



THE OAKVILLE YACHT SQUADRON

WINDJAMMER

November/December 2008



Upcoming Events

Pub Nights - every Thursday, often with added entertainment such as movies, seminars and talks.

Sunday December 14th, OYS Open House, 14:00?

New Years Eve? Anyone interested in attending the Crows Nest?

New Years Day Regatta - watch for an announcement

Ladies Seaview Afternoon, 15:00 last Thursday of the month

Contact OYS at: 97 Forsythe Street, P. O. 144, Oakville, Ontario L6J 4Z5

OYS Crow's Nest (905) 338-2239 OYS Sailing School (905) 338-9379

Editorial contributions welcomed, Contact publicity director at publicitydirector@oysqn.com

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COMMODORE GEORGE PROVOST

Wow. The 2008 season is now behind us. How quickly this year has passed. I look forward to serving you as your Commodore in 2009.

Your new executive will be meeting this coming week to start planning for the upcoming year. Although our club may be facing many challenges, I can assure you that your executive will be working with your best interest in mind and will be keeping you informed. Remember, your feedback is always welcome.

On behalf of Carol and myself, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. Put the afternoon of Sunday December 14th in your calendar.....the OYS Christmas Open House.....hope to see you there.

VICE COMMODORE PAUL ATTWOOD

Well, another winter is approaching; I guess I had better trade in my boat hook for ski

poles and get my skis waxed up! Now I know Helle and I are not the only skiers @ OYS so therefore I wonder how many people might be interested in having an OYS ski day. If you are interested in chartering a bus and doing a ski day in the Collingwood area, please send an email to vicecommodore@oysqn.com and if we get a large enough response we can arrange accordingly. Are there any OYS members who are also members at a ski club that would be willing to help arrange (and maybe even provide your club as the place to go to)? I suspect this is the last Windjammer issue before Christmas, so Helle and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and may the New Year find all of you in good health!

REAR COMMODORE PETER MAC

I just returned from the excellent presentation by Cedric Miller and his crew about Trillium Wind crossing the Atlantic. Lots of food for thought there, and some room

to dream as well for the romantics among us. The Rear Commodore role will be changing a bit as we are fortunate to have a House Director this year so I hope to focus on helping to arrange occasional informal events for the membership. On that topic, I'd like to ask for your input and suggestions. We'll plan a few movie nights at the Crows Nest during the winter, and let you know about those over the coming months.

It's supposed to snow over the next couple of days. The holiday season is coming soon, and then the boat show will be upon us... Time to put together a work list for the spring, and think about what gifts would make the work easier and improve the sailing season ahead. Happy Holidays to all. See you at the Crows Nest.

GREEN BOATYARDS

The latest issue of Cruising World has an article on Green Boatyards, which I expect will be an interesting read. What would make the OYS yard Greener? Well, I know we're built on a garbage dump, but like so many other environmental efforts, we need to start somewhere, with

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small steps to stop making things worse. The big issues we have to deal with in our yard are oil, antifreeze, bottom sanding, and shrink wrap. Oil is a simple one. When we change our oil, pour the old oil back into the container the clean oil came in (a funnel helps) and take it to a proper disposal site. Choices include you local garage or the Halton Hazardous Waste site on Bronte Road north of Dundas. They're happy to take oil and antifreeze too, from an individual. Oil and antifreeze have a very harmful effect when released into the environment. Because of the properties, they may pool and take some time to seep away, and they'll poison animals that may

drink them. Worse still, if they seep into the river they spread impressively and damage a widespread area. Antifreeze is more difficult, because many of us pump antifreeze into our freshwater cooling system for the winter... It's important to protect the engine and exhaust system, but needs to be flushed out of the system before the boat goes in the water. I know I've cringed several times as engines were started after launch and the green or pink stream out the back gushes into the lake. If you've done that in the past, you probably felt the peer pressure to avoid that in future. This isn't a favourite job, but we all need to run the engine on fresh water and catch the antifreeze in a bucket before launch... Aside from the damage to the environment, the fine if you're caught can be pretty large. And once collected, the antifreeze can be taken the same place you take your oil. These two things are

pretty common knowledge, but there are two others we should be thinking about as well. Bottom sanding is an important step to make sure the new paint will adhere properly, but the dust is not nice stuff. Ever looked at the mask you were wearing after you're done sanding? (You do wear a mask, right?) That grey or coloured dust is poisonous - after all that's the whole reason for bottom paint - and over the long term it's a good idea to stop dumping metals into the environment. This year, I ask everyone to spread a plastic sheet under the boat before you sand. It doesn't take much extra time, and the plastic doesn't cost much. When you're done - empty the dust into the garbage, preferably in a bag, and feel satisfied that you've taken one more step to keep the property cleaner. Finally, shrink wrap. It sure makes the boat well protected, and can make a good environment to work



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in. Many clubs and marinas now recycle shrink wrap in the spring, and we'll be trying to set up some means for OYS to participate in the spring of 2009.

