



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Friday, April 17, 2015

### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

#### **DISCOVER BOATING'S HANDS-ON SKILLS TRAINING CLINIC COMES TO VICTORIA BOAT SHOW APRIL 30 TO MAY 3**

**Victoria, BC (April 17, 2015)** – Discover Boating Hands-on Skills Training (HOST), a national program to educate Canadians to become confident and safe boaters, will offer free clinics at the Victoria Inner Harbour Boat Show from Thursday, April 30 to Sunday, May 3, 2015.

The HOST program is delivered in partnership with Discover Boating Canada professional trainers and funded in part by Transport Canada's Boating Safety Contribution Program (BSCP) which aims to increase the numbers of boaters who boat safely. HOST is an educational program committed to providing both new and experienced boaters with the opportunity to get behind the helm and receive on-water training on proper boat handling.

Launched in Canada at the Montreal In-Water Boat Show in September 2014, the program has been hugely successful providing over 400 recreational boaters training in areas such as boat control in small spaces and other important docking and maneuvering skills.

"Discover Boating Hands-on Skills Training was created to provide boaters with practical experience to learn the fundamentals of boating," says Tracey Hart, Director of Marketing, Discover Boating Canada. "In these free sessions, boaters have the opportunity to work closely with instructors to sharpen their technique, ask questions and gain new skills in different areas of boating."

Discover Boating will offer the following two types of clinics at the upcoming Victoria Inner Harbour Boat Show. Each clinic is 60 minutes and includes up to four participants.

#### **Fundamental Close Quarters Boat Handling**

Participants hone their docking skills and practice close quarters maneuvering with a professional instructor while learning the fundamentals of boat control in confined spaces including how to confidently manoeuvre close to other boats, piers, docks and fixed objects. Participants will also learn how to turn around in tight spaces, back down a narrow channel in a straight line and other important docking and manoeuvring skills. This clinic is designed for all boaters who wish to increase both competence and confidence in docking situations.

#### **Advanced Close Quarters Boat Handling**

Participants learn the ability to confidently manoeuvre a boat in tight spaces. This hands-on session covers advanced, precision boat control and docking techniques used by professional captains including how dock and depart confidently using spring lines and more. This clinic is ideal for experienced boaters as well as those who are thinking about moving up in boat size or class. Participants must also be 18 years and older.

The Victoria Harbour Boat Show is hosted by the British Columbia Yacht Brokers Association (BCYBA) and has grown to become the largest in-the-water boat show on the west coast. The show is an opportunity for yacht brokers to display and sell boats for sale to a wide audience who can go on board all of the boats and discuss the many features with knowledgeable and professionally certified brokers. Children and adults are welcome and tickets vary from \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for seniors and students, and free for children under 16 who are accompanied by a parent. Discover Boating will be offering clinics for the duration of the entire show.

Discover Boating HOST clinics are complimentary and open to all ages and skill levels (some restrictions apply). Clinics are limited in space and interested participants are encouraged to register in advance at [DiscoverBoating.ca/HOST](http://DiscoverBoating.ca/HOST).

From new boaters to seasoned skippers, HOST clinics provide the hands-on experience necessary to enhance boating and safety skills during the boating season.

For video footage of past HOST clinics and participant testimonials, please visit: [DiscoverBoating.ca/HOST](http://DiscoverBoating.ca/HOST).

For more information about Discover Boating Canada, please visit [DiscoverBoating.ca](http://DiscoverBoating.ca).

#### **About Discover Boating**

*Discover Boating is a public awareness effort managed by the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) on behalf of the North American recreational boating industry. Discover Boating programs focus on increasing participation and creating interest in recreational boating by demonstrating the benefits, affordability and accessibility of the boating lifestyle while helping to educate potential boaters and offering opportunities to experience the fun and togetherness of being on the water in a boat.*

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