



Victoria Celebrates Navy's International Fleet Review with *Parade of Nations* Downtown Friday

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – This week, the Canadian Navy is celebrating 100 years of service to Canada with an International Fleet Review. Twelve ships and approximately 8,000 sailors from Canadian and visiting Indo-Pacific Region navies will participate in the review from Wednesday, June 9 to Monday, June 14, 2010 in Greater Victoria.

The fleet review is a Royal Navy tradition that was originally a means of demonstrating the strength of the fleet to a potential enemy in anticipation of going to war. Fleet reviews are extremely rare. The Royal Navy has held less than 50 fleet reviews in its history to mark events such as coronations, royal jubilees, and more recently, the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar in 2005.

Naval ships will begin arriving today. A "Welcome Centre" situated at Ship Point in Victoria's Inner Harbour will serve as a gateway for the visiting sailors. On Friday, there will be a *Parade of Nations* downtown from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Approximately 250 sailors displaying their national flags will march from Ship Point to Wharf Street, along Government Street and the Upper Causeway to the Legislature, turning right onto Belleville Street, left onto Menzies Street, left onto Superior Street and back along Government Street to Ship Point. Intersections and roads will be closed by a "rolling" police road block as the formation progresses along the parade route.

The majority of the week's events will take place at the Royal Roads anchorage in Colwood, including fireworks at 10 p.m. on Friday, with the ceremonial review by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada aboard the HMCS Algonquin at 10 a.m. on Saturday. The fleet review will be followed by an air show consisting of a display by the Canadian Forces SkyHawks Parachute Team at 11:30 a.m., a maritime and search and rescue aircraft flypast at noon, and a performance by the Snowbirds Air Demonstration Team from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday near Fort Rodd Hill.

Activities planned for Navy personnel will include a rock concert on Saturday evening at the Save-On-Foods-Memorial Centre and a variety of sports on Sunday at CFB Esquimalt. The ships will depart Monday morning.

For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca and click on *What's New?*

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