As sailors, a big part of our enjoyment comes from being close to clean water rushing by the boat. Most of us have been in some waters that didn't really meet our expectations. I can remember a couple of sails in Halifax harbour that I'd rather forget. I understand Halifax has opened the new sewage treatment plant and things are getting better. We don't have the same issues at OYS, but a few simple steps can help us.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR
BRUCE BENNETT**

Not withstanding the rain...and the constant thunderstorms, our second year as sailboat owners has been a distinct improvement over our 1st year. Although Diane may question the "we" part of the following comments, (being

Captain is a thankless job).....we didn't hit the dock.....we didn't run into anybody.....life was good. Diane and I really enjoyed owning and sailing Ladyhawke, and I think that this year she really became "ours" and thanks to the help of our members, we settled in.....got the feel for the boat, and gained whole lot of confidence.

Looking back, it's hard to believe that a full year has passed, and that I am now looking at my second year as Membership Director. This has been a great year, and although we have lost some members, we have been successful in bringing many new members into the OYS family. One of the real rewarding parts of this job is meeting and working with our new members, not to mention getting to know our existing membership. Although early in the year, I have already been talking to some potential new members and there are a few new members which I have not yet had the opportunity to

introduce.....but more to come. I am also starting to line up some activities for the winter and we should have an interesting "off-season".

In my early days as an OYS member I had the opportunity to write a Windjammer article about our experience as new members of this club....and the challenge Diane and I experienced in "finding our way". Looking back over the past year, and based on the comments I have received from our new members, we have clearly banded together to make that "1st year" experience a very enjoyable one.

This is a great club!

**SAILING SCHOOL DIRECTOR
BILL FRENKE**

OYS started off the season by being selected by Ontario Sailing as one of ten Development Centers in Ontario. The race team got behind this positive step by participating in Spring training, attending regattas on the Ontario Sailing circuit, hosting a laser clinic in July, participating in CORK and setting up a Fall training and regatta schedule.

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There were 7 active participants in the fall training sessions who wouldn't let cooler temperatures and heavier fall winds stop them from sailing. Well done to the 2008 race team and we'll see you back in May of next year.

OYS Sailing School alumni are now representing Canada on the International stage. We have been able to respond to funding requests from Lee Parkhill and Claire Merry with \$1000 for each of their international campaigns. They have both responded by qualifying for the CYA National Team at this year's NQRs. Good luck also to Ingrid who came close to making it a Merry CYA women's team.

All Sailing School boats have now been stacked and put away for the winter. The coach boat and Shark motors have been serviced and winterized. The console whaler was left out to service OYS haulout and will be available for the New Year's Day event as long as there is water and not ice and then again for launch in 2009.

The sailing school has some surplus equipment that is available to members and the community. We have one Laser >> (\$300) and five Optis (@\$150) for sale. They would make great cottage boats. Some support equipment may be missing. All would require reconditioning to some extent. Call me if you are interested in one of these great deals.

If you are interested in family and/or friends registering for youth or adult programs for next year contact the school and get your name on the mailing list.

Contact information:

Email: ssinfo@oysqn.com

Call: 905 338 9379 ext 6 and leave your message. Or visit the web site and download the forms (2009 fees yet to be set).

We now move into the planning season for 2009. There is equipment to buy, a budget and program fees to be decided, brochures to be created, instructors to be hired and a race team to be supported. If you are interested in getting involved in the organization of the Sailing School, please give me a call.

TEAM TEMPEST

Team Tempest needs some help for next year. There are a few pieces of equipment that need to be built: a tiller and a set of hatch boards. We also had some equipment deterioration this year due to improper use and poor

understanding of basic boating principles.

Cam Macrae has volunteered to be the Committee Chair for Team Tempest. In addition we need 4 mentors, each to work with one of the club Sharks.

Responsibilities would include sailing on the boat with the boat's crew once per month to evaluate the condition of the boat and equipment. It would help to ensure that each crew member knows how to use the outboard motor, leave the harbour and return safely, how to raise the sails and guide the team in proper sail trim and equipment set up.

Some of the boats have equipment deficiencies that the TT members are not aware of because they haven't seen anything different. Give me a call if you would like to participate in the TT program as a mentor. OYS at the CYA Rolex Awards Banquet.

