



The Tall Ships are Coming® – Again!

(VICTORIA) November 30, 2006 – Fans of the seafaring life will be turning their attention to Victoria, British Columbia again in 2008, when the province’s capital city kicks-off the 2008 Tall Ships Challenge, June 26 – 29th, announced the Victoria Tall Ships Society today.

“We’re thrilled to be the first port of call for the 2008 race series, said John Anderson, president of Victoria Tall Ships Society, which is organizing the festival in Victoria. The city will kick-off the 2008 Tall Ships Challenge, a series of races along the West Coast of Canada and the United States.

“A contract with the American Sail Training Association is place, and we can begin to engage the community and build the team needed to host our second, first-class, international festival,” said Anderson.

More than two dozen of the world’s finest vessels sailed into Victoria’s Inner Harbour during the 2005 Tall Ships Festival, including ships from Russia, New Zealand, Mexico, the United States and Canada.

“The inaugural Tall Ships event was an extremely positive one for our community,” said Victoria Mayor Alan Lowe. “Not only did it bring spectacular vessels to Victoria, visitor spending also resulted in a \$5.2 million impact to our local economy. We’re confident Victoria will continue to be an international destination of choice.”

The Victoria Tall Ships Society is a not-for-profit organization, incorporated in May 2003 for the purpose of bringing a Tall Ships Festival to Victoria. The Society’s vision is to promote a legacy for youth and the life lessons learned through sail training.

Founded in 1973, the American Sail Training Association (ASTA) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage character building through sail training, promote sail training in North America, and support education under sail.

With more than 250 tall ships and sail training vessels representing more than 25 countries sailing around the globe, ASTA fosters youth education, leadership development and the preservation of North American maritime heritage and traditions. ASTA organizes the TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE®, an annual series of sail training races, rallies and maritime festivals, hosts an annual conference on Sail Training and Tall Ships, and publishes SAIL TALL SHIPS!, the definitive guide to sail training and adventure at sea.

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