

## **News Release**

For Immediate Release 13-008

March 20, 2013 6:00 am

## BC FERRIES RESPONDS TO MAJOR INCIDENT AT GABRIOLA ISLAND Vehicle drove down ramp and off vessel into water at high speed

VICTORIA – At approximately 3:45 am this morning, a vehicle drove through a barrier gate at the top of the trestle at a high rate of speed at the Descanso Bay terminal on Gabriola Island.

The MV Quinsam was tied-up in dock overnight at the time. The shore side ramp was is a raised position as per usual procedure. The vehicle launched itself onto the vessel's deck and proceeded at a high rate of speed into the water. It is reported that the vehicle sunk.

Gabriola RCMP, Coast Guard Hovercraft, fire fighters and ambulance are on scene.

Regular vehicle service between Gabriola Island and Nanaimo Harbour has been temporarily suspended until further notice. Water taxi service is being implemented for foot passenger service.

An update on this tragic incident will be provided when more information is available.

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