

For Immediate Release  
07-081

November 20, 2007

## **BC FERRIES INTRODUCES MV ISLAND SKY Newest vessel to service Earls Cove – Saltery Bay route in Summer of 2008**

VICTORIA – BC Ferries unveiled the name of its new intermediate-class vessel, currently under construction at Vancouver Shipyards, at a special ceremony in North Vancouver today. MV Island Sky will join the BC Ferries' fleet on the northern Sunshine Coast route in the summer of 2008.

The name "Island Sky" celebrates the beauty of our province and evokes the unparalleled sunrises and sunsets that British Columbia has to offer. The name is meant to epitomize the natural splendour of the west coast.

"This is a significant day for our fleet revitalization program," said BC Ferries' President and CEO, David L. Hahn. "The naming of this vessel and launching of its hull marks another milestone in its construction, and we look forward to the vessel's completion in the spring of 2008 so we can add another brand new ship to our fleet."

Following the launch, the hull of the vessel will be towed to Victoria Shipyards where the superstructure will be loaded onto the vessel. The ship will then return to North Vancouver for its completion, including outfitting of passenger spaces and the ship's mechanical, electrical and electronic systems. Sea trials will be conducted in the spring of 2008 before the vessel is officially handed over to BC Ferries.

Once in service, the 100-metre MV Island Sky will offer travellers a variety of onboard amenities, including a lounge and snack bar, as well as a state-of-the-art lifesaving system. The ship will accommodate 600 passengers, 125 vehicles and will travel at a service speed of 14.5 knots.

MV Island Sky will join the three new Super C-class ships, all of which will be in service by next summer. Earlier this year, the MV Kuper and the Northern Adventure began operation. Also, the Northern Expedition will be arriving in 2009. Together, these seven vessels are the backbone of BC Ferries' major capital renewal program, which will see the company replace 26 vessels over the next 15 years.

The commencement of active service for the MV Island Sky will allow for the retirement of the Queen of Tsawwassen, which has served customers well for the past 47 years.

In keeping with marine tradition, at today's ceremony Vancouver Shipyards presented BC Ferries with the special edition \$20 Canadian coin that was placed in the keel blocks at the keel-laying ceremony in December 2006.

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**MV ISLAND SKY  
VESSEL SPECIFICATIONS**

Year Built	2008
Gross Tonnage	3500
Length Overall	102.4 metres
Propulsion System	4 – Niigata 6L25HX diesel engines
Horsepower	4x1140 kw (MCR)
Generators	3 – Caterpillar 260kw each
Speed	14.5 knots
# of Passengers	600
# of Vehicles	125
Size of passenger accommodation	846 square metres
Seating capacity in passenger lounge	420 seats
Seating capacity on sundeck	120 seats