The Canadian Yachting Association 2008 Rolex Annual Awards Banquet was held at the Kingston Yacht Club, Kingston Ontario on October 25, 2008.

The following two of many awards presented at the 2008 Rolex Annual Awards Banquet Nathan R. Cowan Memorial Award for Developing Sailors Friends and family of Nathan Cowan (an OYS Sailing School alumnus) donated this award to CYA in 2002 to honour the memory of Nathan Cowan, a

Canadian Sailing Team member, who died tragically in a car accident on February 16, 2002. In 2002, after years of determination and persistence, Nathan finally achieved his goal of making the National Team. Nathan's friends and family have designed the criteria of this award in order to support athletes like Nathan, and help them through these years of hard work.

The 2008 recipient of the Nathan R. Cowan Memorial award is Lee Parkhill, of Oakville, Ontario.

CYA MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

The Male Athlete of the Year is awarded to an individual athlete or crew with a record of outstanding achievement in national and international competition and who has brought recognition to Canadian competitive sailing.

The 2008 recipients of the CYA Male Athlete of the Year award are Oskar Johansson of Oakville Ontario and Kevin Stittle of Orangeville, Ontario.

Oskar has sailed all his life. His competitive sailing career started when he was 14 while racing Lasers out of The Oakville Yacht Squadron. Oskar went to the 2004 Olympics in Athens and finished 15th. He is also a Pan American Games Gold Medalist in the Sunfish and a 5 x Canadian National champion in the Tornado. (02-06).

Kevin started sailing at the age of

4 as a family sport at the cottage and as he says the rest is history. Kevin previously was a high level windsurfer. He has won multiple Canadian titles, represented Canada at the Youth Worlds in the Mistral class, and went to the Pan American Games in the Hobie 16. Kevin made the transition from a National Team carded athlete in the Mistral to a Tornado crew almost effortlessly, evidence of high level of talent. This Tornado team has had an amazing year including finishing 4th at the Holland Regatta, 2nd at the World Championship and placing 4th at the 2008 Olympic Games

Editorial

What is a yacht club and why do we choose to belong? Most likely the best answer is "an association of individuals who have a common interest that is best served by participating in shared activities". As your new Publicity Director my duty is to present reports on these activities, to inform you about future events, and hopefully be an avenue for ideas to be expressed. We plan to produce a newsletter every month that will include the A Calendar of Upcoming Events, Officers and Director's reports, and perhaps a Classified / Personals section. I know that in past years members have had items to sell and every year we get racers who need crew and



individuals looking for a crew spot. If you have something of interest to report or you want to place an advertisement please send the information to Publicity Director @ OYS.

Reported elsewhere will undoubtedly be a summary of our Annual General Meeting prior to the release of the official minutes. From a personal view, and unrelated to the formal minutes, the main topics at this years meeting were focused on our property lease where negotiations are ongoing (and the town would like more rent) and on our financial situation (where expenses have been growing more rapidly than revenues). Our outgoing Commodore pointed out that while the town may want to renegotiate our lease, and it may be to our advantage to do so, we are under no obligation to do anything at this time as there is some 7 years left on our current lease. Regarding our financial situation we will continue to look for ways to make OYS more attractive to the membership - thus get you to spend more at the club without corresponding cost increases, and

Links & Contacts

Position	Name	Contact
Commodore	George Provost	TBA
Vice Commodore	Paul Attwood	TBA
Rear Commodore	Peter Mac	TBA
Secretary	Eli Oszlak	TBA
Treasurer	David Cry	TBA
Membership Director	Bruce Bennett	TBA
Racing Director	Alison Norris	TBA
Publicity Director	Peter Urwin	TBA
Harbour Master	Bob Ferguson	TBA
Property Director	Paul Garrick	TBA
Sailing School Director	Bill Frenke	TBA
Cruising Director	Sue Richardson	TBA
Social Director	Linda Stevens	TBA
House Director	David Gray	TBA
Past Commodore	Murray Fisher	TBA

focus on what we set out to be, a self help club where as many activities as possible are undertaken by volunteers.

Following in Sue's excellent footsteps we will continue to distribute the Windjammer electronically as far as possible - this helps contain our costs. Please check your emails periodically and ensure that we have your current address (and that your copy is not lost in Spam file). If you need a printed copy let me know and this will be arranged. As Publicity Director I will be seeking volunteers to help gather news on our activities (reports and photos) and for the various promotions that we undertake, for example; manning a booth at the annual boat show, manning booths at local malls etc. Your inputs (positive and negative) and ideas for improving this news letter are, as always, most welcome

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