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## **Fest offers whale of a time on Vancouver Island's west coast**

From March 15 to 23, 2008, the 22nd Pacific Rim Whale Festival celebrates the migration of 20,000 Grey whales past the west coast of Vancouver Island.

The festival offers nine days filled with more than 75 fun and educational events in Tofino, Ucluelet and the Pacific Rim Nature Reserve.

Stars of this show are the Pacific Ocean's gentle giants, objects of our curiosity, affection and wonder when we see them surface for a few quick seconds. But the beloved whales continue to face extinction or elimination in some parts of the world.

The Pacific Rim Whale Festival is homage to the whale and its continued protection through education.

The festival faces the facts of whaling in an "everything you wanted to know about whaling, but were too afraid to ask" session with Nuu-chah-nulth ethnographer and artist, Ron Hamilton.

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations hereditary whaling Chief Elmer Frank will make a rare public speaking appearance at the festival's closing ceremonies on March 23, joined by the Khowutzun Tzinquaw Dancers from Vancouver Island's Cowichan Valley.

Elsewhere, hands-on marine life education and whale identification activities abound with experts summoned from the Vancouver Aquarium, Royal BC Museum, and Parks Canada for this nine-day agenda to educate, inspire, and raise the spirit while sending out the underlying message of conservation.

For full details, visit the festival's website at [www.pacificrimwhalefestival.com](http://www.pacificrimwhalefestival.com).