



Save the Date for Boat for Hope June 8th, 2024

Join us for our 26th *Boat for Hope*

We are happy to announce that our one and only *Boat for Hope* event is returning this year and will be happening on Saturday, June 8.

How Boat for Hope came to be

In 1998, James Safronek spoke with some of his close friends about a dream of sharing his love of boating with children and their families who were not as fortunate as he was. James knew that experiencing the open water was something not everyone had an opportunity to do. It didn't take long for these friends to put a plan in place and *Boat for Hope* was soon born.

Variety's *Boat for Hope* event began in 1999 bringing together fun and fundraising while providing a one-of-a-kind boating experience to children living with special needs.

Every year we continue to bring many valued skippers, sponsors and volunteers together ... many of whom support the event year after year. James' vision of *Boat for Hope* continues and what started in Vancouver as an idea – and a dream – has inspired others around the world to host similar events. We, as a Committee, also take great pride in having hosted over 9,000 kids on the water and raising over \$2.5 million for Variety - the Children's Charity of BC.



What to look forward to at this year's Boat for Hope



Boat for Hope is a day of pirate-themed adventure for 400+ children, their families and caregivers totalling as many as 900 participants. The morning begins by boarding boats docked at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club and heading out into False Creek for what becomes an hour-and-a-half of fun-filled pirate adventure. Once out on the seas of False Creek, they will stop by a number of "Treasure Stations" where generous sponsors deliver some bounty (loot bags) for the children to

take home. During this time, many "marauders" are out and about causing friendly havoc with pirates they meet engaging in fun water battles on the "high seas". Needless to say, there is never a dull moment during this unique water event with the kids truly feeling like they've been out on a big day at sea fighting real pirates!

Once they have reached all their Treasure Stations, they are brought back to Hastings Mill Park to continue their pirate adventure in our “Treasure Island” activity area. Here they will enjoy a sponsored BBQ lunch as well as many activities which include games, live music, face painting and of course, interactive adventures with even more pirates.

Since its inception, it has become most apparent that *Boat for Hope* is something very special and an event that is looked forward to “more than Christmas”. Through all the years, the most important part has always remained the same for the *Boat for Hope* Committee ... that this event is for both the children and their families **and** that they will attend at no cost and be given the chance to have the best day of the year! This is the true heart of our event and one we will never change.

How you can support Boat for Hope

Boat for Hope is about more than just a day in the sun. Through the generous support of local skippers, the business community and heart-filled volunteers, we are proud to share that in 2023 we raised \$140,000. Our corporate and community partners donate funds, products and employees' time to help make *Boat for Hope* a one-of-a-kind experience for our Variety kids and their families.

If you would like to support our event and BC's kids with special needs, there are a number of ways in which you can including:

- Sponsorship Opportunities
- Silent Auction Item Donations
- Peer-to-Peer Fundraising
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Join as a Skipper



Please take a moment and visit our website at boatforhope.ca where you too will discover the impact of how *Boat for Hope* is perhaps one of the most inspiring and uplifting events you will ever experience. We look forward to seeing you once again on the high seas!

For more information, please contact:

Rick Cassels

Boat for Hope Chair
rcassels@mustangsurvival.com
604-318-4431
boatforhope.ca

Angela Smith

Variety Development Coordinator
angela.smith@variety.bc.ca
604-268-3890
variety.bc.ca

