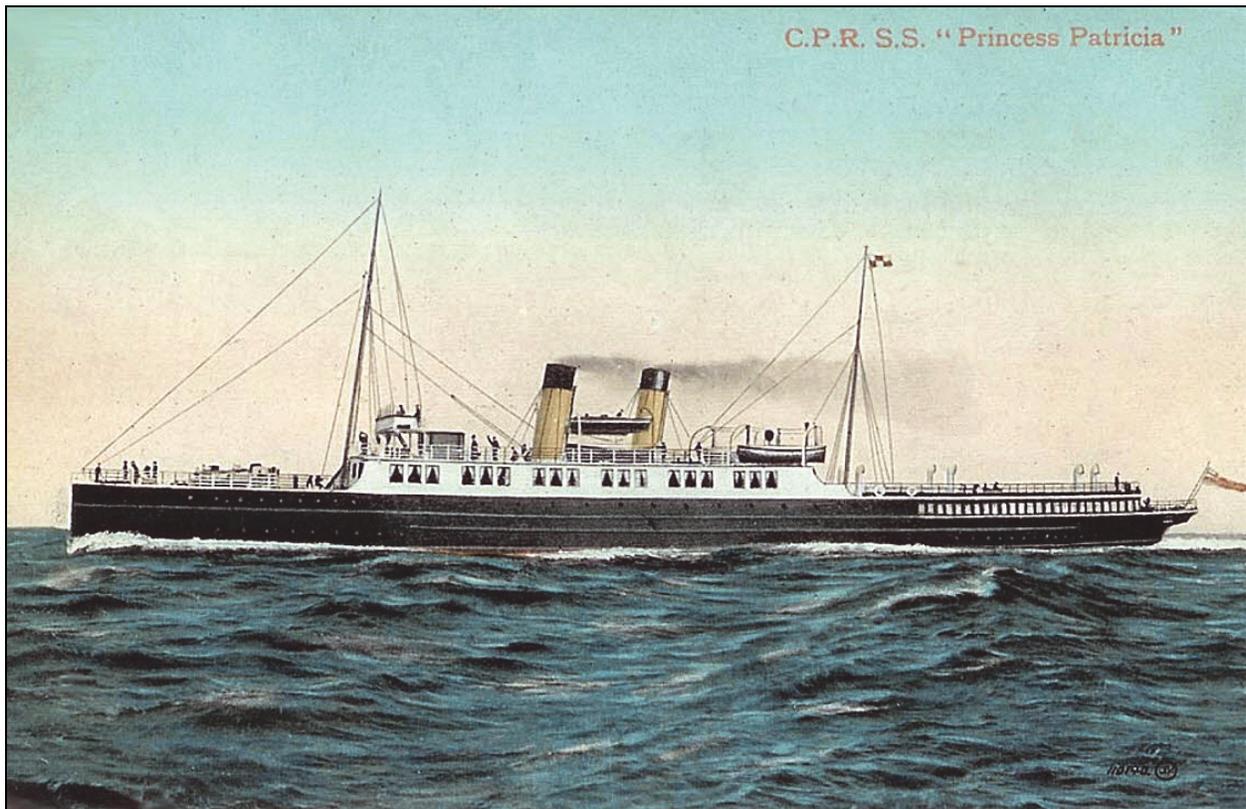


**Stories from the Archives —
A Brief History of the 'S.S. Princess Patricia' on Indian Arm**

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Originally built in 1902 at Dumbarton, Scotland, as the Clyde steamer 'Queen Alexandria', ⁽¹⁾ the ship was sold in 1910 to 'Canadian Pacific Railway' for service on the west coast of Canada. To get there, it had to sail round Cape Horn through the Straits of Magellan — the Panama Canal was not yet open — in what was described by her delivery crew as an "awful" voyage. ⁽²⁾

"The propelling machinery consists of three separate turbines, each driving its own line of shafting, the centre turbine being high pressure, the others low pressure. At the ordinary steaming speed, the centre shaft gives 700 and the other shafts 1,000 revs a minute. This high-velocity renders it necessary to employ a number of screw propellers of comparatively small diameter rather than one or two of large diameter at the stern, as usual. This vessel has five propellers, one about 4-foot diameter on the center line of shafting, and two of 3-foot diameter on each of the side lines of shafting. Steam is supplied by a double-ended cylindrical Scotch boiler at 150 lb. pressure. During the builders' trials, she attained a speed of 21.63 knots an hour [40 kph]". ⁽³⁾



Hand-coloured photographic postcard (Source: http://www.simplonpc.co.uk/CPR_Local/PPatricia-02_ex-Clyde_900.jpg).

C.P.R. Turbine Steamship 'S.S. Princess Patricia' — built in 1902 at Dumbarton, Scotland, and named the 'Queen Alexandria' — 270 feet long and 32 feet wide. ⁽¹⁾

In 1911, the steel, steam-turbine powered passenger vessel was owned by 'Canadian Pacific Railway Steamship Services', and in 1912 was rebuilt by the original builder 'Denny Brothers'. ⁽¹⁾⁽⁴⁾ The steamship was rechristened 'Princess Patricia' in honour of the daughter of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada. ⁽³⁾

On October 15th, 1913, the steamer 'Princess Patricia' inaugurated the daily C.P.R. ferry service between Nanaimo and Vancouver. ⁽⁵⁾ The steamer operated on the run for a number of years.

During July 1918, the C.P.R. steamer 'Princess Patricia' also participated in the tourist excursion trade, taking passengers up Indian Arm to Wigwam Inn. ⁽⁶⁾⁽⁷⁾⁽⁸⁾



Vancouver Public Library (VPL 3096), photograph by Leonard Frank.

C.P.R. Turbine Steamship 'S.S. Princess Patricia' in Vancouver Harbour, 1914.

In 1932, she was laid-up at Esquimalt, B.C. In 1937, she was owned by 'Capital Iron & Metals Co.', Victoria, BC, for breaking-up. ⁽¹⁾

References:

- (1) Nauticapedia Online Vessel Database:
[http://www.nauticapedia.ca/dbase/Query/Shiplist4.php?&name=Princess%20Patricia%20\(1\)&id=21477&Page=1&input=princess%20patricia](http://www.nauticapedia.ca/dbase/Query/Shiplist4.php?&name=Princess%20Patricia%20(1)&id=21477&Page=1&input=princess%20patricia)
- (2) ShipSpotting.com:
<http://www.shipspotting.com/gallery/photo.php?lid=389074>
- (3) "S.S. Princess Patricia – Clyde Steamer for British Columbia", B.C. Saturday Sunset, February 3rd, 1912.
- (4) "S.S. Princess Patricia – CPR Steamship Service", B.C. Saturday Sunset, April 6th, 1912.
- (5) "S.S. Princess Patricia – Operating on the Nanaimo–Vancouver Run", Vancouver Daily World, Saturday, October 18th, 1913, page 18.
- (6) "S.S. Princess Patricia – Wigwam Inn", Vancouver Daily World, Thursday, July 4th, 1918, page 9.
- (7) "S.S. Princess Patricia – Afternoon Cruise to the North Arm", Vancouver Daily World, Friday, July 12th, 1918, page 16.
- (8) "S.S. Princess Patricia – Wigwam Inn Excursion", Vancouver Daily World, Friday, July 26th, 1918, page 16.