

Reprint **Island Tides**

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Reprint from Volume 15 Number 19

December 18, 2003

Many years before the mast

BC Ferries was started by WAC Bennett in 1960, and so a significant number of employees have been with the company for many years. In the BC Ferry and Marine Workers' Union there are 2520 'Permanent' employees and 1712 'Casual' on-call employees, a total of 4232.

Six hundred and fifty of the Permanent employees have been with BC Ferries over 20 years, another 400 between 15 and 20 years, and another 920 between 10 and 15 years. This makes a total of 1970 employees, nearly half the staff, who have spent over 10 years with the company. No wonder they start to look familiar.

Five hundred more of the Permanents have been aboard between 5 and 10 years, with just 50 having less than 5 years' service.

Most of the newer employees, in fact are still 'Casuals'. You have to be a Casual for a long time before you get to be a Permanent. One employee has been a Casual for over 15 years; 11 have been there for over 12 years; another 37 between 10 and 12 years. Of the rest, 485 have been Casuals for between 5 and 10 years, and 1178 for less than 5 years.

Now, how about the passengers? How many of them have been riding the ferries for more than 20 years? /

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'This article was published (December 18, 2003) in 'Island Tides', an independent, regional newspaper distributing across the Southern Strait of Georgia from Tsawwassen to Victoria to Nanaimo.'

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'This article was published (September 11, 2003) in 'Gulf Islands, Island Tides'. 'Island Tides' is an independent, regional newspaper distributing 15,000-20,000 copies in the Southern Strait of Georgia from Tsawwassen to Victoria, BC.'

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