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BC FERRIES CALLS PILOT PROJECT SUCCESSFUL ON GABRIOLA ROUTE **Weekend summer sailings will continue**

VICTORIA – After analysing results of a two-year pilot that saw sailings added to the Saturday and Sunday sailing schedules during the peak summer season, BC Ferries has declared a success, and the sailings will continue in future schedules for Gabriola Island.

Positive growth in new traffic and good use of the new capacity were both experienced during the summer weekends of 2016 and 2017. These weekend sailings will be in next year's schedule effective June 27, 2018.

The pilot project was suggested by the Ferry Advisory Committee, who conducted analysis and submitted a request to BC Ferries. Therefore, BC Ferries agreed to the pilot, adding both a 1:50 pm departure from Descanso Bay and a 2:25 pm departure from Nanaimo Harbour Terminal.

“It was very positive to learn the pilot was successful,” said Mark Collins, BC Ferries’ President and CEO. “We need to express kudos to the Ferry Advisory Committee for the work they have done to help us reach this win-win result.”

BC Ferries is pleased to be able to provide these sailings, which are above the minimum contractual level of service required of BC Ferries through the Coastal Ferry Services Contract, for the benefit of the local community.

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