

The Masthead



VOL. II No. 3 July, 1973 - Gatineau River Yacht Club, Inc., Tenaga, Quebec

THE COMMODORE'S HOIST

First, let me welcome all the new members to our Club. It is sincerely hoped that you will enjoy all the aspects and will participate fully in all our activities. Remember, the club is what it is about and we the members make it what it is and get out what we put in.

Since my last report, there have been a great many activities. The junior program is now well under way and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the additional summer staff. These include Miss Burke, our swimming instructress; the senior sailing instructor, David Strutt and his two assistants, Dean Smith and Christopher Place. All three are well known club sailors who as intermediates, contributed to the sailing name of the club and have shown themselves to be valuable club members.

The canteen is in full operation and it too is run by a club member, an intermediate, Geoff Erskine. I especially recommend his Wednesday night suppers and would add that it is a real pleasure to have such a tasteful and efficient canteen. This hiring of summer staff from within our club is an experiment and will,

it is hoped, be continued in future years. When not employed in instructional duties, our summer crew will be available to assist Graeme with his Club maintenance program and, will be taking turns on duty each evening, to ensure that the club is open in the evenings for members who wish to use it.

During the past couple of weeks anybody near the Yacht club in the evenings would have noted strange noises coming from the club house. These were caused by a work party of club faithfuls who built new banquettes in the west end of the club house providing new seating and additional storage space. The club also has purchased a second refrigerator which will be kept in the senior lounge and by the time you read this report, you will have seen the results of Doreen Ramplee-Smith's expedition into the furniture world. We have also had the road rebuilt from the parking lot to the launching ramp. (Incidentally, the club owns the launching ramp land, and now we appear to be responsible for the roadway as well.)

While all these obvious improvements and projects have been undertaken there has also been a faithful group who worked behind the scenes and who dealt with such problems as pumps which collapsed, docks which needed repair, and furniture which had to be painted. To these unsung heroes, we are forever in their debt, since there can be few worse crises than a lack of running water on the weekend! I want to express special thanks to Mr. Rene Gachnang for his emergency work on our water supply and to Frances Leeney for her painting of the club furniture.

On the social side there was a most successful sail past followed by a punch bowl; the credit for the results belongs to Lois Hope and her social committee. Thank you very, very much. I was told later that I was expected to make a speech but I can only tell you that the punch was so good that I neglected to do so.

To conclude, the secretary tells me that we are now over the 310 membership mark. This is a record for the club and it is planned to use the membership entrance fees to help retire some of the mortgage. With interest rates going up, this just might be a good idea.

Let's see more people sailing and particularly, don't forget the Wednesday night series. For the novices, it is very seldom that we have anything that can be called heavy winds on Wednesday nights.

May I remind new members and some of our old ones, to make a point of introducing themselves to our staff, since the staff have been instructed to ensure that those who use the island are bonafide members and/or guests. With reference to guests, when you bring guests to the island please ensure that they are introduced to the staff and that they sign the visitor's book.

Good sailing till our next issue.

P.S. Does everyone in your family have a chance to read The Masthead?
Connla Wood.

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THE REAR COMMODORE REPORTS

Canteen Hours - Would the non-racing members who loyally "watch and wait" please bear with us on the Canteen hours. Our very able Canteen Manager is also a very able racer and we feel we are fortunate that he is so capable in both areas. If any member feels sustenance is required would he or she please ensure that they bring a little "something" with them for the drought period. We are a small club and therefore maximum co-operation is required at times.

Social Committee

A very special thank-you to our Social Chairman, Lois Hope, and to all her ladies for their most excellent effort on the Regatta week-end. Likewise, special thanks to Geoff Erskine, our Canteen Manager. Space was at a premium due to visiting racers. This, plus the unusually high temperature, put a strain on everyone involved and necessitated a great deal of hard work and co-operation. The end result was very successful and appreciated by all.

Doreen Ramplee-Smith

JUNIOR PROGRAM

We are happy to report that we have 52 children taking lessons under our Junior program for July.

