



American Sail Training Association

240 Thames St. - PO Box 1459
Newport, Rhode Island 02840 USA
p: 401.846.1775 • f: 401.849.5400
www.sailtraining.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact: Lori A. Aguiar 401-846-1775, lori@sailtraining.org

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Victoria Selected 2007 Tall Ships® Conference Site

Newport, RI - The American Sail Training Association (ASTA) has selected Victoria, British Columbia as the site of its 2007 Conference on Sail Training and Tall Ships. More than 200 participants from the United States, Canada, and other foreign nations are expected to attend the three day meeting, hosted by the Hotel Grand Pacific, from November 8 – 10th, 2007.

The annual conference in Victoria will bring together professionals from all facets of the sail training and maritime industries. The two-day conference will cover a wide array of topics and feature presentations on experiential learning methods, organizational development, ship operations and safety, fundraising, marketing, and related topics.

A post-conference Safety Under Sail Forum will be offered on Nov. 10, 2007. The Safety Under Sail Forum was initiated at the annual conference in 1992 in an effort to expand the international dialogue among professional mariners by presenting case studies of actual incidents at sea, discussing emerging technologies, and sharing “best practices” so as to constantly ensure the highest level of safety and professionalism in the sail training industry.

“We selected Victoria as our 2007 conference location because of its rich maritime and sailing ship heritage and its role as the opening host port for ASTA’s 2008 TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE® Series on the Pacific Coast,” said Lori A. Aguiar, ASTA director of operations.

More than two dozens ships from around the world sailed into Victoria’s Inner Harbour during the 2005 TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE® event. Hundreds of thousands of spectators took part in the maritime festival and enjoyed the dramatic scenery of the traditional vessels against the spectacular backdrop of the Pacific Northwest.

In addition to the TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE® fleet’s visit to Victoria June 26 –29 in 2008, other host ports selected for the Pacific Coast series are Tacoma and Port Alberni; additional ports will be announced in the upcoming months.

Founded in Newport, RI in 1973, the American Sail Training Association is a youth education, leadership development and maritime heritage preservation nonprofit. ASTA is an international institution with more than 250 tall ships hailing from over 20 countries and sailing all of the world’s major bodies of water. In conjunction with Canadian and US ports on the Pacific and Atlantic Coasts of North America and in the Great Lakes, ASTA organizes the TALL SHIPS CHALLENGE® series of sailing races, cruises, crew rallies and maritime festivals promoting traditionally rigged sailing vessels many of which are crewed by young people (either civilians or cadets) ages 15 – 25.

For more information about ASTA and the 2007 conference in Victoria, contact the national office in Newport, Rhode Island, (401) 846-1775 or visit the web site, www.sailtraining.org.