



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ARGOSY CRUISES

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## ARGOSY, 60 YEARS IN THE MAKING

**Seattle, WA, June , 2009** - From its humble one-boat beginnings as the Spring Street Water Taxi Company providing basic ferry service, Argosy has grown to 12 vessels and has become the Northwest's largest cruise company. Although it has carried more than eight million passengers, Argosy still proudly remains a family owned and Seattle-based company.

Captain Lynn Campbell founded the Spring Street Water Taxi Company in 1949 by providing ferry service from Seattle to Manchester on the Kitsap Peninsula. In 1950, he launched tours of the Seattle waterfront and with the popularity of this event, he renamed the company Seattle Harbor Tours in 1951.

The 1962 Seattle World's Fair provided Captain Campbell with the opportunity to add regularly scheduled tours to Tillicum Village on Blake Island for authentic Indian baked salmon and incredible dance performances which capture the rich heritage of Northwest coastal tribes.

In the early 1970's, the company added charter cruises to its water tour services and by 1990 Seattle Harbor Tours had added the *Goodtime I, II and III*, the *Spirit of Seattle* and two workboat launches.

Captain Campbell retired from Seattle Harbor Tours in 1990. Soon after, John Blackman and Tom Tougas purchased the company. This was a time of significant growth for the company. Tours were added and expanded to a year-round schedule for the first time, and luxurious charter boats were added to the fleet including the *Celebrations*, *Champagne Lady*, *Lady Mary* and *M/V Kirkland*.

Blackman purchased a majority interest becoming President and general partner. Other partners included Tom Tougas, Kevin Clark, Frank Wiggins and Vince Tougas (also a Captain).

Around this same time the company was renamed Argosy to better reflect the diversity of tours, charters and services offered. (Argosy is Greek meaning *a fleet of ships*.)

In the summers of 1997 and 1998, Argosy joined with local, regional and state government agencies to launch the West Seattle Water Taxi demonstration project, now in its eleventh year.

To bring in the millennium, the 180-foot fine dining ship *Royal Argosy* was designed and built by Nichols Brothers of Whidbey Island, creating a 4-star dining experience for both Argosy's public and private passengers. Group events as large as 600 were now possible.

In January 2006 Blackman retired and Kevin Clark, an investor in Argosy since 1993, purchased a majority interest becoming the new President and continuing to lead the company on a growth course. Three boats went through major renovations and updates, the most recent being a \$1million dollar renovation of the *Spirit of Seattle* in January of 2009.

In the Spring of 2009, Argosy again made another purchase, this time island-based Tillicum Village, where visitors enjoy a memorable and dynamic journey that includes an award winning salmon dinner cooked in traditional Pacific Northwest Coast Indian style and a dazzling stage show *Dance on the Wind*.

Argosy has grown to 75 year round employees and seasonal employment of up to 300. Argosy currently operates 12 vessels from three locations; Kirkland, South Lake Union and the historic downtown Seattle waterfront and has carried more than eight million passengers during its 60 year history.

For more information or to inquire about reservations, call (206) 623-1445, or visit the company's websites at [argosycruises.com](http://argosycruises.com) or [tillicumvillage.com](http://tillicumvillage.com)

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