If we have sufficient applications for August, Margaret Burke will be happy to continue swimming lessons (August 6 to the 30th).

Sailing lessons are also available for August. Please sign up for the August program at the club house by July 28th.

Anyone interested in taking crafts is invited to offer suggestions for an August program.

Erma Place
Junior Activities

Did You Know that Thomas Kirk came out from Tipperary, Ireland? He acquired property on both sides of the Gatineau River and what more natural than to put in a ferry. There was once quite a thriving community centered at Kirk's Ferry, with an hotel, boarding house, church, etc. All this went of course when they flooded the river by erecting the Chelsea Power Dams in 1926-7.

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GRYC IN THE SAILING FORUM

Pat Evans, the custodian of our history and traditions, has shared his knowledge and affection for GRYC with other sailors in Canada. In the June issue of "Sailing Forum", under the title "Histories and Yarns" there is a two page spread on the Gatineau River Yacht Club.

Of the five original pioneers of the club which began in 1963, Pat Evans and Allen Richens, are members of the club today. The first club house was a rented cottage with a mooring boom put together from discarded railway timber. Fees in those far off days were \$10 for seniors, \$15 for families and \$2.50 for juniors. In that first year the club held a regatta that continues today. There were boats from the Royal Canadian Navy Sailing Association, the Britannia Yacht Club and from the R.A. Membership totalled 104 seniors and 74 juniors.

Our familiar islands were purchased in 1964 and it took the hard work of the members and the cooperation of the Gatineau Boom Company to span the water from mainland to the islands with a boom, that enduring trademark of our club.

The theme parties began in 1964. The first was Hawaiian and I think Pat still wears the eye shattering shirt from that historic event.

One of the most active years at the club was 1967. Members worked hard to celebrate Centennial Year and the club was host to one of the National Junior Regattas which were held from coast to coast. Twenty-four young sailors came from Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Saskatoon, Edmonton and Vancouver. The series was won by the B.C. crew.

The article concludes: "Ten years of ups and downs, midst clear weather and foul, the club has filled a place in the minds and hearts of its members. G.R.Y.C. seems to be here to stay and it is hoped that it will continue to give pleasure to its membership in the years to come. Not only pleasure but the imparting of aquatic skills and love of messing about in small boats."

The GRYC will be "here to stay" for a long while because of the devotion of Pat Evans and a few people like him. We all benefit because of his enterprise and continuous work over the past 11 years.

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NEW MEMBERS

We all are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Edward Goldenberg
Mr. and Mrs. Murdoch Galbreath
and family
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Marsden
and family
Mr. and Mrs. Grant MacKenzie
and family
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Brand
and family
Susan Payette
Gilles Guttadauria
John W. Beenen and family
David Black
Judith Crawley and family
Muriel A. How
Peter C. King
Armand B. Proulx
Jane Roots
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Stranks
and family
Pat Parikh
Laura Galasso

VISITORS TO THE CLUB

Fraser and Betty Fraser-Harris returned to their old haunts on the Gatineau River, on a visit from England in mid-June.

Fraser was the Club's Rear-Commodore in the early days. He was the first sailing instructor for Juniors and helped found the Junior Squadron. He was responsible for the acquisition of the eight Otter Prams for the Junior Program, from eight firms of national repute.

George Cochrane and Irene Lester were recent visitors to the Club. George was the Club's second Commodore and while in office presented the beautiful trophy known as the Commodore's Cup.

UP RIVER SAIL

Bring Your Own Hamper

July 28th

The Commodore reminds everyone that the Club House is open 7 days a week until 9 p.m.

PLEASE
USE THE PARKING LOT

11th GRYC REGATTA

Not many will forget this year's 11th annual GRYC regatta. Two scorching days and the island was wall to wall people. Forty-four boats were entered with guests from Britannia, New Edinborough, the RA Yacht Club and Calabogie Yacht Club. In spite of the heat the social committee under Lois Hope's guidance, managed to quench the thirst of and feed at least one hundred people at the Saturday night dinner.

