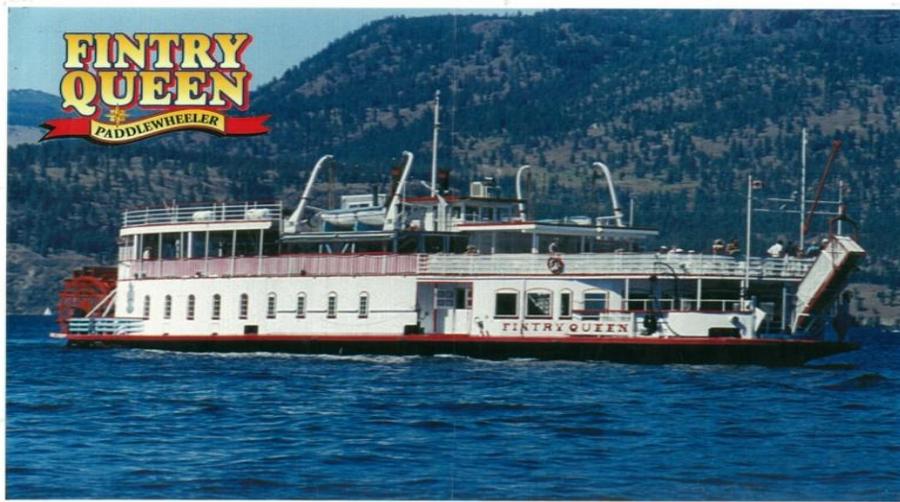


"The Fintry Queen has a Future"



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2013 Kelowna, B.C. The "Fintry Queen", a 326 passenger ship on Okanagan Lake, has a new lifeline. Andy Schwab, President of Okanagan Lake Boat Company Inc., has received confirmation that the "Bill of Sale" has now been registered with Transport Canada in Ottawa, completing the Court sale process and freeing the ship from all its previous liens and debts.

"It has been a long process, that started more than a year ago" said Schwab. "Without the assistance of Leona Baxter at A.B. Oland & Co., who navigated the legal waters, Geord Holland at Pushor Mitchell LLP, support from the City of Kelowna and cooperation from the creditors, this would not have happened. Now we take the next step, finding a home and a future."

The original "Okanagan Lake Boat Company" was established in Naramata in 1897. An old trade poster circa 1912, on display in the Penticton Museum, shows a small passenger craft on the lake with the caption "Ferry Service - Summerland - Naramata - Penticton". "Special Trips to All Points on the Lake for Commercial Travellers and Tourists." "Telephone Connections".

"We identified with the image" said Schwab, who sees a future for public transportation on Okanagan Lake, linking the communities, parks, wineries and resorts along the shoreline, similar to the historic paddlewheel services provided by the CNR and CPR from 1893 - 1972. "Jump aboard ship in the

morning, take a cruise on the lake to a park or winery, catch it again in the afternoon or evening for a stop across the lake or an easy return trip home."

The Fintry Queen is the largest commercial passenger ship on Okanagan Lake, able to safely transport thousands of passengers annually in most weather conditions. Originally built as a car ferry in 1948, to carry passengers and vehicles across the lake year-round, she was designed to get close to shore. Her bow boarding ramp permits loading and unloading without the need for extensive shore facilities.

"We are working with Kelowna City Staff on a request to construct a new smaller temporary pier for the ship in front of the former Park Pavilion building in City Park", said Schwab. "There is power, water and sewer in that area that once serviced the Pavilion building and former restaurant. A tender has just closed to build permanent washrooms facilities in that area, so we are hoping to be able to tie into that construction, build a small temporary loading pier at no cost to the City and be ready to open this summer."

Over a 10 year period from 1990 - 2000, the Fintry Queen carried an average of 28,000 passengers each summer. The highest passenger count was 39,600. "In our first season, with construction and renovations, we are projecting only 20,000 passengers. By year 2 or 3, we hope to be carrying 30,000 - 40,000, operating daily between West Kelowna's Gellatly Bay to Kelowna's downtown, plus Saturday's to Fintry Provincial Park, with stops at several communities and parks along the way." There were over 25 historic "ports of call" on the old CPR sailing routes for the paddlewheelers. "Our projections used an average ticket price of \$8.50 per passenger, \$10 for adults, \$6 for children. Travel time from Gellatly Bay to City Park would be about an hour."

Docking the Fintry Queen in City Park accomplishes a number of the objectives sited in Kelowna's "Downtown Plan". It will attract people to the park from the downtown and cultural districts, increase the sense of safety in City Park at night and encourage private sector investment, not only downtown but throughout the Valley. Having the Fintry Queen travelling to all points on Okanagan Lake will honour the past, create an attractive focal point for residents and visitors and provide an immediate answer to "where shall we take our guests today."

The District of West Kelowna has recently approved a budget for the design of new facilities at the old CNR Wharf in Gellatly Bay. "We hope to be before Kelowna City Council, West Kelowna Council and the Regional District Council in the coming weeks, to get the go-ahead for temporary facilities initially

