

Aurora's Coast Chronicle **S**

In This Issue

- Meet the Crew
Jim Drysdale
- Coastal Partner
Wallace Parker Construction
- Friend of the Coast
Mike Gage
- Aurora's Precious Cargo
Jim & Betty Tyre
- Community Leader
Campbell River Salmon Foundation

Congratulations Donna Sawatzky on your retirement.



Ship's Cook Donna Sawatzky retires after dedicating 18 years to providing mouth watering cuisine, exceptional, friendly and

consistent service to Aurora passengers! All of us at Marine Link, wish to thank you and wish you health and harmony filling your days with all the things that make you happy. Enjoy your retirement; Donna enjoy life, you've earned it!

Our 2013 Passenger Season is now 75% sold! Confirm your 2013 reservation by deposit prior to December 31, 2012 and receive 2012 rates!

Our 20th Anniversary Season 2014 will be available for reservation in December 2012! Avoid disappointment, plan early!

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Aurora's Coast Chronicles is a seasonal newsletter distributed by email, print, and web by Marine Link Tours, a subsidiary of Marine Link Transportation Ltd. a British Columbia Corporation.

Welcome to a snippet of Marine Link Tour's "The Working Coast" MV Aurora Explorer style!



New Accommodations Deck configuration debuts in 2013!

Passengers of the Aurora Explorer's 19th season will be the first to enjoy added comfort! While plying the waters of the intricate passages, coves and inlets amid the unrivaled beauty of the Vancouver Island and British Columbia coasts, now 10 passengers will enjoy the comfort of the "Premium" staterooms which offer two lower berths while only one smaller "Standard" stateroom offering upper and lower berths, bunk-bed style, will remain.

Meet the Crew - Jim Drysdale

Jim Drysdale has been Marine Link's steadfast Freight Dispatcher since February 1997.



From his roots in the forest industry, Jim's solid understanding of the needs of coastal marine customers and knowledge of our rugged coastline's restrictions, weather, tides, traffic and a multitude of other intricacies augment the efficiency he brings to the position. In his resolute manner, Jim's accomplished responsibilities include the organization and management of daily requests for freight deliveries both outgoing and back haul keeping daily and weekly barge loads moving

smoothly. It is apparent his careful record keeping of every movement is a source of pride.

Creating woodworking projects in his home shop, spending time at their seaside holiday trailer and welcoming visits from friends and family that include their son, daughter-in-law and the apple of their eyes, their two young grandchildren Jim and his wife Monica enjoy a relaxed lifestyle when away from work.

Everyone at Marine Link enjoy Jim's ubiquitous and contagious laughter, friendly conversation and willingness to assist others.

Years of dedicated service, we recognized here and we thank you Jim for your contributions to the smooth operation of this complex balance that is "The Working Coast".

Coastal Partner - Wallaced Parker Construction

From the origin of Marine Link Transportation in 1979, Wally Parker has been a steady and consistent customer in the Stuart Island area. It is difficult to find any building constructed near Stuart Island that Wally has not had a hand in building.

Once arriving in the area as a displaced youth with a sport fish-guiding job, Wally met Karen Brimacomb. Soon after, they were married, settled at Stuart Island, raised two wonderful daughters and still conducts most of his business in the Stuart Island area.

Instrumental in most of the large construction and renovation projects at Stuart Island, Wally has worked with a diverse group of customers such as Dent Island Lodge, Sonora Island Resort, Big Bay Marina, Pete Tegarus, Ritchie Brothers Lodge, Arran Point Lodge, Orca Point Lodge, Nanook Lodge and other private dwellings that enjoy the Stuart Island lifestyle.



Wallaced Parker Construction - continued...

Approximately 10 years ago, Wally & Karen moved the family from Stuart Island to Campbell River to enable their girls to attend high school. Wally is often found commuting to and from Stuart Island sometimes by water taxi and sometimes by open boat.

A longtime friend of past and present Marine Link crew and management Wally has always approached everything with a “Can Do” attitude and all of us at Marine Link continue to enjoy working with Wally on his various construction projects. Stuart Island may have changed over the years but to the benefit of Marine Link Transportation and Tours and all of Wally’s other friends and colleagues, he has not.

