

BACKGROUND & STORY IDEAS

About Oak Bay Beach Hotel

Reopened in the fall of 2012, the new Oak Bay Beach Hotel has been completely rebuilt on the same spectacular oceanfront lot where the previous hotel sat for more than 80 years. Oak Bay is a residential community with its own village centre, just six kilometres outside of British Columbia's capital city, Victoria. Today, the Oak Bay Beach Hotel offers 100 hotel rooms and 20 luxury residences. Built to five-star standards, hotel amenities include seaside hot mineral pools, a fitness studio, Boathouse Spa & Baths, The Snug pub, the David Foster Foundation Theatre, Kate's Café and a fine-dining restaurant with a 1,600 bottle tasting room. www.oakbaybeachhotel.com.

New for 2015

The Oak Bay Beach Hotel is further enhancing the resort experience with the addition of a seasonal food and drink bar at the edge of the Boathouse Spa & Baths seaside mineral pools. The new bar offers fresh spa-inspired fare paired with craft cocktails, prosecco, wine and beer, and sushi prepared by the hotel's sushi chef, Toshi Minesaki.

Top 10 Things to Know

1. The luxury hotel contains 100 hotel rooms and suites; a full-service spa and seaside heated mineral pools; a cozy pub, gourmet restaurant and dinner show program; and round-the-clock concierge and valet services.
2. Each of the 100 hotel rooms and suites boast residential, marina or panoramic ocean views and are appointed with luxury furnishings such as spa-style tubs and rain showers, fireplaces, oversized windows, flat screen HDTVs, wireless Internet, and more.
3. The Boathouse Spa & Baths offers guests a range of amenities including three outdoor heated seaside mineral pools, a licenced patio with views of the Salish Sea and Mount Baker; an outdoor gas fire pit; steam sauna; and fitness studio.
4. The hotel offers food and beverage options in The Snug pub, The Dining Room, Kate's Café, at the poolside bar (seasonal), and in-room dining.
5. The hotel has an abundance of soft adventure, rejuvenation and relaxation, and sightseeing opportunities for guests. Activities range from spa treatments, to water aerobics, yoga classes, dinner shows, movie nights, and offsite activities can be arranged such as golf, cycling, culinary tours, hiking, kayaking and Stand-Up Paddling (SUP) tours to Discovery Island, whale watching, and chartered fishing.
6. The Oak Bay Beach Hotel has access to two of Victoria's most prestigious and exclusive private golf courses – the seaside Victoria Golf Club (the oldest golf club in Canada and one of the top courses in the county) and the challenging Uplands Golf Club.
7. The hotel features seasonal movie nights and dinner shows in the purpose-built David Foster Foundation Theatre, named after namesake David Foster as part of an ongoing commitment to donate a portion of the proceeds of any event or ticket sold to the David Foster Foundation (www.davidfosterfoundation.com).
8. The hotel also features a number of spaces perfect for meetings, weddings or other events, ranging from an intimate, 8-person boardroom to the David Foster Foundation Theatre, which accommodates up to 300 guests.
9. Two popular and well-attended features of the original hotel, The Snug pub and dinner show program, have been brought back in the new Oak Bay Beach Hotel.
10. The original Oak Bay Beach Hotel, built in 1927 by Major Merston, and was one of the most celebrated hotels of its time. Paying homage to this historic and well-loved building, a number of original materials were used to rebuild windows, beams, bricks and furniture in the new building.

Awards and Accolades

- TripAdvisor Travellers Choice Awards 2015 – Top Luxury Hotels in Canada (#4), Top Hotels in Canada (#9), and Most Romantic Hotels in Canada (#20)
- TripAdvisor Travellers Choice Awards 2014 – Top 25 Hotels in Canada (#8) and Most Romantic Hotels in Canada (#21)
- TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence, 2013 - 2015
- Victoria Real Estate Board Commercial Building Awards – Judges Choice for Overall Excellence and Best Architecture and Use of Site
- Business Excellence Awards – Hospitality/Tourism

Story Ideas

The wellness experience at the Boathouse Spa & Baths

The Boathouse Spa & Baths offers treatments, products and experiences inspired by the magnificent oceanfront setting. The seaside location brings guests to the edge of the Salish Sea for a soak in one of three outdoor heated mineral pools, prior to and following their treatments.

The facilities offer luxurious treatment rooms that are both spacious and tranquil and offer a nurturing space for guests to enjoy a full menu of treatments. The spa also features a steam sauna, manicure and pedicure rooms, three individual massage rooms and one couples massage room. The Boathouse Spa & Baths team recommends adding at least an hour to any spa treatment to make sure guests have time to enjoy a dip before or after their service.

In order to accommodate the increase in spa bookings, from June through October, the property reserves the pool space for spa and hotel guests exclusively, bringing back the popular day access pool passes following the Thanksgiving weekend. The Boathouse Spa & Baths has seen great success in their spa membership program with 75 members and a waitlist of 200 people. Each Spa member receives three monthly services, 10 per cent off all spa retail products, and two day passes for the seaside hot mineral pools each month.

For more information, visit <http://oakbaybeachhotel.com/spa/>

Culinary excellence, from fine dining to casual fare

Each gourmet dish prepared in any of our outlets features locally sourced, fresh and seasonal ingredients.

With menus that change with the seasons to take advantage of BC's best produce, guests dining at The Snug pub will find a balanced selection of dishes, ranging from comfortable classics, such as fish and chips to more refined, modern cuisine. The full-service, limited seating Dining Room offers a refined and approachable menu, featuring locally sourced ingredients, and Kate's Café menu features house-made soups, fresh sandwiches and an assortment of baked goods, both sweet and savoury.

For more information, visit <http://oakbaybeachhotel.com/dining/snug-pub/>

Paying homage to one of Canada's most celebrated hotels

The original Oak Bay Beach Hotel was built on this site in 1927 by Major Merston and was the most celebrated hotel of its time. Unfortunately, that building was completely destroyed in a fire on October 14, 1930, although an exact replica was promptly rebuilt on its ashes. That building, with all its old world charm, became "the place to be, and be seen"

among locals and guests alike. Distinguished guests would dress up in their finest for their grand appearance in the Dining Room each evening.

Despite continuous and extensive renovations and updates, the aged building finally reached the end of its functioning life and, in 2006, the doors to the hotel were ceremoniously closed and removed to be reinstalled in the new Oak Bay Beach Hotel.

Patrons of the former Oak Bay Beach Hotel can return to the newly rebuilt property to take a walk down memory lane as a number of physical elements and furnishings (such as windows, bricks, beams, furniture and artworks) were preserved from the original building in order to be reused in the new hotel. In fact, 95 per cent of the previous Oak Bay Beach Hotel was recycled or reused, with only five per cent going to the local landfill.

For more information, visit <http://oakbaybeachhotel.com/hotel/history/>

Oak Bay Beach Hotel Team

Michelle Le Sage	General Manager
Phil Trott	Assistant General Manager
Eric Rudd	Director of Food & Beverage
Kris Morash	Director of Marketing
Madone Pelan	Senior Sales Manager

Stay Connected

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