

It has taken me quite some time to begin rational thinking regarding the Christmas Cruise and all the money we lost this year. Cancelling the cruise was one of the saddest things I have done but it was very necessary.

Many LIONS have sent notes indicating cancellation to be the best course of action for the safety of all. Two of the participants returned to Vancouver Island the same day of the cancelation, but were very fortunate because the ferry system shut down immediately following their trip across. The winds in Active Pass were a steady 50 knots with gusts up to 70 knots. They indicated that the ferries were listing up to 20 or 30 degrees. It was the last run for the day until the winds died off. The other side of the Gulf of Georgia took the main force of the wind but it was bad here.

As to the program, we suffered a substantial loss because all food, toys, gift packages had been purchased and made ready on the ship. We are hoping that those who contributed to the Cruise will allow their contributions to remain and those clubs that were waiting our arrival; although disappointed, will give their usual contribution to cover the expenditures for this weather-caused failure.

We do plan to continue the program next year and recognize this year as the only time the Santa ship did not make the trip since beginning this project.

The committee wishes all a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.
DG Don



Lions International Christmas Ship



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