Graeme Parkinson was chairman of the race committee. Those who sail will know what a demanding job that is. He was assisted by Marg Hurley of the RA club, and from the GRYC, Diana Pethic, Tom Ryan, George Beers, Barry Jeffery, John Seeley and Laura Galasso.

Audrey Strutt was in charge of registration.

Winners were:

Albacore class

- 1st - Ian Mellor - BYC
- 2nd - Phil Thompson - CYC
- 3rd - Ted Johnson - GRYC

Flying Junior class

- 1st - A. Dykstra RAYC
- 2nd - Hirvonen RAYC
- 3rd - G. Delage RAYC

420 class

- 1st - A. Roy FOSC
- 2nd - D. Ede FOSC
- 3rd - R. Scott-Smyth FOSC

Handicap class

- 1st - J. Erskine GRYC
- 2nd - G. Cutts
- 3rd - C. DesBrisay GRYC



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LETTER FROM OVERSEAS

Our secretary received this letter from a former member who still has a warm feeling for the club and enjoys reading The Masthead.

Pineglen,
Elrick, Skene,
Aberdeenshire,
Scotland.

Gatineau River Yacht Club.

Liz, Russell, Christopher and I wish all of you good sailing this season. Yes there are four of us now - Russell is nearly 5 and Chris, 2. We live about 8 miles from the so-called "oil capital" of Europe and sail from March 19th - mid June at a Loch of about 1 sq. mile, and from mid-June - October at Stonehaven on the "sea". We have a Shearwater Cat "Catineau" (pun intended two ways) 1760. It's now three years old and at last beginning to sail near its handicap (P.Y. 75)

The Club has about 100 sailing members and 45 boats: Fireballs - 16, Wayfarers - 7, Mirrors - 9, Enterprises - 4, Albacores - 2 and 11 miscellaneous. We race Saturdays, Sundays and Thursday evenings. The weekend starts at 3 min. intervals are Fireball, Handicap and Mirror. Three of us, an Osprey, 505 and the Shearwater race against ourselves and the Fireballs - in the sense that we are usually up amongst them after 15 minutes.

This season started with a glorious weekend - temperatures in the 60's, bright sunshine and gentle breezes; the next weekend Force 5, snow and we sail in this for fun. That evening we fondly remembered sailing in T-shirt and shorts at 85 degrees F. and wondered if we were sane! Still the weather has improved and the Cat has actually won several races.

Don't capsize too often,
Yours,

Sandy Harvey.

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RACING RESULTS

Racing began this season on May 19th with the Spring Frostbite series and we felt members would be interested in the results so far, not only at our home club, but also in other waters.

In the Upper Canada Regatta for Albacores at the Stormont Yacht Club, Cornwall, Andy Harley and his crew, Graeme Parkinson came in third. Fourth was David Strutt with Jim Strutt as crew. We didn't fare so well at the Ottawa New Edinburgh regatta, however Andy Harley with Graeme Parkinson again, came in 6th, and David Strutt and his father came 8th.

The GRYC had a good weekend at the National Capital Regatta, held at Britannia a few weeks ago. This race was for all classes. In Albacores, David Strutt with Jim Strutt won a handsome second place finish. Dean Smith was fifth and Ted Johnson 6th. We are all proud of Graeme Parkinson who placed third in the light-weight Laser class.

Here at home our Commodore's name appears again. He is not sailing in any races away from the club this season. In June, Connla won the C.J.O.H. Trophy.

Following is a list of the winners in our regular series:

Spring Frostbite Series

- 1st - David Strutt
- 2nd - Andrew Harley
- 3rd - Connla Wood
- 4th - Dean Smith
- 5th - Jeff Erskine
- 6th - Ted Johnson

Series "A"

- 1st - Connla Wood
- 2nd - Ted Johnson
- 3rd - Patrick Evans

MASTHEAD LATE.

SOBRY