

For Immediate Release
06-070

November 3, 2006

**BC FERRIES LAUNCHES NEWEST ADDITION TO FLEET
MV Kuper to service Chemainus – Thetis – Kuper route**

NORTH VANCOUVER – BC Ferries officially named and launched the newest addition to its fleet at a ceremony at Allied Shipbuilders in North Vancouver today. The MV Kuper, a \$7 million, 32-vehicle ferry, will enter service on the Chemainus – Thetis Island – Kuper Island route early next year following training, certification and sea trials.

“We are extremely pleased to launch the MV Kuper, which is the first new ship in the next generation of BC Ferries,” said David L. Hahn, BC Ferries’ President and CEO. “This ship is a welcome addition to our fleet and will serve customers on our smaller island routes.”

“We are very proud to launch the MV Kuper, which is the 259th vessel constructed by our company,” said Malcolm McLaren, President of Allied Shipbuilders Ltd. “This is the seventh vessel we’ve built that is operated by BC Ferries.”

The MV Kuper is named after Kuper Island, which is located in Stuart Channel in the Southern Gulf Islands and is home to the Penelakut First Nation. The island was named by British sailors in 1851 after Captain Augustus Leopold Kuper R.N.

The hull of the new vessel is comprised from the original structure from the MV John Atlantic Burr, which BC Ferries purchased last year from the State of Utah Transportation Department. That ship was cut into sections and trucked to Tacoma, Washington. The sections were then barged up to Allied Shipbuilders in North Vancouver, which has virtually built a new ship.

During the construction period, a new 11-foot wide longitudinal section was inserted into the hull to provide an additional lane on the car deck. Passenger and crew spaces were totally rebuilt, including washroom facilities for customers with disabilities; and new lifesaving equipment, including two evacuation slides and a rescue boat. The wheelhouse, navigational equipment, piping and electrical system are entirely new and the vessel will be powered by two Detroit Diesel Allison engines driving two right angle drive propulsion units.

The MV Kuper will be the fourth and largest of BC Ferries’ K-class ships, joining the MV Kahloke, MV Klitsa and MV Kwuna in the fleet. In keeping with its fleet management

*Building a Better
BC Ferries*

planning, BC Ferries is designing ships for inter-operability around the system. In the future, the MV Kuper will also serve as a relief vessel on various gulf island routes.

BC Ferries is committed to renewing its fleet, terminals and infrastructure. The company's capital improvement program calls for 22 new vessels over the next 15 years at a cost of \$2.5 billion. Seven of these new ships will be in service by 2009.

- 30 -

Photos Attached

Media Contact:
BC Ferries, Communications
Victoria: (250) 978-1267

Customer Contact:
Victoria: (250) 386-3431
Toll-free: 1-888-BCFERRY (1-888-223-3779)

VESSEL SPECIFICATIONS
MV KUPER

Built/Lengthened	2006
Length Overall	52.21 metres (171'-3 1/2")
Breadth Extreme	16.77 metres (55'-0" feet)
Gross Tonnage	537 grt
Vehicle Capacity	32 AEQ
Passenger Capacity	300

