



NORTH CHANNEL YACHT CLUB
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Commodore's Report to SPM 2021

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There is an old saying, often attributed to the Chinese: "May you live in interesting times!" Many people will agree about whether the "times" are "interesting" but will possibly disagree as to whether this is a "blessing" or a "curse". Reasonable people can reasonably disagree. It is an inescapable fact of human life that there will be disagreement, even discord.

The world continues to battle with the Covid-19 "dragon". NCYC is situated in Serpent Harbour on the Serpent River, so it would be unrealistic to expect that we can entirely escape the "dragon" and discord that attends it. It should come as no surprise then that I report to the membership that we have not escaped unscathed.

There has been fervent debate on the Management Committee [MC] about what should happen or not happen at the Club given recent government directives and constantly changing perspectives and directives. There is confusion. That confusion cannot help but sow disagreement.

Despite all that, there is good news too. We have received a number of applications for full membership and some members have, for personal reasons, elected to move to Associate Membership status or to resign their membership altogether. As best I know, those decisions were not the result of disgruntlement with NCYC. Life goes on, as does the pulse of NCYC.

Last season, critical services were interrupted by equipment failure. Most notably, the haul-out winch was inoperative for an extended period. This was not just an inconvenience, but also potentially dangerous if a boat needed to be hauled out in an emergency. There were contingency methods to deal with that, but ideally, we should have been able to address that issue more efficiently.

We also experienced a problem with the waste pump-out pump and struggled with replacements that did not work and differing opinions about how to address these issues. Ultimately this was solved, but not without frustration.

This spring we faced a problem with damage to the winch cable which required many feet to be cut from the end of the cable before it could be safely used.

All these "surprises" affect our budgets and require hours of time from MC members to address. Could some of these been avoided by more pro-active maintenance and/or education and supervision of members in the proper use and care for equipment? Arguably so, but that too takes time and energy – both in short supply. We need to do better – collectively.

This season, we faced additional surprises about what "Club Opening" or "Closing" means as these are not terms defined or used in our By-laws. Is "Club Opening" different from declaring the "Boating Season" open? What are allowable steps to be taken before "Club Opening" and who gets to take those steps – e.g. preparing the water system? The MC does not have any document which speaks to such operational issues and, not surprisingly, there are different versions of what "past practice" looks like and what current practice should look like.

So: In addition to capital projects, there is other work to be done!