



BOW WAVE

Alexandra Yacht Club

www.ayc.on.ca

Volume 14, Issue 1

February 2012

Commodore's Report

Happy New Year to all and hopefully we are all looking forward to a great 2012 boating season, weather permitting. According to the Almanac, this is the long range forecast for our region during boating season:

April and May will be cooler and drier than normal across most of the region. Summer will be cooler and drier than normal, with the hottest temperatures in early June and mid-July. September and October will be cooler and slightly rainier than normal in the east, while the west will be drier than normal, with near-normal temperatures on average.

This is the first Bow Wave for the new season and a new Board of Directors. As your new Commodore, I am very pleased to report that we have a very energetic, experienced and dedicated board this year. Your club is in good hands. I believe last year's board was extremely strong and this year's edition is certainly its equal.

This new board is made up of six members from last year's edition (Ken Daisley, Joe Koole, Keith Whalen, Phil Dunk, Don Hood and myself) as well as three new faces (Dan Peel, Bill Restivo and Susan Cameron), although two of them have previous board experience. This leaves only one rookie (Susan) who is already making her presence felt in the House Director portfolio as well as on the board in general.

Your board is currently in the middle of the budgeting process and this process should be completed at our next meeting on February 1. Without having seen the other Bow Wave submissions, I suspect some of the others will include their plans for the year in their reports, although these reports were due before the final budget meeting.

Last year was a busy one at AYC with our members using the facilities at, I believe, record levels. Also, I believe we had record levels of reciprocal guests coming to our club. The "best kept secret on the lake" is not really that much of a secret anymore. I am basing the record numbers on more supplies bought, more garbage pick-ups and more beer/wine bottles brought to the beer store by Life Member, Kirk Kawczynski. This is a very positive direction for our club.

Having just been at the Toronto Boat Show, I could not help but notice that there were many yacht clubs that paid big bucks for a booth at the show attempting to attract and sign up new members. I see this happening and I think of our club with a long, quality waiting list for full Senior Memberships. This is a position we need to keep working on moving forward, as this is what will assure that we are in for a secure and bright future for AYC.

See you all at Hug Your Boat on Sunday, March 18th.

Ben Koldyk, Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report

Happy New Year to all,

I am looking forward to working with the Board of Directors this year to maintain and improve the club infrastructure.

Please pay attention to the yard and your neighbours' boats in the yard through March. Things can break loose with wind and ice. Let each other know if it looks like we need to take action.

Keep your ladder locked up. No boats are to be left plugged in while unattended.

When checking your cover, cradle and support pads, please check your neighbour's boat, it may be the Rear Commodore's boat, and he only has one good leg!

Launch is Saturday April 28, 2012, and Yard Clean Up will be the following Saturday, May 5th, at 9:00 a.m.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Hug Your Boat in March, and at that time I will announce our newest and most powerful asset to save us from cradle crew! We may also be able to park in the yard for Yard Clean Up.....but I'm not promising anything yet.

From here on in the daylight hours are increasing.

Cheers

Dan Peel, Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore's Report

Greetings to all in 2012 and I trust everyone is starting this year in good health, good spirits and with enthusiasm for our great club.

Firstly, let me say thanks to all who supported my desire to continue as your Rear Commodore for the 2012 sailing season. I enjoyed my time last year in the position and learned many new things that I intend to apply to dock operations this coming season.

Unfortunately, I have suffered a setback in terms of my mobility in that I have seriously injured my left leg, and as a result will not be able to physically participate in many of the events we will be planning in the early part of the season, but will continue to coordinate, prioritize, schedule and push forward the necessary changes and activities with the help of the AYC capable and willing team.

I have set a small budget to help us to continue to improve our docking system this year with a focus on safety, reliability, environmental consciousness and community support and relations. We will continue to improve the quality of the chains, anchor blocks and shackles concentrating again on the Main Dock as well as C Dock, improving safety.

We will continue the weed warrior program to improve community relations and help the environment.

We will make significant changes to the Officer of the Day program to make it more effective, improving services and as well our image with visitors from other yacht clubs.

There does however remain a small spill-over of issues from last year, mostly concerning some dock allocation issues brought to my attention late last season and over the winter so far. This will be addressed to everyone's satisfaction with a revised dock layout that I will post prior to launch. We will also need to deal with the club boat.

Other than that, I intend to enjoy the coming boating season and look forward to both socializing and working with everyone really soon.

Ken Daisley, Rear Commodore

Secretary's Report

Happy New Year! I am looking forward to another great season at AYC. This year I will be building on the successes of last year and learning from some mistakes. I am once again committed to the following:

- Posting of minutes on the club's website and bulletin board in a timely fashion;
- Expanding the reciprocal list;
- Ensuring the reciprocal list is up-to-date with entitlements on the website;
- Timely issuing of membership cards.

