

History of RVYC

The year 2003 marks the Centennial of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club which was founded on February 5th 1903 as the Vancouver Yacht Club, just seventeen years after Vancouver was incorporated.

The Club set up its first headquarters in a small rented house at the foot of Thurlow Street in Coal Harbour and proudly counted eighteen yachts in its fleet! However, the Club soon built a two-story floating Clubhouse on a leased waterlot in Coal Harbour. In 1905 it was towed to a new site in the shelter of Deadman's Island, close to our present Coal Harbour location. This building was later hoisted onto the beach in Stanley Park and used as a spar shed until 1977.

In 1906, permission was granted to use the prefix "Royal", and for Members to fly the Blue Ensign. The present RVYC Burgee, incorporating the Royal Crown, was designed that year.

The Club continued to expand, and in 1927, a permanent Clubhouse was officially opened at Jericho on English Bay.

In 1978, the Club completed further expansion and modification work as membership growth approached 1400 Active and Associate Members.

In 1996, another very substantial enlargement/refurbishing, taking nearly a year to complete, prepared the main Jericho Clubhouse for the twenty-first century. At this time the number of Active and Associate Members exceeded 1600.

In the period between 1960 and 1993, the Club also continued to expand by acquiring seven Offshore Stations in several areas of the spectacular BC cruising grounds.

Present membership includes: 1927 Active and Associate Members; 391 Intermediate Members; and 445 Junior Members. In addition, there are 474 Non-Resident Members; 1382 Affiliate Spouses; and 388 Special, Honorary, Honorary Life and life Members.

The fleet numbers 557 sailing yachts and 656 power yachts berthed at Coal Harbour and Jericho Stations or moored elsewhere.