



James Bay Neighbourhood Association

234 Menzies St., Victoria, B.C., V8V 2G7

www.jbna.org

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Victoria 2011 - Dirty Air Cruise-Ship of the Year Awards

The James Bay Neighbourhood Association (JBNA) Board presents the inaugural, and hopefully last, Victoria Dirty Air Cruise-Ship of the Year Awards.

Winner of the **Individual Ship Category** is *Crystal Symphony*, a ship owned by Crystal Cruises of Los Angeles, flagged out of Bahamas. The highest single ship-in-port one-hour emissions reading occurred on June 24, 2011.

Winners of the one-hour **Team Category** are Carnival's Holland America's *Amsterdam*, Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Infinity* and Royal Caribbean's *Rhapsody of the Seas* for their joint emissions of June 9.

Winners were chosen from the 'raw' one-hour data readings taken from the single sulphur dioxide (SO₂) monitoring station installed near Victoria Harbour for the 2011 cruise ship season. Unfortunately, readings provide data for only one site in the community. Since the ship's plume goes with the wind, to better evaluate the performance of the cruise-ships in port, the JBNA Board sought funding for several sites to give more complete information to the community and industry on a real-time basis.

Applying the **Polluter Pay Principle**, JBNA requested monitoring-site funding contributions from cruise-ship lines using Victoria as a port-of-call on voyages from Seattle or San Francisco. This profitable multi-billion dollar industry responded that the cruise lines are not "prepared to entertain" such a request.

In 2009, air quality monitoring revealed maximum 24 hour SO₂ levels often to be far above the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline. No harbour SO₂ monitoring was done in 2010. Although black smoke was not common in 2011 and the pollution was less, foul air continued to be experienced.

We are pleased, upon viewing the 2012 cruise-ship schedule, to learn that *Crystal Symphony* will not be visiting Victoria in 2012. It is also hoped that after August, the ships emissions will be in compliance with the North American Emission Control Area (ECA) standards: hoped because no enforcement program to ensure compliance in Victoria Harbour has been announced. JBNA has been working with government authorities towards the filling of the ECA regulatory gap.

More information, reports and studies on the cruise-ship industry and its impact on the lives of Victoria residents can be found on the JBNA Environment page at www.jbna.org

For more information contact:

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