I believe the single most important area for improvement is our membership cards. I am currently looking into alternatives for our membership cards. At minimum, I am looking to have our cards laminated with plastic or having plastic membership cards printed. NO MORE ink running, flimsy business card type. We deserve better!

I am looking for a volunteer or two to help with reciprocal mailings and membership card production. So if you want to get a head start on your work hours, let me know.

Keith Whalen, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's musings:

By the time you read this, you should have paid the invoice for 2012 membership and summer docking. If not, act now to avoid the penalty (pay higher amount). For the Associates the due date is February 29.

Now to my other "passion".

With the year-end statements done and the AGM history, I was free to take off on November 29 for a two-week trip to Haiti. It was my fifth and (again) a good experience. It is now two years after the earthquake and life continues. Rubble is being removed to a central location to be crushed for re-use. Rebuilding has and is happening. Many lost loved ones (family/friends) and are now getting on with the grieving. The church that I am part of has built over 2500 (simple) new homes in the Leogane area providing housing for about 12,000 Haitians. While lumber was imported, all else was done with local labour with the "owners" needing to prepare the lot, foundation, eventual painting etc. Money came from individuals, government grants and other charities that do not have "people on the ground". These homes included access to potable community wells/water and latrines. One of our partners runs a micro-credit bank. If you are interested in more, just ask me!

Thanks.

Joe Koole, Treasurer

House Director's Report

Happy New Year Everyone!

Well, after fifteen years of being a member of AYC, I finally decided to step up and serve on your board! So far the experience has been great. We have a few things to do when it comes to the house.

First, we have had to do some repair work in the men's bathroom. It will now get a needed paint job to make it look as fresh as the women's washroom.

There is some other refreshing that needs to be done. One project that is being taken on is to sand the edges of the four tables upstairs and refinish them.

I would like to update the stereo system at the club to make it more user friendly, i.e., plug in an ipad/ipod or usb stick.

I am looking at installing some blinds on the south windows to help reduce the heat upstairs in the summer.

The club house is going to be freshened up and cleaned. This will involve the club being closed off for a few days in the early weeks of February. Floors will be stripped and waxed, furniture and carpet will be professionally steam cleaned.

I will gladly accept any ideas or recommendations that you would like to see to improve your facilities.

Susan Cameron, House Director

Social Director's Report

Last year I wrote my first Bow Wave newsletter article as Social Director. It was an interesting year for me. The Wine and Cheese party was a big success and we brought in some new bands that wowed us. In September we had the most successful party of the season by combining the Almost Around the Island Race with our annual Hog Fest. What a great year!

Well now it's another year and I enjoyed last year so much that I took on the job again. That is the club elected me again to do the job. Then again no one ran against me so the decision was easy. Once again the first event of the year was the Wine and Cheese party. I heard many comments that it was a great time for members to meet and greet before many went south for the winter.

Our next big event will be our Hug Your Boat party. Mark your calendar - that's Sunday March 18th from 2 until 5 p.m.

Also in March or April we are planning to couple an "Information Evening" with the Awards Night. We will be bringing in two speakers. One speaker will be a sail expert and one will be a mechanic. Members will receive an e-mail in the near future as to the finalized date. It should be an evening that will have something for everyone.

June brings our annual Sail Past. It is a little later this year - Saturday June 23rd. The band is booked and it will be a great day of tradition, fun, music and food.

Again the tradition of Caribbean Night will have all up and dancing. That's happening August 18th. It has become one of the best parties of the year. We hope to see you all there.

Last party of the season as usual is Hog Fest. Last year we coupled it with the Almost Around the Island Race. We will be doing the same this year. It was the best-attended party of the year. Again, lots of food and fun. We look forward to seeing you all there.

That's about it for now. We will keep you updated and have a great winter.

Phil Dunk, Social Director

Membership Director's Report

Dear all,

Not too much to report. We will have a new candidate joining the club at the next meeting, if he passes the grueling exam.

And the waiting list grows longer. They have found us....

Who says there is no "free lunch"?

We get the December Wine and Cheese (a few members maybe wine a little too much),

Two more wine and cheese (if you come to the Spring Meeting and the AGM),

Two free beer and burgers at the Spring and Fall Yard Clean Ups,

Two more free lunches at Haul Out and Launch,

And don't forget Hug Your Boat, yet another free burger and beer!!

Great deal if you drink beer.....

What a deal! - well worth the \$30.00 social fee that was added to the bill the last two years.

