



SWIFTSURE
MEDIA RELEASE

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RVYC's *Tokolosh* Honours the Memory of Stalwart Crew

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for immediate release

Victoria, BC – When Royal Victoria Yacht Club member Rolf Schmidt first came to Canada in 1984, he quickly set about the task of continuing a long family tradition of sailing and sailboat racing that stretched back almost 50 years. A boat was purchased, a crew was assembled, and a very successful racing program was launched, including the first of many Swiftsure races. Twenty-four years later, and with a new Northstar 30' named *Tokolosh*, 11 additional Swiftsure's have since been sailed. A veteran of the 75-mile Juan de Fuca course, Rolf and his team won this race in their division in 1994.

Just a few days ago, Rolf's daughter and longtime *Tokolosh* tactician Jennifer Schmidt died of lung cancer at the young age of 44. Jennifer sailed 11 Swiftsure's aboard *Tokolosh*, the last one in 2004 shortly after being first diagnosed. "A stalwart crew", says Rolf with pride, "who started sailing as an infant in Capetown SA, and grew up racing Opti's all around Europe". At age 20, when the family moved to Canada, she joined the crew of *Tokolosh* and has sailed actively ever since.

A few days before she died, Rolf asked Jennifer if she would mind if *Tokolosh* set a goal to win the 2008 Juan de Fuca in her honour. "Yes, I would like that", she said in a weak voice, and the plan was cast. Rolf and the team are resolved to take a first-place win this year, in memory of Jennifer and of her dedication to the race.

The 65th Annual Swiftsure International Yacht race starts off Victoria's waterfront on Saturday May 24th at 10:00am. *Tokolosh*, along with 200 other yachts from around the Pacific Northwest, will set their sails to seek victory in one of the world's premier overnight offshore yacht races.

- 30 -

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