

North Channel Yacht Club
P.O. Box 175
Elliot Lake, Ontario, P5A 2J7

www.ncyc.ca

Newsletter

Commodore's Report

"SPRING NEWSLETTER",
I really like seeing this title arrive in my email.
Thanks goes out to newsletter editor,....Norma
Young....for cheering us all with the anticipation of
a new sailing season.

There is work to be done on our boats, work to be
done around the club, and I know we all look
forward to doing these tasks.

The management committee has been working
diligently on setting up budgets for your approval
at the Spring Planning Meeting and other such
critical items as:

-how to come up with a management team for
next year.

We have been upgrading the club every year. It
just keeps getting better.

Gary Campbell, Commodore

New Member

I know you will all make **Don Harben** welcome
when he brings his boat LIFE to the dock,
sometime in late May. Don has been sailing most
of his life, and will be our first new member in
2011. He plans to sail his C&C 29 Mk1 from her
current home base, Oakville Yacht Squadron
soon after launch early in May. He is a recently
retired teacher, who is looking forward to
spending his summers in the North Channel.

Don visited the club in March and was able to
meet with his two sponsors, Ken Barnes and Don
Young, Ray Hortness and many of the members
of the Management Committee. He was blown
away by the beauty of our club, and impressed
with the club's ingenious systems.

He is looking for a cradle, ground tackle, charts of
the area and travelling companions for the trip
north in May. If you can help with any of these,
contact him at Sailadventures@Rogers.com or
cell & text (416) 648-7058.

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Fleet Captain's Report

With the arrival of spring comes thoughts of
boating, so should come thoughts of safety.

Uncovering your boat should be done carefully.
Ladders can be hazardous. Working on elevated
boats are an accident waiting to happen. Take
proper protective measures when washing,
waxing, and refitting your craft. Safely dispose of
any by products.

Before moving a boat, make sure of clearances,
have adequate man power, use the practise of
checking the whole crew prior to any movement.
Check and re-check to make sure all crew are in
the proper location before moving any boats.
Take no short cuts. Make sure there is sufficient
experience in the crew.

The winch should only be operated by trained
club members, with agreed upon signals. Mast
hoisting requires a sufficient number of personnel,
a properly executed plan, and the utmost care.

Work parties, too, require safety consciousness.
Do only what you can safely do. We want
everyone to have a wonderful, safe boating
season.

Dave Oberg, Fleet Captain

Checklist

- Check safety equipment – flares, life ring, fire extinguisher, throwing line.
- Be sure safety flares are up to date.
- Check the batteries to make sure they will hold a charge, clean and inspect terminal connections
- Check all running lights
- Test the bilge pump, inspect the through hulls and check the engine, transmission fluid levels.
- Sailors also check the mast, running rigging, rudder, keel bolts and sails.

Spring & Summer Events

Mark your calendars

April 2 – Club Opening Work Party

April 16 – Spring Planning Meeting

May 14 - Season Opener Work Party

June 18 - Safety Day

June 18 - Commodore's Cruise

August 20 – Family Fun Day

August 20 – Club Cruiser Race

September 3, 4, 5 - Labour Day Cruise
and Corn Roast

Convenors Needed

We are still looking for a Convenor for the Opening Supper following immediately after the Spring Planning Meeting. Anne Phillips, our Social Convenor sent the following message:

“A convenor is needed for the Opening supper at the yacht club on April 16. This is a potluck event. The convenor of this event earns 5 work hours. The main duties are contacting members by email or phone identifying who is coming and what they are bringing and organizing the kitchen on the day of the event. The convenor is responsible for making the tea and coffee on that day and all other food is pot luck. Please email me at tapp@tyenet.com if you are interested as we are still cruising in the Bahamas. I check my email most days as long as I am within cell phone distance.”

Convenors have signed up for all the other events, except for The Corn Roast on the Labour Day weekend. That's another opportunity to earn Work Party hours.