Friend of the Coast- Mike Gage

Mike Gage was born in the south of England at Devizes, near Stonehenge in 1940 and arrived in Canada at the age of 19 years. His first job at a Saanich dairy farm was a precursor to his position with UBC caring for “LuluBelle” the bunkhouse cow, among other responsibilities. Visiting with Mike you will be spellbound by the never-ending stories and anecdotes he shares from his “steel trap” memory.

In 1961, Mike “went into the woods” working for Frank and Henry Norie at Elk Bay learning every aspect of the forestry industry from the Rigging Crew and Cat Hooker to Cat Operator and Driller Blaster and the long list continues. Starting in 1967, Mike then honed his skills with MacMillan Bloedel, retiring in a supervisory position.

Early on, with his roots firmly planted in the Campbell River area Mike married and he and his wife Betty went on to raise their five sons who, like Mike are all fishing fanatics. While bird hunting and collecting old salmon fishing plugs, sport fishing is most important to him. Salmon stocks have been generous to Mike and his family over the years and he believes in putting something back.

To this end, since 1966 Mike has been a dedicated volunteer amassing a vast resume of committee involvements. Co-chair of Banquets for the Pacific Salmon Foundation for 12 years bringing the fundraiser

auction dinners from an attendance of 250 up to 400, consistently selling out the house. Chair of the Campbell River Gravel Committee, spearheading the replacement of vital spawning gravel to the Campbell River removed by the John Hart Dam operations. Chair of the B.C. Hydro Bridge Coastal Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program, and Board Member of the B.C. Georgia Basin Living Rivers Partnership and Steering committee. He is now eagerly awaiting the conclusions of the Salmon River Diversion Fish Passage Committee discussions.

Mike truly exemplifies our “Friend of the Coast” category with his plethoric energy advocating the preservation, recovery and enrichment of the local Pacific Salmon stocks.



Aurora’s Precious Cargo- Jim and Betty Tyre



With practiced planning, the Tyres embarked upon their 13th voyage aboard the MV Aurora Explorer and on June 21, 2012 were honoured by fellow guests and their Aurora Explorer family for their milestone!

Sharing the same date, Paula Carey & Nick Wemyss celebrated their 32nd Wedding Anniversary on their 1st voyage. No meager feat either!

Prior to their cruise Jim & Betty enjoyed a celebration with friends and family in Victoria, BC. This lovely couple has resided in the same residence in Victoria for 47 years, during which time they raised their family, a son and a daughter.

Jim’s 25-year career in the Royal Canadian Navy and Betty’s long tenure as a Medical Office Administrator in a prominent Victoria Doctor’s office kept them busy until their well-earned retirement arrived, providing them the freedom to travel.

In 2011, the Tyres boarded the Aurora for two voyages. After traveling with Marine Link Tours 10 previous times, they were awarded their “Repeat

Passenger” next one is free status! With that, they decided to experience both the Spring and Fall wonders of the coast. We look forward to welcoming Jim & Betty aboard again in 2013!

Community Leader- Campbell River Salmon Foundation



“To promote the conservation, rehabilitation and enhancement of watersheds for Pacific salmon north of the Oyster River and south of the Salmon River Estuary and eastward to the adjacent mainland coast.”

The Campbell River Salmon Foundation is a not-for-profit, registered charity that provides vital stewardship of the Pacific salmon, their habitat, restoration, conservation and enhancement. Their Mission Statement casts the net to include the watersheds between the Oyster River and south of the Salmon River estuary and the adjacent mainland coast.

An experienced and knowledgeable group of working professionals and retirees fill out the comprehensive and inspired Board of Directors. Founding members Mike Gage and Kris Mailman initiated the principle of ensuring the integrity of every hard-earned and generous dollar raised by embracing the true essence of the concept “volunteer “. Offsetting a large portion of the unavoidable operating costs, an in-kind donation of all administrative requirements by Kris’s company, Seymour Pacific Developments is an example.

Since its inception in 2007, the list of accomplishments and on-going projects is lengthy. Tireless volunteers provide fund raising, leadership, expertise and hours of dedication, in concert with sponsors and partners to help ensure salmon enhancement for the return of stronger salmon runs and healthier habitats for future generations to enjoy.

Everyone at Marine Link Tours wish to express our appreciation to our passengers both past and future and all those who make up “Aurora’s Coast” for helping us celebrate another successful season.