

Holidays on the High Seas



Photo courtesy of The Vancouver Port Authority.

Shipping sulphur and ethylene glycol around the world sounds adventurous and exciting, but the busy schedules of these ships doesn't always allow for holiday time. What do the crew and captain do to celebrate the holiday season on board their ships? We interviewed Agripino Medel, the Chief Officer of the Panamax Power to find out how he and the crew will celebrate their holiday season on the high seas.

The 200 meter long Panamax Power typically ships sulphur from Canada to China. Agripino Medel is from the Philippines, in a city called Pangasinan. He has been working on the Panamax Power for 4 months, but he started working on ships in 1982 as a seaman.

Agripino will be on the ship over the holidays instead of back in the Philippines with his family. The



Chief Officer Agripino Medel tells Channels what it's like to celebrate the holidays on board the Panamax Power.

Philippines is the only Asian country where the majority of its people are Roman Catholic. Christmas is an extremely important and revered holiday for most Filipinos. It is a time for family, sharing, giving, and a time for food and fun.

Being on board a ship is no exception and Agripino says that this year they will have a special dinner on Christmas, and cook a whole roasted pig! Since most of the ship is Filipino, they will also celebrate with 7 or 8 other traditional Filipino foods and drinks. Agripino also mentions that to make the day fun he will hold several contests on board for the crew with prizes for the winners.

"If I am at home during the holidays, especially Christmas or New Years, we prepare something, like special food. We also exchange gifts and do karaoke, singing one by one, and give prizes" says Agripino, "But I don't have to sing, they make me an exception, because I give the prizes."

His favourite part of the holidays is celebrating New Years. New Years is a time for reflecting on the past year and looking ahead at the next. Most Filipinos try to be with their family during the holidays, it is said that if you're together at the stroke of midnight on New Years you will stay together for the next year.

Agripino doesn't seem worried though since he can call his family during the holidays from the ship. "We have a calling card to contact our families, even when we're not in port" he says, "but the time difference can make it hard to call them sometimes."

Even though they won't be home for the holidays, Agripino and the crew of the Panamax Power will make the most of the holiday season, in the company of friends.



Canadian Pacific Railway's Holiday Train is coming to Port Moody. Photo courtesy of Canadian Pacific Railway.

CPR Holiday Train Returns to Port Moody

Every year The Canadian Pacific Railway Holiday Train finishes its cross-Canada journey in Port Moody, BC. For two weeks in December, the Holiday Train makes its way across the country, stopping in over 100 communities in order to raise donations for local food banks.

Since the Holiday Train's inception in 1999, over \$2.4 million has been raised and 1.2 million pounds of food has been collected for local food banks across Canada and the United States. In Port Moody, all collected donations are given to the SHARE Society, an organization to which PCT has contributed close to \$10,000 since 2004.

Covered in almost 200,000 LED lights that blink red, green and other festive

colours, the Holiday Train carries Canadian musicians Wide Mouth Mason and Melanie Doane. They will sing carols and bring holiday cheer to the residents of each community. At each event, hot chocolate and warm apple cider are served, and a special guest appearance is made by a genuine celebrity, Santa Claus.

The train rolls into Port Moody on Queen St., at Clark Ave on Tuesday, December 18 at 9:30pm. Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the SHARE society. PCT has been a proud supporter of the CPR Holiday Train for the past 3 years.

For more information about the CPR Holiday Train, visit their website at www.cpr.ca



Happy Holidays

from Your Friends at Pacific Coast Terminals

On behalf of myself and the entire staff at Pacific Coast Terminals, I would like to wish each and every resident of Port Moody best wishes for the holiday season.

There is so much that makes Port Moody special at this time of year, from the CPR Holiday Train to The Port Moody Station's annual Holiday Heritage Tea. We, at PCT, are proud to call this community our home, and to offer our support to many of its events and organizations. We look forward to the coming years and to growing with this remarkable city.

Wishing you and your family peace and joy in the coming year, happy holidays Port Moody.

Sincerely,

Ken Catton

Vice-president and General Manager
Pacific Coast Terminals Co. Ltd.



Jim Gibney Retires After 16 Years with PCT

A typical work day for the Manager of Operations is anything but typical. But after 16 years with PCT Jim Gibney is retiring.

“Working here has been a great opportunity for me. PCT has always actively encouraged employees to get involved in the community” says Jim. “It’s been a great chance for me to interact with Port Moody residents and get to know my neighbours.”

Jim has been involved in several community projects and events over the years. He sat on the Port Moody Official City Plan Committee and was an industry representative on the CP Port Moody Liaison Committee, which addressed issues with the railway and the community.

