



# SKAGWAY CHAMBER NEWS JUNE 2021



Skagway Chamber of Commerce

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## THANK YOU TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS!

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STANDARD A Fine Line, , Klondike Gold Dredge, Sockeye Cycle,

Cruise Line Agencies, Skagway Sculpture & Flower Garden, Chilkoot Charters & Tours

ASSOCIATE Alaska T-Shirt Co. SPONSOR Wells Fargo Bank

INDIVIDUAL Steve & Sally Reeder NEW INDIVIDUAL Courtnay Hudsson Thoe



The Skagway Chamber of Commerce invites you to become a part of an exciting and rewarding organization.

Visit our Web site for more information [www.skagwaychamber.org/joinus.html](http://www.skagwaychamber.org/joinus.html)



DUCKY DERBY TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW! GET YOURS TODAY. \$10 EACH & MAY THE BEST DUCK WIN!!! CONTACT CHAMBER AT 983-1898 TO PURCHASE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Tickets are being sold at : Skagway Chamber of Commerce, Elks, Eagles, and the Skagway News Depot. Tickets are also being sold by Jackie Schaefer.

## SOME OF THE SPRING STROLL 2021 WINNERS

*Once again, Spring Stroll was a big success thanks to the merchants who participated in this annual event and to those who 'strolled'. Some of the winners of door prizes were:*

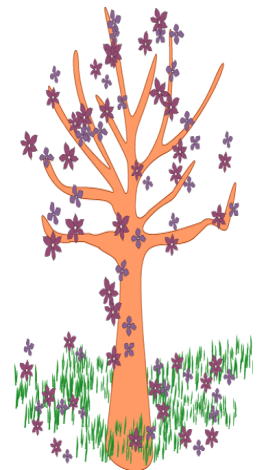
**Corrington's — Donna Griffard**

**Sockeye Cycle— Brooke Sturgis**

**A Fine Line— Kari Rain**

**Red Onion — Brooke Sturgis**

**Richters — Peggy Hoff**



**IF YOU MISSED OUT THIS YEAR, PLEASE PARTICIPATE NEXT YEAR. IT IS A FUN EVENT TO BE PART OF.**

## Alaska Tourism Restoration Act Passes Congress, Heads to President's Desk

Today the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1318, the Alaska Tourism Restoration Act (ATRA). This legislation, led by U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, and Congressman Don Young, all (R-AK), provides cruise ships transporting passengers between the State of Washington and the State of Alaska a temporary fix under the Passenger Vessel Services Act (PVSA). Due to the Canadian prohibition on passenger vessels traveling through Canadian waters, large cruise ships sailing to Alaska would not have been able to sail to Alaska, as the PVSA requires a stop in a foreign country. The return of large cruise ships to Alaska is critical to provide economic opportunity for communities who rely on tourism. The bill now heads to the President's desk to be signed into law.

"COVID-19 has devastated Alaska's tourism industry. After missing the 2020 season due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, Alaskans across the state have been feeling fear, anxiety, and uncertainty over whether or not their jobs—their livelihoods—could survive another cancelled cruise ship season. For many, the advice was just to 'get through to 2022', but for the Delegation, that was simply not acceptable. Together, we committed to bringing Alaskans some level of relief," said **Senator Murkowski**. "We've been working every angle to find a path forward for this critical industry. Alaskans shared their worries and needs, giving us valuable insight and perspectives. We worked with stakeholders and industry leaders across the state to brainstorm all our options and to find solutions that could work for the unique challenges facing our state. We were in close coordination with the Alaska State Legislature who strongly backed our efforts through a resolution of support. Overall, this is a huge victory, but getting this bill across the finish line represents more than just the determination of the Delegation—this is a testament to the strength and resilience of *all* Alaskans. Thank you to everyone who came together to help create the momentum needed to forge a path forward, including my Senate colleagues. I remain optimistic that this legislation will allow a level of safe cruising to resume this summer, giving communities some semblance of a tourist season."

