

## MV GIKUMI: Bruce Jordan and Craig Arkell, shipwrights

PHOTO BY ROB MORRIS



For the first time since she was built in 1953, MV GIKUMI has a different home port. Vancouver naval architect, Robert Allan Sr, drew the plans for Fred Wastell and Alex MacDonald's Broughton Lumber & Trading Co of Telegraph Cove BC, and the builder was the Bisset & Gilstein boatyard in North Vancouver. Jim Borrowman and Bill Mackay acquired GIKUMI in 1983 for their Stubbs Island Charters, which would become BC's pioneering whalewatching company, still based in Telegraph Cove. In 2011, the whalewatching business was sold by Jim and Mary Borrowman and they formed Orcella Expeditions with the GIKUMI, sailing out of the cove. For a complete history see "MV GIKUMI: Three Men and a Boat" and "Stubbs Island Charters: BC's First Whale-watching Business Celebrates a 25th Anniversary" in *Western Mariner*, January '08.

Early this year, John Turpin (Inlet Express Services, Prince Rupert BC) became the proud new owner of MV GIKUMI. Purchased by his company, Searidge Ventures Ltd., GIKUMI will do marine ecotour charters for eight berthed passengers, or up to 40 day-passengers, spanning the coast between Rupert and Victoria BC. But first the vessel's stern structures were overdue for attention.

The GIKUMI was berthed in Quathiaski Cove, Quadra Island (photo right) where shipwright Bruce Jordan removed the deck and deck beams over the past spring. In May '17 he was joined by

Craig Arkell in the rebuilding, which was ongoing in mid-June '17 (photo left). Since 2000, Daigle Marine (Campbell River BC) has built three boats for John Turpin – two small passenger vessels and the landing craft INLET PROVIDER in 2009. Steve Daigle "loaned" Craig, who does interior woodwork on new Daigle boats, to Searidge Ventures for the GIKUMI project. With the deck and five beams removed, Turpin had Lee Andrew (Encompass Marine, Campbell River) plumb in new fresh-

water and grey-water holding tanks. Explorer Yacht Service (Vancouver) installed a chart plotter, AIS and a Raymarine Autopilot. About 20 years ago Bruce Jordan had replaced the original cable steering with the existing Wagner hydraulic ram, and also installed fir deck sections and a dodger.

With GIKUMI came Jim Borrowman's supply of prime Douglas fir and yellow cedar boat lumber (milled from Nimpkish Valley logs around 2000), as well as salvaged gumwood from Australia. The fir was used for the deck beams, yellow cedar for rebuilding the timbered stern and the gumwood for the rail caps. The aft deck will be 3/4-in fir over two layers of fibreglass matt on top of a layer of plywood.

In the photo (above), left to right: Bruce Jordan, John Turpin and Craig Arkell. The GIKUMI will also be involved in Inlet Express Services' ongoing vessel support for BC Hydro and geo-technical/oceanographic work for coastal industry. R.M.



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