Jim had many memorable moments and picking just one was hard, but he did say that over the years the terminal has gone through some major technological improvements such as computerized systems. Getting the chance to be a part of those changes is what he enjoyed the most.

Good luck Jim. PCT and Port Moody will miss you!



Community Leaders Talk About Their Seasonal Traditions

Port Moody MP Dawn Black and Port Moody – Westwood MLA Iain Black share their holiday traditions.

What is your favourite part about the Holiday Season?

DB: Every year I look forward to the time I will spend with family and friends, enjoying good food and good company.

IB: The rush and excitement during the build-up to Christmas, and then when it finally arrives I love how time just seems to stop while you get to enjoy spending time with your family.

What holiday tradition do you enjoy the most?

DB: I have always felt that there was something really special about Christmas stockings. Often filled with the smallest and simplest of gifts, they are by far the most exciting part of Christmas day for me.

IB: I really enjoy going to church on Christmas Eve, the music, the stillness and the focus on peace is incredible. My family also puts up our Christmas tree together which is a very special tradition.

Are there any seasonal traditions that you find interesting that you don't participate in?

DB: I have many friends from Scandinavia, who have regaled me with stories of their traditional Scandinavian Christmas Eve festivities. I think it would be interesting to witness this first hand.

IB: I've never gone carolling, but I think the idea of going from house to house would give you a great sense of community and reinforces the Christmas spirit.

What unique holiday tradition(s) does your family share together?

DB: It's not so unique, but I think it's very special to share gifts around the Christmas tree with my children and grandchildren.

IB: This may sound silly, but on Christmas day I take pride in setting the table for dinner, I go all out. Table runners, candles, pinecones, napkins folded in a special way. I like picking themes and colours and I know everyone enjoys it when we all sit down and eat.

How will you celebrate the holidays this year?

DB: For many years, my family and I have marked the start of the holiday season with the Hyack Santa Claus parade.

IB: This year we are not only hosting Christmas dinner, but both my wife and I were born near Christmas, and are both turning 40 this year. It's going to make things even more festive since we're having quite a few friends and family out from Winnipeg and Vancouver Island to celebrate with us.

What is your favourite holiday food/treat?

DB: Definitely shortbread. It is so deliciously bad for you; I only let myself eat it during the holidays.

IB: Christmas pudding with hot custard, I usually have three or four helpings no matter how full I am after dinner.

The Port's City Scene



Photo courtesy of the Port Moody Station Museum.

ALL ABOARD for Holiday Tea at the Port Moody Station Museum

The Port Moody Station Museum is bringing old fashioned Christmas cheer to Port Moody residents on board the Venosta, a 1921 passenger car. For over 7 years the museum has hosted this annual event and has become one of the most popular family events to visit.

This Christmas, the Port Moody Station Museum is again hosting the Holiday Tea and guests can enjoy assorted tea and treats in the cozy, vintage ambience of the Venosta.

Date: December 9, 16 and 23.

Location: Port Moody Station

Museum, 2734 Murray St. Port Moody (next to Rocky Point)

Time: 1-4 pm

Tickets: \$5 per person at the door

For more information, call 604-939-1648 or email pmmuseum@telus.net

Treasures of Christmas 2007

The 14th annual "Treasures of Christmas" gala fundraiser was again a success. PCT is a proud sponsor of this memorable evening of fabulous food, terrific entertainment and a wonderful silent and live auction is designed to raise money for the Crossroads Hospice Society. Tony Parsons, lifetime patron and Global BC

news anchor, was the emcee for the evening. The gala took place on Friday, November 23rd and was held at the Red Robinson Show Theatre in Coquitlam.

Kyle Centre Seniors' Christmas Lunch

PCT is pleased to support this special Christmas celebration at the Kyle Centre. A hot turkey lunch is prepared and served to seniors by members of the Community Integration Services Society – which offers career training to adults with disabilities. This is a wonderful event for both the seniors and the Community Integration Services Society. The children from the Lindbjerg Academy will be providing festive entertainment as you enjoy a delicious lunch.

Date: December 11th

Location: Kyle Center, Port Moody

Time: 11:30 am – 1:30pm

Tickets: \$6 members, \$9 non-members

For more information, call 604-469-4561

Food for Thought



We're looking for feedback on Channels! Log on to www.pct.ca and complete the six question survey and you will automatically be entered to win a dinner for two at the *Saint St. Grill* in Port Moody.

All questionnaires must be completed by January 15, 2008.

Contact Information

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Your comments and contributions are welcome. Please forward them to: Ken Catton, Vice-President and General Manager or email: pctinfo@pct.ca

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