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**CELEBRATORY EVENT FOR NEW SUPER C-CLASS VESSEL
HELD IN GERMANY TODAY**

Event puts international spotlight on B.C. and 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games

VICTORIA – A celebratory Canadian-style barbeque was held for several thousand shipbuilders and dignitaries in Flensburg, Germany today as Coastal Renaissance, the first of three Super C-class vessels begins preparations for its voyage home to British Columbia.

To mark the completion of the first ship, an unveiling ceremony attended by Hon. David Emerson, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics, and Hon. Kevin Falcon, Minister of Transportation, Province of British Columbia, was held at FSG shipyard in Germany.

Several thousand guests attended the event, which provided an opportunity to showcase B.C. products and creations such as Candied Salmon, Bison Burger on a Bannock Bun with Black Currant Chutney, Blueberry/Apple Crumble with Soapberry Whip, local beer and BC Ferries' famous Clam Chowder.

“Coastal Renaissance, all decked-out with promotional photographic images of Olympic and Paralympic athletes and of beautiful British Columbia, will be seen by hundreds of thousands of people as it travels from Europe, through the Panama Canal, and up the Pacific Coast of Mexico and the United States,” said David L. Hahn, BC Ferries' President and CEO. “These ships are floating invitations to the world to come visit B.C. for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic games.”

Coastal Renaissance will set sail at the end of October for its journey to B.C., which will take approximately 45 days, depending on weather conditions. BC Ferries and its employees look forward to the arrival of the ship here at home in December.

The second and third ships in the series, Coastal Inspiration and Coastal Celebration, will also feature photographs of winter sports and British Columbia scenes. These ships will set sail next year and will join the BC Ferries' fleet during the summer of 2008.

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Hon. Kevin Falcon, Minister of Transportation, Province of British Columbia (left) and Hon. David Emerson, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver – Whistler Olympics (right) invite Peter-Harry Carstensen, Prime Minister of the State of Schleswig-Holstein (centre) to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games



First Nations Join in the Celebration



David Hahn, BC Ferries' President and CEO and Peter Sierk, President and CEO, FSG Shipyard



Royal Canadian Mounted Police on Horseback