



The North Channel Yacht Club

46° 12.312 N 82° 39.086 W

*in the heart of the finest freshwater
cruising ground in the world*

Winter 2019

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COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

After all the pitfalls we hit earlier in the week, we were able to place the docks on the ice today. I went today not thinking it would get done due to all our troubles we had earlier in the week.

The group of people we had for the last two work parties were absolutely outstanding.

I was very impressed today. We all worked like a fine tuned piece of machinery. Everybody took on tasks and didn't need much instruction on the tasks required. It is times like this that make me proud of being a member of NCYC.

Ice was solid enough to drive the backhoe on the ice surface which make things so much simpler. An initial snow removal using snowblowers was required so we can monitor the ice condition when driving the backhoe on the ice for the first run.

All went well. A successful day. Next is the decking.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

This issue will be much more 'visual'. While work was being done on the new docks, I took the time to try and capture our boat yard. Because of the snow depth, it was not possible to include all boats but the pictures give a sense of what conditions are like.

Other pictures show the dock work in progress and what it takes to have our summer home 'ship-shape'.

I have also included some other information in this issue, including the sad 'crossing the bar' of one of our members.

Remember, I can be reached at mwleahy@great-lakes-sailing.com

IN MEMORIAM – CROSSING THE BAR



We lost a much-loved fellow member this winter when Don Young passed away. This is the message we received from his wife:

Dear Family and Friends:

As most of you know, Don's health has been failing for some time. He has been in hospital since January 28 and although we knew he was unlikely to come home, his death came much sooner than expected.

He died on Sunday at about 6:30, just hours after a visit with Gordon, Denise and me. It was quite a good visit, and I returned home, promising to return the next day. It was a shock to get the phone call.

Our children and eldest grandson, Jack, have been with me constantly since, helping to work out the details for a Celebration of Life service, and to attend to the many details required. It has been for us a time of bonding and remembering many happy memories. I know that each of you have your own memories of times with Don, and you will be thinking of him now. A service is planned at our church, St. Mark's, in Dundas for Saturday, March 9. You can find the details and his obituary at

<https://www.circleoflifecbc.com/obituaries/Donald-Young-26/#!/Obituary>

A SLUMBERING BOATYARD





YARD WORK & DOCK CONSTRUCTION – THE WINTER WORK PARTY





I think as you can see, NCYC has had its fair amount of snow!!! In fact, snow removal has been a challenge. The backhoe has been a great tool to have and has been indispensable in moving all the snow we have had this winter.

New tires had to be purchased for the backhoe due to a catastrophic failure. The tires had reached the end of their serviceable life.

Need-less-to-say, the Management Board has continued to meet to address not only future planning issues but also the ongoing running of the club.

This work could only be done because members willingly volunteer their time to make things happen. For that, we are very very grateful. If everyone pitches in, even the biggest jobs get done quicker – and with good humour (just ask Heather as she cracks the whip to keep they guys pulling [picture p.3]).

WATER LEVELS

Great Lakes water levels are continuously monitored by U.S. and Canadian federal agencies in the region through a bi-national partnership.

Great Lakes water levels will be higher than normal, and some may approach record levels, for the summer boating season, according to the latest forecast of Great Lakes water levels issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Lake Superior is already near record high levels and by May could reach a record that was set in the mid-1980s. Lake Erie could reach record highs in late spring as well. Lakes Michigan-Huron, and St. Clair won't break records but are expected to be above normal, the Army Corps predicts.

Higher levels can mean more erosion, less beach and less room to pass under bridges. They also could mean more clearance from underwater obstacles, something we northern sailors value as we explore the North Channel and northern Georgian Bay.

SAILING LORE

North Channel Lands

As we sail throughout the North Channel and explore hidden bays and anchorages, we often see tucked away in the woods or along remote shorelines cottages and summer homes. For years, people have sought to get away and resettle in these remote areas – some to try and farm and others to build their dream retreat.

Land used to be virtually freely available. People could come and take up land claims on Crown lands, paying a pittance for 99 year leases. Thankfully, those days are now over. North Channel Crown Lands are now closed to disposition and have been incorporated into a large natural preservation area known as North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve.

This Reserve includes most of the islands of the North Channel as well as substantial tracts of land on the mainland. Other large tracts of land belong to various First Nations. As a result, much of the North Channel remains wild and unpopulated – much like it was at the beginning of the 19th century when traders, loggers and settlers began their tentative push into this area.

CORPORATE SUPPORT

Many thanks to CAMECO for their continued support

