



Rings lit the harbour, CCGS VECTOR warmed patrollers

For 100 days prior to, and for the duration of, the Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games in February and March 2010 this set of 45-ft diameter Olympic rings was lit up and visible for miles, as well as across the world via TV broadcast. The rings, containing a total of 56,000 LED lights, were erected on Seaspan International's 321-ft flat-deck barge the NP 70. With a height of 70-ft plus above sea level the barge was located just off Stanley Park so it wouldn't be a hazard to the heavy floatplane traffic in Coal Harbour. Vancouver Piledriving drove four temporary piles to hold the barge in position. In the photo (above) CCGS VECTOR is alongside the NP70, the hovercraft CCGH STYAY (page opposite) is off the ship's bow and a Coast Guard MBB-BO-105 helicopter is aloft. Also in the photo is the VECTOR's RIB, VECTOR I and the cabin RIB MOORHEN. The VECTOR was positioned in Vancouver Harbour for the duration of the games to provide SAR and environmental response support and as an additional surveillance platform. With so many small and open patrol craft out on the exposed harbour 24/7 doing marine security patrols for the Integrated Security Unit (ISU), the VECTOR also played a large role in building inter-agency camaraderie by offering brief respites from the elements to patrollers, including coffee, a rest stop and the Coast Guard's renowned chocolate chip cookies fresh from the ship's galley (inset photo).



Western Mariner contributing photographer Chuck Heath and editor Rob Morris were on the former's extug WORKING GIRL (inset photo; originally built in 1945 during WWII as a ship-to-shore tender for the Royal Canadian Navy by Andy Linton's Coal Harbour, Vancouver shipyard) when they sidled up a little too close to the security boom around the cruise ships at Centerm (see photo on page 41). WORKING GIRL was intercepted by an RCMP RIB engaged in the continued post-Olympics security patrols by the ISU (Integrated Security Unit) in the harbour. The word from the officer was to stay 50 metres off any booms delineating marine security zones. The RCMP-led ISU was responsible for security, on land and water, for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games and was comprised of the RCMP, Canadian Forces and 118 law enforcement agencies from across Canada.

