vancouver Island Lodge in Sooke, and also owns Ryan Sea Marine, which provides marine environmental and vessel manufacture/repair services. He uses the BLUE BEAR, together with a fleet of four other vessels, for tourism/charter work, environmental survey work and various commercial services. On the manufacturing side, Ryan Sea Marine launched the 29-ft x 10-ft sport fishing/cruise vessel SEA OTTER last year (photo above at right), which is the third vessel launched under the Ryan Sea brand, and more recently the company just launched its fourth vessel, a small aluminum landing craft/workboat.

Hauled on the outside ways at Jenkins for bottom paint and zincs is the 50-ft Bayliner HAKUNA MATATA (photo at right). Jenkins Marine has been doing less commercial fish fleet work lately than has historically been the case, but is keeping busy with lots of recreational haulout work, building docks, and various small tug refit projects.





## Seaweed harvest

Sooke-based Seaflora Skincare has been manufacturing seaweed based small-batch organic skincare products for decades, and has a licence to harvest the seaweed by hand on the local beaches. The company's focus on sustainability (including using zero-waste production methods and eco-friendly packaging) has earned it recognition as the North American Clean Beauty Industry Leader for two consecutive years, as well as B.C.'s Greenest Retailer. Harvesting kelp here, with the iconic Sooke Harbour House Resort in the background, is Seaflora owner Adam Butcher. The Sooke Harbour House has been closed for renovations over the past three years and has been preparing for its grand re-opening in second half of 2024. Seaflora will be part of that re-opening, providing its "Sea to Skin" in-room hotel amenities for guests.


## Historic light

Just east of Sooke on Highway 14 (Sooke Road) is a bit of an out-of-place landmark: the original Triangle Island lantern room, installed on a replica concrete base. The lantern room is part of the Sooke Region Museum and Visitor Centre. It was originally installed at the summit of Triangle Island as part of a lighthouse built there in the summer of 1909. Equipped with a first order Fresnel lens capable of shining up to 32 km, the lighthouse was full of promise as "one of the most important lighthouses on this coast [which] would serve as a leading light." However, the location turned out to be a poor choice, and the light station was dismantled in 1920, deemed one of the costliest lighthouse mistakes of all time. The lantern room and lens were taken to the Canadian Coast Guard and remained there until 2004, when a team of volunteers moved them to the Sooke Regional Museum.




## New response base

On East Sooke Road, just west of the Cheanuh Marina on Sc'ianew Nation territory, is the new warehouse and office building for the WCMRC's Beecher Base satellite spill response base. Construction of the building was started in the summer of 2023, and the official ribbon cutting ceremony to open it was scheduled for July of 2024. Vessels for the base are kept at the nearby Cheanuh Marina (see page 32).




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