

# Canadian Sailings | Transportation & Trade Logistics

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## Big new tug for Vancouver

### SPECIAL REPORT:

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# Big new tug for Port Metro Vancouver

By MARK WILSON

Seaspan International Ltd. has commissioned the largest tractor tug to serve Port Metro Vancouver. The Seaspan Resolution develops 6,000 horsepower and will divide its time between Vancouver's inner harbour and coal and container terminals at Roberts Bank, 35 kilometres to the south.

A commissioning ceremony for the escort and docking tug was held at Seaspan's North Vancouver operations centre on June 30. The guest of honour was Mona Hendriksen, wife of Claus Hendriksen, president of Empire Shipping Agency Ltd. Empire, the premier vessel husbanding agent on the West Coast, has used the services of Seaspan since its formation in 1970 through a merger of Island Tug and Vancouver Tug. Doug Towill, Seaspan's vice-president of marine services, said the addition to the fleet of a tug costing nearly \$18 million during a severe economic downturn is a positive event.

Seaspan Resolution was built in Tacoma, Wash., by J.M. Martinac Shipbuilding Corp., to a design by Vancouver marine architects Robert Allen Ltd. It is closely similar to two other tractor tugs from the Martinac yard that are in U.S. service, one under charter to Foss Maritime.



Seaspan Resolution is the largest tractor tug to serve Port Metro Vancouver.

"The word we get from Foss is that they are very pleased with their tug," Capt. Towill said. "We will be evaluating Seaspan Resolution and will assess the need for other tugs of this power as time goes on."

Seaspan went out to competitive bid on the construction of Seaspan Resolution after sister company Vancouver Shipyards Co. Ltd. was unable to do the work because of other contracts.

Seaspan Resolution (469 gross tons) has a length of 27.92 metres

and breadth of 12.19 metres. Depth is 5.38 metres.

Capt. Towill said one feature is a winch that can be preset so that tension never exceeds the bollard strength of the ship it is assisting. The tug will be operated by a skipper and deckhand in sheltered waters, taking on an engineer for assignments farther afield.

The 12-knot Seaspan Resolution can do the trip between the inner harbour and Roberts Bank in two to three hours.

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