



Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society

Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site
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For Immediate Release

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Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society Receives Provincial Funding to Restore Historic Slipways

Richmond, BC – This February, the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society was awarded \$310,000 from the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) – Unique Heritage Infrastructure grant program. This funding will support the restoration of the historic slipways in the 130-year-old shipyard building at Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site. Restoration of the slipways will enable the site to bring vessels into the shipyard building for repair and display.

“We are pleased to contribute to the completion of this exciting project. Being able to use the slipways will allow us to have boats in the shipyard building for the public to view. This is a central part of experiencing a shipyard site and has been missing at Britannia for many years. Watching boats be hauled off the Fraser River with a winch from 1901 is an unforgettable experience for anyone.” said Andy Hobbs, Chair of the Britannia Shipyard National Historic Site Society.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. The funding is part of BC’s \$10 billion COVID response through the unique Heritage Infrastructure stream of the CERIP program. Heritage BC joins the Province of British Columbia in offering the single largest funding program supporting B.C.’s unique heritage infrastructure in 68 communities across BC.

The restoration project will involve hiring experts in marine equipment and restoration to rebuild and make functional the boat cradles and chocks, multi-block system, sheaves, cables and winch in the East and West ways of the Shipyard building. Care will be taken to use original materials and components while ensuring the system is safe to haul up large vessels well into the future.

Situated on the banks of the mighty Fraser River, Britannia Shipyards is a rare collection of historic buildings representing the community that flourished in Steveston during the heyday of fishing over a century ago. Echoing the stories of fishing villages up and down Canada’s West Coast, the site shares the history of the thriving fishing and boatbuilding industries and the diverse people and extraordinary river that supported these industries from their beginnings to present.

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