



NORTH CHANNEL YACHT CLUB  
P.O. Box 175  
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## Notice to Members

From: Leighton Roslyn, Commodore  
Date: 2021-05-19  
Re: NCYC Closure – Additional Measures

Management Committee members have heard from several general members inquiring about why MC members appeared to be receiving preferential treatment and could launch their vessels, while general members were directed not to launch. They are wondering what is going on. Their confusion and upset are understandable.

The Management Committee met for almost 4 hours last evening and spent a great deal of time debating the “launching” issue and the divide it has created among members.

At the MC meeting on April 19, 2021, a resolution was adopted “That NCYC being a boating club and a recreational amenity considers itself required to be closed under current orders and regulations” This was premised upon the vast majority view that NCYC, while it was permitted by its Letters Patent to operate a marina and a boating club, was operating as a boating club only. That distinction greatly reduced the scope for members to be on the premises. While a “no launching” directive was not part of the official resolution, it was discussed and was thought to be covered by the wording in Ontario Regulation 82/20 Schedule 1 section 1. (6). (c) which allowed for attendance for “inspections, maintenance or repairs to be carried out at the business or place”. Clearly, launching is **NOT** “maintenance or repairs”.

In a Notice to Members dated April 20, 2021, all members, which includes members of the MC, were advised that “...members are not allowed to launch their vessels”. Despite that direction, two MC members launched over this past weekend. This was not sanctioned by the MC. MC members enjoy no privilege separating them from general membership. MC members are expected to respect the positions adopted by the majority view whether they agree with them or not.

For the moment there is an urgent need to address the perceived inequity between those who have launched and enjoy the docks and those who are respecting the direction not to launch. **Accordingly, the MC has adopted a new resolution that specifically provides that launching is NOT permitted while the Club is closed. In addition, those who have launched are required to secure their vessel at the dock or at the mooring and access to the launched vessels is restricted for ALL purposes except for actual emergency purposes.**

Except as amended by this new resolution, the guidance and direction given in the Notice to Members dated April 20, 2021 and April 21, 2021 remain in effect.

This is a tightening of the provisions governing those who have launched, but the MC considers it necessary for the good of the club generally.

There is an ongoing debate in Ontario about perceived inequity between those with trailerable boats being able to launch from municipal or provincial ramps which opened over the weekend, while boating clubs and private marinas are restricted. It may be that the Province will address this shortly, but for the moment NCYC is compelled to respect the current restrictions. On Friday, May 14, 2021, a Ministry of Transportation spokesperson stated that “Marinas and boating clubs are to be closed – except for maintenance services and to provide access for those who have boats as a primary or secondary residence.” It was also stated that “Travel to a secondary residence can only be done under certain circumstances and Ontarians should ensure they are complying with the rules. **Marinas and boating clubs may continue to operate for fuel supply, watercraft repair and servicing, watercraft docking and watercraft launching services for essential purposes.**” [<https://london.ctvnews.ca/i-don-t-think-it-s-fair-boat-launch-equality-questioned-by-norfolk-county-marinas-1.5429540>]

Clearly, attendance at a docked vessel for recreational purposes is not “essential”, nor is routine maintenance.

The MC acknowledges the confusion and indeed upset of some members for the perception of favouritism and assure them that this is definitely not intended to be the case and the MC regrets it having occurred.

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