

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

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**2009 Final Year for Victoria's Classic Boat Festival®**

The Victoria Real Estate Board (VREB) and Black Press, co-sponsors of Victoria's Classic Boat Festival®, announced today that 2009 will be the final year of their involvement in the festival. This year will mark the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the festival which is held on the Labour Day weekend in Victoria's Inner Harbour.

VREB President, Chris Markham, noted that the festival has been a major community event for Victoria. "We are proud of our long-term support for this celebration of our maritime heritage and for its contribution to the cultural life of our city," said Markham. "Together with Black Press, we feel, however, that now is the time for us to move on and look for different ways that we can offer support to the community," added Markham. Black Press Vancouver Island President, Mark Warner, echoed Markham's comments: "We have been very pleased for the past nine years to have co-sponsored the festival with the VREB. It has been a wonderful way for both of our organizations to give back to the community and we look forward to continuing to work with the VREB on new community initiatives."

Markham and Warner noted that the VREB and Black Press would provide all assistance required to any other organization interested in taking over the management and financing of the festival.

The festival was launched by the VREB in 1978 as part of the Captain Cook Bicentenary celebrations. The VREB was the sole sponsor for the first 20-years of the festival. The Victoria Times Colonist co-sponsored the festival from 1998 to 2001; Black Press joined as a co-sponsor in 2001. This year's festival will be held September 4, 5 & 6 in the Inner Harbour.

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