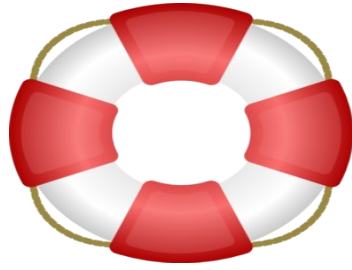
"Today is a great day for Alaska, for our small businesses all across the state, and for Congress. Members from both sides of the aisle—and in both chambers—have come together to help their fellow Americans who are hurting," said Senator Sullivan. "Hundreds of Alaska's small business owners, who have put their savings, their hopes and their dreams into their businesses, were on the brink of being ruined as a result of the pandemic and the fact that our short cruise ship season was about to be canceled again. Our friends in Canada could have helped us here when we really needed them, and it's unfortunate that they ultimately did not. But thanks to bipartisan cooperation of Congress and the unrelenting advocacy of Alaska's delegation, our state is open for business and poised to welcome cruise ship passengers this summer. 2021 will not be the robust cruise ship season we have had in previous years, or was forecasted this year before the pandemic hit, but there will be ships, and there will be people, and that is excellent for Alaska."

"Today truly is a great day for the State of Alaska and our communities in Southeast. Alaska's tourism economy depends on the summer cruise season. The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the tourism sector and caused undue stress on the Alaskan small businesses that rely on being able to welcome visitors from around the world," said **Congressman Don Young**. "Families in Southeast have been kept awake at night from the stress-driven by uncertainty surrounding the upcoming season. Today's passage of the Alaska Tourism Restoration Act brings urgently needed good news to our mom and pop small businesses. This bill solves one-half of the puzzle for the resumption of the 2021 Alaska cruise season, and now it is the CDC's turn to act decisively and promulgate the guidance the industry needs to set sail for Alaska. Even before we had effective vaccines, the CDC allowed airlines, trains, and other hospitality providers to operate unencumbered. On the other hand, cruise lines were singled out and held to a much more prohibitive standard that would have put the final nail in the coffin for the 2021 season. However, in recent weeks, I have worked with the Administration, and I want to thank them for seeing the bigger picture and honoring their commitment to work with the industry to find a path forward under the Conditional Sail Order. I urge the CDC and the Administration to bring that work to fruition so that ships may sail to Alaska."

"Today's bill passage comes at a critical time. Infections are down, mask mandates are being relaxed, and over 60% of the adult population has received at least one dose of the vaccine. We are turning a corner, and it is time to let our tourism sector get back to normal. This bill speaks to the dogged determination of the Alaska Delegation, and I am very grateful for the help of Senators Murkowski and Sullivan. Following Senate passage of the Alaska Tourism Restoration Act last week, John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia, described our effort as a 'blip' that would not go any further than the Senate. Now that the bill is headed to the President's desk and cruises will bypass Canada entirely, I am sure that Premier Horgan will never again underestimate the 'small but mighty' Alaska Congressional Delegation. We now have a path forward for a 2021 cruise season, and I am confident that Alaskans will all do their part to ensure a safe and prosperous tour season."

To those who will be visiting our state this summer, I say 'welcome to Alaska; we are open for business!'





# Two Royal Caribbean Ships to Sail in Alaska This Summer

May 21, 2021

Royal Caribbean International will sail the Serenade and Ovation of the Seas in Alaska this summer.

“Any traveler who visits Alaska immediately understands how special it is, given its natural beauty, the welcoming locals, and the culture carefully preserved over centuries,” said Michael Bayley, president and CEO, Royal Caribbean International. “The past year has been a challenging time for us all, and the Alaskan communities heavily reliant on cruise tourism have felt it deeply. To see the communities, industry and government successfully pass a solution that will help bring these communities back to life shows the great progress and clear paths we can make together. We are confident this is just the first part of our return to cruising from the U.S.”

The Serenade of the Seas will start cruising in July from Seattle with the Ovation set to follow in August.

The Serenade will begin cruising in July. The week-long itinerary features a lineup ports of call, including Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan and Icy Strait Point, Alaska, as well as the jaw-dropping Endicott Arm fjord and Dawes Glacier.

The Ovation follows suit in August cruising to Glacier National Park, the Inside Passage and calling in Juneau and Skagway.

All crew members and guests 16 years of age or older will be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and everyone 12 or older as of August 1. Those underage will receive a test prior to sailing.

The news follows sister brand Celebrity Cruises [announcing a July restart in Alaska](#), plus [three Carnival Corp. brands heading into Alaska](#), also in July.

The news comes as the U.S. House of Representatives has unanimously passed the Alaska Tourism Recovery Act that will allow cruise ships to bypass required stops in Canadian ports. The U.S. Senate passed the bill last week that was the work of Alaskan Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan. Now the bill moves to the White House and President Joe Biden for his signature.



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