And I almost forgot the "piece de resistance", Sail Past. Sail in circles for an hour, dip your flag (no saluting, that's the Commodore's job) as you sail past the Commodore, then wine, beer, nibbles at the Commodore's reception, then dinner and more....a band and dancing. Wow, such a deal, you should be so lucky!!!!

Looks like we will only have room for one new member this year. Back in the day when we had a higher turnover (8 to 10 members) we brought in a good "chunk of change" with initiation fees. Perhaps this is the time to consider a modest increase.

I have heard rumours that a few clubs are having financial problems with the recent tax increases, and that there is no problem getting docks for 30 footers. It's a different story for 30 to 40 footers - very few docks - and forget trying to find a home for your new 50 footer.

The 2012 Boat Show is over for another year - it was extremely busy. I had lots of interest in bow thrusters and LED lighting. People are spending money.

I did see quite a few club members there, including John and Linda standing on the bow of their new Carver 54. (We will miss them). Sad news for sailors. Most of the new boats sold were larger power boats - people are moving up. New sailboat sales were slow.

We have had a very mild winter so far (cross your fingers) - 3 months to launch.

That is all.

Don Hood, Membership Director

Communications Director's Report

I'm back!

For those members with long memories, you may recall that I was the Bow Wave editor when the first edition was produced. This was back in the early 80's. Diane Wait designed the masthead and Doug Smith provided the printing services. It was before the internet and computers were widely available so everything was done manually, including licking the envelopes.

Today the club communicates with the membership using email and our website, thereby providing efficient, immediate contact with the majority of the members. Important items such as notices of meetings, invoices, calls for work parties and social events are all done via the web. In January, the board held the first ever meeting using technology so I could participate while 2250 kms away. It was a rocky start but will get better.

This will be the last snailmail edition of the Bow Wave sent to members with an email address. A paper copy of the Bow Wave will be posted in the clubhouse. In addition, Bruce Buttimore has placed a Bow Wave icon on the club's computer providing one-click access to the current edition. This will bring the Bow Wave in line with the club's other communications and maximize our efficiency by using technology.

It is also my intention to send email announcements when new minutes from the Directors' meetings are available on our website to allow club members to be as current as possible with what is happening with the running of their club. If you have suggestions for other information you would like to receive, please pass them along.

The Bow Wave has generally consisted of reports from the Directors and little other input. By sending email notification of when board minutes are posted to the website and frequent/current information about events, I feel we can reduce the publication of the Bow Wave from bi-monthly to quarterly without impacting the information flow to the members. This proposal has been accepted by the Board of Directors.

Quoting from a recent letter sent to the board from a senior member: "Fellow members always expected the volunteer Board to keep their fellow members in the loop and certainly to keep their fellow members fully involved in any proposed changes to the norm." I believe that with 87% of the senior members already choosing to have the Bow Wave delivered to them electronically, they have voted to make the web/email the new norm for communicating. As a volunteer organization, anything that will reduce time and labour, and that will help the volunteers do their job more efficiently without affecting the operation of the club should be implemented. I hope you agree.

Please send me your boating stories, pictures and items of interest to ensure the Bow Wave stays relevant to you, the members of AYC.

And last but far from least, I want to publically thank Bruce Buttimore for being so generous with his time and knowledge in helping me to publish my first electronic edition of the Bow Wave.

BE INFORMED GET INVOLVED MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Bill Restivo, Communications Director

Fleet Captain's Report

The winners in the 2011 race season are to be announced at the Awards Night in early April. The night will also include talks by a marine mechanic and a sailmaker. And of course some food and drink. The final date for the event will be announced very shortly.

Stephen Brown, Fleet Captain

2012 AYC Events

Hug Your Boat	March 18	Yard Clean Up	October 13
Spring Meeting	April 18	Haul Out	October 20/21
Dock Party	April 21	Dock Party	October 27
LAUNCH	April 28	Fall AGM	November 21
Yard Clean Up	May 5	Wine and Cheese	December 9
SAIL PAST	June 23		
Caribbean Night	August 18		
Hog Fest/Almost Around the Island Race	September 15		

Member News

Two of our members are off sailing in warm southern waters.

Ray and Vonny Brioux on their Nonsuch 30, Wishbone, are back on the Rio Dulce in Guatemala getting ready to continue their trip north.

Dave Tuninga is just beginning every sailor's dream. On his newly purchased Bavaria 41, Sundance, he is in the Virgin Islands starting his great adventure.

Both of these members have sent logs. Bruce Buttimore has posted these to our website, www.ayc.on.ca, so we can follow their cruises.