There are step by step instructions to tell you exactly how to go about each event, and there is always lots of help from members. If you can help out at either of these club functions, please let Anne Phillips know. Or you can always contact the secretary, Carol Piper Curtis at secretary@ncyc.ca or by phone at 705-848-6750.

Family Fun Day

After last year's big celebration when the next generation had so much fun together, the Management Committee decided to keep the ball rolling. Daryl Park, who has had many years of experience as a Scout Leader, has volunteered to convene the first Family Fun Day, with a Pirate theme. He has lots of great ideas for fun activities for young and old. We'll keep you posted.

Work Party Hours

Just a reminder that at the AGM the membership approved raising the rate for work party hours to \$30/hour. Please be sure to record all the hours you work, as it is important to know how many hours are needed to maintain the club.

One member, who had worked several hours more than the minimum, stopped recording when he thought he had reached 20 hours. He was shocked to be billed for one hour with his dues. His quick addition was in error!

Hiring Workers

The Dockmaster's children, Terry and Deanna are willing workers, available for cleaning and waxing hulls, painting etc. at moderate rates. However, it is your responsibility to ensure that they, or any person you hire to work on your boat or cradle at the club has safety equipment – boots, eye protection, breathing masks, etc. as required.

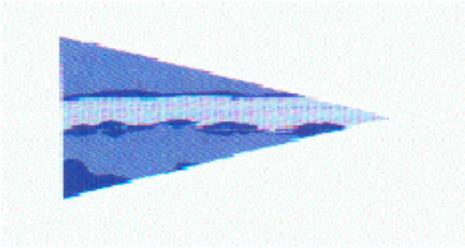
Our Dockmaster is also willing to assist members in his free time with launching, hauling and other jobs. The Management Committee feels that members should pay him the same rate when doing work outside his club duties that we pay ourselves for work party hours.

Remember that when working with the club's cutting and welding equipment, you are responsible to cover the costs of the gases, welding rod, etc.

Storage on Club Premises

If you store property on club premises, such as cradles, weights, chain, small boats, etc. it is your responsibility to notify the Management Committee. Storage fees may be charged.

Any unidentified items will be considered club property and may be sold for the benefit of the



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club. This does not apply to items kept on your cradle or in your dock box.

Dock Box Condo

To date six members have indicated an interest in the Dock Box Condo. If you are interested in being part of this project, contact John Marquette at jgamarquette@hotmail.com Ten are needed to make the project fly, and the costs decrease with more participants

The History Project

Our History book has been an outstanding success. If you haven't already purchased your copy of "The Right Place for the Sailboat; memories of members of NCYC" you can now order your individual copy online at http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/1550757?utm_source=TellAFriend&utm_medium=email&utm_content=1550757

Water Report

Dave Ferguson, Member at Large, Water, and Tom DeLong have ordered all the parts we need to comply with the new water regulations mandated by the Algoma Public health Department. Significant and costly upgrades to our system must be implemented by July 1.

We will require more frequent and more stringent testing. Cal Rodgers is currently taking a course on The Operation of a Small Drinking Water System to qualify him as our Water System Operator.

We are no longer allowed to have outlets for non potable water on our docks for washing boats. Please do not use treated water for this purpose. Use a bucket dipped from the lake.

Boat Surveys

Thanks to Scott Campbell, who arranged for a group have their boats surveyed for insurance purposes. So far three boat owners will share the surveyor's time at NCYC resulting in a lower cost

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to all. If anyone else is interested, please contact Scott at scott_campbell_526@msn.com

Why it's Called Serpent River

The Ojibway have claimed for more than 250 years that the mouth of the Serpent River is the home of a giant reptile, Mrs. Louis Day, a storyteller who resides in Cutler, formerly a resident of the old village of Spragge, recalled one of the legends.

