

**Victoria Dragon Boat Festival Society**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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New Chair and Executive Appointments Announced for 2013 Victoria Dragon Boat Festival  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 18 February 2013  
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**Victoria, B.C.-**

The Victoria Dragon Boat Festival Society (VDBFS) held its Annual General Meeting on January 29, 2013 at the Inn at Laurel Point and is pleased to announce the new appointments to the Board's Executive Committee.

Mark Mawhinney has been appointed as the new Chair of the Victoria Dragon Boat Festival Society Board of Directors. Mark is an entrepreneur and Certified Management Accountant. Before the age of thirty he founded, built and sold two successful businesses and is currently an investor in two startup technology companies. He consults privately on matters of corporate development and strategy for private and public sector clients ranging from five person startups to \$300 million private enterprises. He recently concluded nine years on the UBC Alumni Association Board of Directors and continues to co-chair the UBC Alumni Centre Committee building a new \$20 million Alumni Centre for UBC. In 2006 he co-founded the J. Donald Mawhinney QC Lecture in Legal Ethics and Professionalism for the UBC's Faculty of Law, Canada's premier lecture for the legal profession and law students regarding ethics in the practice of law. In 2009 he was awarded the CMA Society of BC's province wide "Top Talent Award" for those Certified Management Accountants exhibiting leadership and academic excellence. He has sat on several "Dragon's Den" style panels for Royal Roads University and the University of Victoria judging student business plans. Mark is a member of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce and sits on its Policy and Government Affairs Committee.

Tony Joe continues as Vice-Chair of the Victoria Dragon Boat Festival Society. A born and raised Victorian and local Real Estate Agent, he is Past President of the Victoria Real Estate Board with additional community involvement including Rotary International, Knights of Columbus and International Order of Odd Fellows. He is also a board member of the Victoria Hospice Foundation and Anawim Companions Society and is an organizer of the 2011, 2012 and 2013 Victoria Chinatown Night Markets.

Ken Yao continues in the role of Treasurer. Ken is a senior professional with a medium size accounting firm in Victoria. He earned a Bachelor of Commerce (Dean's list) from the University of Victoria in 2008 and received his Chartered Accountant designation in 2010. Ken specializes in small to medium sized owner-managed businesses and provides a full range of professional accounting, auditing, income tax and consulting services. He is also a member of the Canadian Tax Foundation and one of the listed tax advisors with experience in United Nation Pensions. Outside of work, Ken enjoys spending time with his family and volunteering at various local events.

Shannon Holms joined the VDBFS in late 2012 and has recently stepped into the role as Secretary. Currently working for the B.C. government, Shannon brings deep knowledge and experience in business communications, international marketing, project management and business transformation. Her work has been honored with government awards in leadership, teamwork and innovation. Shannon has also obtained a Bronze Quill and a Silver Leaf Award of Excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators. A strong believer in volunteering, Shannon has also supported Timmy's telethon, local ethnic dancing and fundraising for Mt. Douglas High school's cheerleading team.

The Board also recognized Mark Grey-Dreaper for guiding the VDBFS during a successful two-year term as Chair that saw the festival grow and flourish. He will continue to serve on the Board.

The Victoria Dragon Boat Festival Society hosts the popular Victoria Dragon Boat Festival, now entering its 19th year. The annual event, which takes place every August in Victoria's Inner Harbour, is a celebration of the sights, sounds and flavours of Victoria's multicultural community. The traditional Chinese dragon boat races featured

during the Festival attract up to 90 teams from across North America to Victoria's downtown.

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