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## **Prince of Whales makes a splash with new state-of-the-art ship to help reduce noise and environmental footprint**

**VICTORIA** – *The Salish Sea Dream*, Prince of Whales' new \$3.5 million environmentally-friendly custom-built catamaran has had such a successful inaugural season running unique whale watching day trips between Vancouver and Victoria and Victoria and Butchart Gardens, the company has just placed an order for another state-of-the-art ship that will be even more environmentally friendly.

"It's very stable, very reliable and it's proved to be an amazing platform for tours so we've had rave reviews from our guests," says Prince of Whales owner Alan McGillivray. "Business was up more than 30 per cent on these tours, we had many sold-out days and we saw whales every single day."

McGillivray says the 2017 season was the best whale watching season they have ever had in terms of sightings, especially for humpbacks and transient killer whales.

"We had lots of humpback sightings and lots of sightings," McGillivray says. "They think there are about 300 transients between Mexico and Alaska and we believe we saw more than 100 unique transients this season, which is quite phenomenal."

Protecting the environment is a top priority for Prince of Whales, B.C.'s biggest whale watching company and an industry leader in sustainability. The eco-friendly *Salish Sea Dream* is quieter and less likely to affect whale activity and its sister ship will build on that technology with the latest generation of water jets, further reducing the ship's noise profile.

"The number one cause of machine noise in the water is propeller cavitation — air bubbles forming as the propellers push through the ocean — but the catamaran has interior water propulsion jets so there are no propellers," McGillivray explains. "The redesigned Ultrajet impellers on the new ship have a very low cavitation level, thus keeping the sound profile to a minimum and also improving efficiency."

The innovative design on the 78-foot *Salish Sea Dream* and her new sister ship also means there is no machinery hanging below the hull, eliminating the risk of a marine mammal strike.

"She has no external propellers or drives that could harm any type of wildlife and her narrow twin hulls and shallow draught allow us to safely transit shallow reefs in the Salish Sea and bring our guests closer to all of what nature has to show us," adds Prince of Whales Fleet Captain. Ian Kyle.

"It's an ideal vessel for watching marine mammals of all kinds because she's highly manoeuvrable, allowing us to safely view whales and she can even be manoeuvred so that she walks sideways while viewing — a feat few other vessels can manage."

ABD Enterprises of North Vancouver has been contracted to build the second ship, which will launch in the spring of 2019 and be based in Victoria. There is also an option for a third vessel to launch in 2020.

"We're thrilled to be building this vessel in Canada," McGillivray says. "We're reinvesting in our business and doing everything we can to lower the environmental footprint and protect whales and the Salish Sea."

***The Salish Sea Dream's Ultimate Day Tour*** departs Vancouver each morning from April to October, taking guests on a whale watching tour to the B.C. Capital with sightseeing stops at Victoria's iconic Inner

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Harbour and the world-famous [Butchart Gardens](#) (via shuttle) before a breathtaking sunset cruise back to Vancouver.

Combining two of Victoria's 'must do' activities, *The Salish Sea Dream* also offers whale watching excursions each afternoon from the Inner Harbour to the Butchart Gardens as part of the '**Whales and Gardens' Package**, which also includes entry into the gardens and summer fireworks.

Learn more about [Prince of Whales here](#)

## **About Tourism Victoria**

Tourism Victoria (Greater Victoria Visitors and Convention Bureau) is the official not-for-profit destination marketing organization working in partnership with nearly 1,000 business members and municipalities in Greater Victoria. [TourismVictoria.com](http://TourismVictoria.com)

## **About Prince of Whales:**

With 13 vessels, locations in both Victoria and Vancouver, and close to 100 staff in peak season, Prince of Whales is one of the largest whale watching and eco-adventure organizations in British Columbia. Our floating classrooms have served as a platform for marine education for 25 years and we are proud to be recognized as a leader in responsible whale watching practices. We strive to create lifelong connections between people and the natural environment through unforgettable encounters with whales in the wild.

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