



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release:**

#### **Covey Island Boatworks to Expand into Commercial Sector**

**Liverpool, NS, July 12, 2016:** With 37 years experience, a lengthy list of prestigious international awards, and the respect of the recreational boaters along the Eastern Seaboard, Covey Island Boatworks of Lunenburg is poised to expand into commercial boat building, opening operations at Port Mersey Commercial Park near Liverpool, NS.

“We are very excited to once again be building boats for the commercial sector. The Port Mersey Commercial Park and Liverpool area is a great fit allowing us to not only start production immediately but scale our operation to meet the demand. Our initial focus will be on finishing large lobster boats where demand is far greater than production capacity in the province,” said Al Hutchinson, President, Covey Island Boatworks. “Over the past several years, demand has skyrocketed for new boats in the commercial fishing industry, with a 3 – 4 year wait at this point. This is an opportunity for us to fill a need, especially for lobster fishermen. Covey Island Boatworks is best known for their custom built yachts but in their early days built fishing boats as well, up to 50 ft. We have worked with composites since 1979, but typically epoxy resins as opposed to the polyester and vinylester resins. In our new operation we will be finishing and fitting out fiberglass hulls. Port Mersey Commercial Park is ideal for our new venture, and we are excited to begin this new chapter in our company’s history.”

Covey Island’s office is in Lunenburg where they also have a yard focused on repairs and refits. In addition they have a showroom and warehouse where they distribute and sell Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats manufactured by AB Inflatables, Highfield, Achilles, and SEALEGS (amphibious RIBS). Their yard in Riverport will continue to build pleasure yachts, as well as large spars and rigging projects. Hutchinson estimates the staffing at the new facility will initially be 6 -8 workers, which he plans to grow to 15 – 20 as the yard scales production to build more than 1 boat at a time.

“We have been very impressed with the responsiveness of the team in Liverpool (NS Lands and the Mayor), they have been tremendous in accommodating all our needs and welcoming us to the community,” said Hutchinson. The company plans to build two to three vessels at the same time, as more space becomes available to them at Port Mersey. Port Mersey has seen an influx of businesses from a variety of sectors set up on the site since the Commercial Park opened.

“The Region of Queens Council is most happy that Covey Island Boatworks is expanding their business, and we are excited that they have chosen to expand in Queens County. We have skilled workers in the community that they can draw upon, as well as the terrific site at Port Mersey. We wish Alan and his team success in this new venture,” said Christopher Clarke, Mayor of the Region of Queens Municipality.

Covey Island Boatworks was established on one of the LaHave Islands in 1979. They moved to Petit Riviere soon after starting to build pleasure boats. The company has now built more than 90 custom vessels. Following a fire in 2008, the company offices moved to Lunenburg, and set up a yard in Riverport. The land where the Petit Riviere yard operated, was donated by Covey Island Boatworks to the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg; the Municipality developed a community park on the site. In 2010, Covey Island Boatworks expanded by adding a yard in Lunenburg. Covey Island Boatworks was one of the first in North America to build custom yachts to CE standards using their well respected cold molding, strip plank on frame process.

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