



BOW WAVE

Alexandra Yacht Club

www.ayc.on.ca

Volume 10, Issue 1

January/February 2008

Commodore's Report

A very sincere "Happy New Year" to all Alexandra Yacht Club members.

Our club is very fortunate to have so many kind, helpful and generous members as was so clearly in evidence at the Christmas Wine and Cheese party when our Christmas tree was surrounded by a wealth of gifts for the young men and women of Covenant House. I know the recipients of your generosity are most thankful and well aware of our caring.

I want to take this first opportunity to thank each of you for affording me the honor and privilege of serving as your Commodore for the next year. To me, this indeed is a very special undertaking and I assure you I shall devote my best efforts toward the tasks at hand.

You have chosen an excellent team of Board members and following our last Board meeting I'm totally convinced that this group of volunteers is all equally committed to forwarding the interests of the AYC and you our fellow members.

I noted at our Fall AGM that my belief is that the Board is comprised of a group of fellow members who have volunteered for the next year to undertake the responsibilities of administering the affairs of our club as directed by the membership as a whole. Simply put; we are charged with knowing and understanding the wishes, needs and goals of the membership and then administering our Club in a manner that best meets our fellow members desires; at least as many as possible. But, it is a shared responsibility. While the Board members have assumed the administration responsibility, all of our members must take on their share of responsibility as well. Volunteer for the various work parties; share Officer of the Day work load; offer your assistance whenever possible and go that extra little bit further in supporting any event held at the Club. We need everyone's support and help to maximize our potential and to bring all members the pleasure they derive from belonging to our Club.

To achieve these basic objectives we, the Board, must make ourselves aware of our members thoughts and ideas about the AYC and we must continuously seek input from all members.

Our members are a very diverse group of boaters. Some of us are Racers, some Cruisers, some Power, some Sail and some who just enjoy the Club's onshore facilities. Whatever your particular interest, we are all members of the Alexandra Yacht Club. The club needs us all. To be sure, the AYC can never be all things to all people. Never the less, when our membership feel involved; when they hear that we are interested and when on occasion a member's idea is implemented; then all of us are big winners and our one hundred years plus of being the best yacht club on the lake will stretch into many more happy years to come.

Minutes of all Board meetings will be posted on the club bulletin board. Keep yourself informed. Read but do not take them away please.

I have attended the most recent Council of Commodores meeting and we are planning a meeting with the Toronto Port Authority to discuss the issue of the Buoys at the end of the airport. I will keep you informed as things develop.

One topic that was discussed at great length was the storage of gasoline cans - those still with fuel in them. It would seem that this is a definite "no no" at least within 150 ft of the waters edge. We are guilty of doing this and could face fines if we were to have a spill or someone were to report us. The answer is quite simple; make sure all stored gas cans are stored EMPTY or take them home with you.

That's about it for now. Again, thank you for providing me with this honor. I will try hard not to let you down. Keep in touch whenever possible and lets all get out for the "Hug your Boat" get-together coming up in early Spring. See you there. ♦

Ron Tyson, Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report

First of all I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and I hope you like skiing because it's a long winter. But fear not, it's a short flight to the Caribbean.

The gate code has been changed for the 2008 season. There will only be one code for both members and guests this year. We will be changing this code several times throughout the year to improve security. Please make sure your email addresses are up to date in order to receive the latest code. If you don't have an email address, tell me, and I will form a list of people to phone.

As always, don't leave your boat plugged in when unattended. Also, keep your ladder locked up or it will be removed!

After the January thaw the yard is very icy, be very careful when checking your boat. When checking your cover, cradle and support pad torque, please check your neighbour's boat also. If we look after each other we can avoid any damages to our boats this year.

Launch is April 26, 2008, and Yard Clean Up will be the following Saturday, May 3rd. Parking is always an issue when the boats are on the hard. Our space is limited, so please be considerate and don't take up two spots. ