

April 28, 2017

Tourism Victoria award winners announced at AGM

VICTORIA, B.C. – Two people who have made significant contributions to Greater Victoria’s tourism economy are being honoured today at Tourism Victoria’s annual general meeting.

- **Mike Corrigan**, CEO of Interferry and former CEO of BC Ferries, is the recipient of the 34th annual Miracle Award.
- **Brian Henry**, owner of Ocean River Sports and pioneer of the sea kayak industry, is the recipient of the 2017 Life Member Award.

“We are delighted to celebrate two deserving award recipients who represent partnerships that have played very important roles in the growth of Greater Victoria’s tourism industry,” Tourism Victoria President and CEO Paul Nurse said. “We are also pleased to announce our organization’s business results for 2016, which show that we are operating at a high level and working hard to help ensure our industry partners are ready for opportunities that open up with successful growth.”

Under Mike’s leadership, BC Ferries has been a true partner in tourism. From ever increasing levels of service and amenity, to experimenting with flexible off-peak pricing and being able to absorb growing tourism numbers smoothly, BC Ferries has done a lot of things well in recent years.

Brian Henry is a true stalwart and giant in Greater Victoria’s outdoor adventure industry. Soft spoken but hugely influential, Brian has helped to pioneer the adventure tourism sector that is a significant pillar of our industry.

The awards are being presented on April 28 at the Harbour Towers Hotel and Suites as part of Tourism Victoria’s annual general meeting.

About Tourism Victoria Awards:

The **Miracle Award** recognizes an outstanding individual or group that has shown leadership in the development of the tourism industry in Greater Victoria.

The **Life Member Award** recognizes an individual’s exceptional contributions to Tourism Victoria, the tourism industry and the Greater Victoria community.

ABOUT TOURISM VICTORIA

Tourism Victoria (Greater Victoria Visitors and Convention Bureau) is the official not-for-profit destination marketing organization working in partnership with more than 950 business members and municipalities in Greater Victoria.

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BACKGROUNDER:

Miracle Award Winner

Mike Corrigan is currently CEO of Interferry, the trade association that represents the worldwide ferry industry. He is the former CEO of BC Ferries, one of the world's largest ferry operators. Mike's leadership helped BC Ferries achieve recognition as a world leader in safety and operational excellence.

During Mike's tenure, BC Ferries set record earnings levels, invested \$2 billion in ships and terminals and established itself as a top employer.

Mike has an MBA from the University of Victoria. Prior to his business career, he played professional hockey in the Detroit Red Wings organization. He lives in Victoria with his wife Shari.

Life Member Award Winner

Brian Henry is one of the original pioneers of the sea kayak industry. An expert kayaker, a kayak designer and the owner of Ocean River Sports in downtown Victoria, it is safe to say Brian is the "Big Kahuna" of the kayaking world in Victoria.

Brian was born and raised in Victoria and began kayaking at about the age of five. With a passion for being on the water, Brian has led trips to the west coast of Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii and even the Scottish Hebrides. Brian's business at Ocean River started out as a retail shop offering high-quality gear for paddlers, but the business has grown into the largest kayak and paddleboarding tour provider in Greater Victoria's adventure tourism industry.

Brian continues to be an active paddler, certified guide and overall advocate for the environment and our community. Ever involved in community organizations, Brian is a long-standing member of Tourism Victoria, as well as a former board director.