



54 North Newsletters

The Prince Rupert Port Authority's information newsletter "54 North" is back- and we plan on making it better than ever with regular updates on the news and events that are shaping the future of the New World Port- Prince Rupert. And it will all come to you quickly and efficiently over the web via your email address. So for those of you who were our readers in the past- Welcome Back!

Northland Cruise Terminal Officially Opens

After nearly ten years in the planning, the Prince Rupert Port Authority's new Northland Cruise Dock was officially opened on May 20th before an enthusiastic crowd of local residents, out of town guests, dignitaries and visiting cruise passengers. The event was opened with a colourful Tsimshian First Nation dance called the Peace Song followed by a traditional blessing by Tsimshian hereditary chiefs. On hand to participate in the opening of the new cruise dock, were the Honorable Tony Valeri, Federal Minister of Transportation and John Les, Provincial Minister of Small Business & Economic Development- representing two of the very important partners and financial supporters of the project.



The Federal Minister of Transportation stated that "it gives me such pleasure in providing the necessary tools towards helping this community diversify this town's economy and the Northland Cruise Terminal is a symbol of progress towards a fantastic future."



Don Krusel, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Prince Rupert Port Authority remarked, "Without the partnerships with the City of Prince Rupert, the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada, this dream would not have come true."

In closing the Provincial Minister of Small Business & Economic Development said "Northland will bring good fortune to economy of the Prince Rupert, and Bill Belsey should be thanked for his hard work and his support for this community."

The \$9 million terminal was designed to accommodate vessels up 300 meters in length and features a state of the art passenger boarding system that adjusts itself automatically throughout the full range of the tide, assuring a comfortable transfer of passengers from the ship to shore. The terminal features Canada Customs facilities to accommodate foreign arrivals - the first Canada Customs facility to be built since September 11 - and meets all new necessary security requirements. The terminal design, location, and innovative passenger handling system have received positive reviews from cruise lines assessing operations in Prince Rupert and should be a catalyst for the continued growth and expansion of the cruise industry on the BC Coast.



First Vessel Calls at Northland Cruise Terminal

The 2000 passenger vessel "Norwegian Spirit" became the first cruise vessel to dock at the new Northland Cruise Terminal on May 20th. It was the first of 19 calls by the Norwegian Spirit this year. The new cruise



dock has been a catalyst for the successful launch of a variety of shore-tours and programs that have emerged in the community contributing to a daily tour capacity of over 2,000 passengers. Some of the more lucky passengers, who had booked their tours in advance, were able to view the protected wilderness of the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary. Other passengers boarded the new "North Coast Explorer" vintage rail cars to experience a 2.5 hour rail tour up the scenic Skeena River. Tourists were also treated to city bus tours as well as having a chance to shop in recently opened gift shops in Prince Rupert's trendy Cow Bay. The vessel sailed out of the harbour amidst an evening display of fireworks and the cheers of over

1,000 local residences who had gathered across the waterfront to bid farewell. Commenting on the inaugural visit, Captain Juliussen of the Norwegian Spirit, said: "It's an excellent facility and the docking and offloading of passengers was smooth and handled extremely well by the terminal operators."

The passengers on the ship had favourable comments on their experience during their stay in Prince Rupert and the warm welcome they received from the community. Many vowed to return for a longer stay.

The Norwegian Spirit is just one of 35 vessel calls to the Northland Terminal which will be bringing nearly 65,000 passengers to Prince Rupert during the 2004 summer cruise season.

Prince Rupert Port Authority



the new world port

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