It was the boy's 13th summer. According to the custom of the Ojibway people, he would now journey from his father's home in the old Indian Village of Spragge, to the Sacred Spot, known to the white men as Herman's Point on the shores of Lake Huron. Here the boy would fast and if the spirits were pleased he would be rewarded with a vision. Perhaps the spirits would reveal that he was to become a medicine man or a great hunter.

His mother accompanied him to the sacred place and left him with a small three-cornered blanket that would serve as his only protection against winds and rain. The mother returned the following day and became very upset when the boy announced that he was ready to go home.

She demanded that he stay. Surely, she told him, the spirits wouldn't visit him after only one day.

A few days later she returned to the sacred spot. There was no sign of the youth. The blanket she had given him was hanging on a tree limb. The villagers searched the area without success.

Several weeks later a group of hunters noticed a great commotion in the waters. To their amazement a great serpent rose above the waves, a giant creature with large horns. Clinging to the monster's back was the young Ojibway boy. After that, many terrible things occurred around the settlement. Swimmers began to disappear and strange sounds were heard during the night. People began to move from Spragge village.

Mrs. Day recalls that she would be awakened in the middle of the night by weird noises. Strange objects were found on her rooftop. She became concerned for the safety of her young children and in 1934 she convinced her husband that the family should move.

When asked if she could explain why these things would be happening she replied: "It's that serpent that place is really haunted.... the boy was angry with his people because his mother left him alone at that place."

There are people living near the mouth of the Serpent River, who claim that somewhere along the banks of the Serpent River Harbour there is a large cave where the serpent lives.

Just another legend? Perhaps. But when you are fortunate enough to get some of the older people to talk about it you can see by their faces that they're not entirely convinced.

Members' News

Louise Buckingham has been spending time in Ottawa with Scott, Jenny, Korbin and Olivia. They will all head to Toronto for Eric and Jessica's wedding, to be held at the Old Mill - a lovely venue! Louise plans to return to Sudbury in April and spend the summer at the dock on Lady Lou

Dave and Pat Ferguson welcomed another beautiful grandson to the family, traveling to Nova Scotia to meet him. Their daughter Carolyn delivered a 6 lb 7 oz healthy baby boy named Bradley John (family name is Perry).

Cruising members, **Pat and Dianne Sharpe** and **Anne Phillips** and **Terry Polkinghorne** managed to connect in the Bahamas and spent four idyllic days together. The Sharpes are busy enjoying every day in paradise.

Anne and Terry will be heading home for the summer, leaving their new boat in Florida to sail on Wild Goose in the North Channel. Come Fall they will head south again. Ah, the cruising life!

Marianne Ramarr has made two trips home from Australia because of a death in the family. We had a good visit with her at the club just before the 40th, and she was home again briefly in March. Some of you will remember her children Dana and Alex as keen young sailors. Dana is now a nurse and Alex is training to be an IT

expert. After so many years down under, they may consider themselves Australian, but we would welcome them back at NCYC any time!

Colleen Penniston missed being on the water last summer and plans to get a kayak this year. We hope she will keep it at NCYC, and come down to the club often.

Jack Behrend plans to move his boat closer to his new home at the west coast. He will be bringing Joyce to the club on the May long weekend and spend several days preparing Night Watch to sail to Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. There a truck will pick her up and carry her over land to Olympia. Jack's daughter will meet the crew at Sturgeon Bay and drive them to Chicago.



*"Can you help push me to the water?
I downsized my vehicle to save money
on gas."*

Bill Sellars and **Jeanie MacVoy** have returned to Savannah to sail Nemo north, with plans to explore New England, then Nova Scotia, sailing around Cape Breton and in the Bras d'Or Lakes and then all the way to Newfoundland. In the Fall they plan to head south again to Savannah, and possibly continue on to the Bahamas after a Christmas break

That's all until the next time! If you have any submissions for the Newsletter, please contact Norma Young at 705-671-3396 or ddyoung@sympatico.ca