

The **Pier Street Association** is once again hosting the **Save-on Foods Van Isle 360 International Yacht Race** when they arrive in Campbell River on **Monday June 8th 2009**

This is the **10th Anniversary** of the 580 NM race around Vancouver Island starting on June 6th in Nanaimo and ending on June 21st in Nanaimo. So far 29 boats have registered however there is still lots of time left and they expect more to come forward.

The yachts are expected to start arriving in Campbell River on June 8th, anytime after noon, depending on the wind and tides, and will continue to sail in until about 6pm.



There will be a **party on the dock from about 4 – 8pm**. We are encouraging the townspeople to come down to the wharf for a hot dog and refreshments (by donation) where there will also be musical entertainment. There will be Pier Street volunteers meeting and greeting the boaters / visitors and the townspeople.

This event is meant to bring the spotlight to the Pier Street Area of Campbell River. We hope you will join us in welcoming the Van Isle 360 Yachters to our community.

What is the Save-on-Foods Van Isle 360 International Yacht Race....

The Save On Foods Van Isle 360 is a biennial, 580 nm. point to point race circumnavigating wild and rugged Vancouver Island, B.C. Sailed in ten legs the course provides inshore, offshore and overnight legs through some of the world's most challenging and beautiful waters

After blasting out of Nanaimo harbour on June 6th, the fleet proceeds north around Vancouver Island stopping at: French Creek, Comox, Campbell River, Hardwicke Island, Telegraph Cove, Port Hardy, Ucluelet, Victoria and finishing back in Nanaimo on June 21st.

History of the Van Isle 360° International Yacht Race

The first organized yacht race around Vancouver Island was developed in 1986 by a couple of long haired, bearded multihull sailors; Wayne Gorrie, the current race director of the Van Isle 360°, and Steve Knight from Okanagan Spring Brewery. In those days the event, co-sponsored by the Coast Hotels and the Anchorage Marina, was known as the "Coast Hotels Around the Island Race". The venue was very similar to today's Van Isle 360° except that it took place over eight legs instead of ten. Yachts were also encouraged to seek sponsorship and Wayne Gorrie's catamaran 'Solar Heat' was sponsored by the General



Motors dealer 'Tom Harris Chevrolet Cadillac'. Twenty five boats signed up for the event, which had an entry fee of \$1,000, but the starting gun was never fired. Unfortunately sponsored yachting was frowned upon in Canada in those days and the event was forced to cancel.

Fast forward to 1999 and the Cadillac Van Isle 360° International Yacht Race is born. This first year the fledgling event, billed as the "Ambassador's Edition", attracted a remarkable 14 boats. The Ambassador's Edition was intended to be just a trial run to test the course and determine if the venue, a race around Vancouver Island done in stages and on a timetable, was really possible..... It was a huge success!!!!

The race ran for three consecutive years, each year attracting more and more boats, media attention and supporters. Following the 2001 race, the organizing authority, needing a break, made the decision to run the event every other year on the odd year, off setting the Vic Maui race. The next race, 2003, was a banner year, attracting a record number of entries and selling out by early January. The Canadian Navy offered support vessels, new course records were set and television and movie crews followed the entire race.

Now in its seventh year the Van Isle 360° has grown into one of the most respected and exciting yacht races on the entire west coast, with international media coverage, heart stopping drama and superb racing action.

The Coast Hotels & Resorts and Okanagan Spring Brewery are still major sponsors of the race and Cadillac, who was brought to the event through the Tom Harris Chevrolet, Cadillac connection remained the Title Sponsor of this exciting international yacht race from 1999 until 2008.

In March 2009 Save On Foods took over as Title Sponsor and the event was renamed the Save On Foods Van Isle 360 International Yacht Race.



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