

February 28, 2008

## **West coast festival a whale of a time**

Some 20,000 grey whales migrate past Vancouver Island each year, and that's cause for celebration.

To join in the nine-day Pacific Rim Whale Festival be in Tofino or Ucluelet from March 15 to 23.

The festival offers more than 75 fun and education events, including information comparing coastal aboriginal whaling and the so-called "research" practises of Japanese whalers.

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations hereditary whaling chief Elmer Frank will speak at the festival's closing ceremony on March 23, alongside the Khowutzun Tzinquaw dancers of Cowichan Valley. Hands-on marine education and whale identification sessions will include experts from the Vancouver Aquarium, Royal B.C. Museum and Parks Canada.

To learn more, contact Marla Barker, festival organizer, [info@pacficrimwhalefestival.com](mailto:info@pacficrimwhalefestival.com), or 726-5874.