

# COURTENAY SOCIETY GATHERING IN CANADA

JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> 2008

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE FORTHCOMING TOUR IN CANADA.

*We are pleased to announce the Earl and Countess of Devon, Lord and Lady Courtenay and baby Joscelyn Skye, Lady Katherine Watney, Lady Paulina and husband Bernard Hadley plan to attend.*

The inspiration for this tour can be traced back to 1848 when under the command of Captain George William Conway Courtenay the HMS Constance dropped anchor in Esquimalt Harbour near Victoria, British Columbia. The impact of his arrival resonates today. Local legend claims that Captain Courtenay's name was given to the Courtenay River that flows through the city to the Comox Harbour on the north easterly side of Vancouver Island. Others say the Courtenay River was named after a surveyor Rev. J. H. Courtenay. What is the reality? Who could resist being transported back to 1848 to explore both fact and fiction while enjoying some of the finest scenery on this planet?

For some the tour will begin in Calgary, Alberta where the group will travel through Canada's spectacular Rocky Mountains by a two day train ride or a 4 day Coach trip where you will walk on glaciers, hike and breathe the exquisitely fresh mountain air. This leg of the trip will terminate in Vancouver on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Vancouver, the primary destination is one of the world's most beautiful cities. On Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>, an optional three hour tour will cover the highlights of this fabulous city. There will be time to shop and explore. The "Star Attraction" of the weekend will be the Sunset Cruise aboard the Star of Vancouver Yacht that will include a BBQ Salmon Dinner, music and dancing while the ship cruises the waters surrounding downtown Vancouver, by Canada Place, under the Lion's Gate bridge and around Stanley Park. The next day an optional five hour Coach Tour of Vancouver's North Shore will include such highlights as a visit to the Capilano Suspension Bridge with its forest canopy walkway, and a Gondola ride up to the top of Grouse Mountain to see Grizzly Bears in a Mountain top Refuge.

From Vancouver the group will travel via a ferry to Vancouver Island. On route to the grand and gracious capital city of Victoria a visit to Buchart Gardens is offered. Or if raining, people can continue into Victoria and explore the famous Royal British Columbia Museum. In the early evening the group will stroll to the Empress Hotel for a refreshment of choice in the popular Bengal Lounge, reminiscent of British Colonial Days in India. The walk will continue along the Harbour front to the renowned Swan's Inn Brew Pub for dinner. The Swan's Pub is a reflection of the imagination of its former owner, a man of elegantly diverse tastes in art and friends.

The Earl and Countess of Devon and their party will be received by the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia at Government House on Tuesday morning June 17<sup>th</sup>. In the afternoon the entourage will visit the Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt (Naden) and learn first hand the details of the Courtenay connection with Captain George William Conway Courtenay while visiting the Military Museum, Commodore's House and the Military Cemetery.

On Wednesday the group will say Goodbye to Victoria and Hello to Courtenay. Heading northward along the Malahat Highway there will be short stops at points of interest, like Pioneer House in Duncan and the charming town of Chemainus to witness the amazing result of a town whose industry died but was resurrected by residents who worked together to transform it into a world famous unique tourist attraction....  
Ahoy ye Maties! 'Tis a Pirates lunch for you in Nanaimo Harbour!

That evening in Courtenay BC a casual dinner will be at Tomato Tomato restaurant followed by a leisurely stroll along the River Walkway beside the Courtenay River. The Comox Valley's Tsolum River and Puntledge River merge to become the Courtenay River. The Courtenay River Estuary is considered to be one of the most important wintering sites in the world for the protected Trumpeter Swans. Thursday June 19<sup>th</sup> the tour begins at the Courtenay District Museum & Paleontology Center followed by lunch hosted by the Mayor of Courtenay. The group will travel a half hour by coach to the foot of Mount Washington and ride the chairlift to the top to see the astounding 360 degree view of ocean, islands and the Beaufort Mountain Range named after Francis Beaufort. The evening's dinner will be hosted by the MLA for Comox Valley, the Honorable Stan Hagen, Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts.

On Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> the destination is Campbell River 30 miles north of Courtenay where the group will be greeted by the Mayor of Campbell River at the new Museum of Campbell River followed by a tour of Museum that has been rated as top museum in BC in the 50,000 and under population. An optional 4 hour Marine Tour is available for the free spirits in the crowd. The "landlubbers" can walk the harbour front that is dotted with a fascinating array of fishing and pleasure boats or explore the charming little shops near their hotel. Hugs and final farewells will be shared at dinner at Painter's Lodge at Campbell River that will feature a West Coast BBQ.

Full or partial tour...the choice is yours. Calgary, Vancouver or Victoria. Your next Courtenay Society Newsletter in November will carry the full details. Please reply by October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 if you have an interest in joining the group to: Doug Courtney, [douglc@hotmail.com](mailto:douglc@hotmail.com) c.c. to Carolyn Robertson Grant [carolynrgrant@shaw.ca](mailto:carolynrgrant@shaw.ca)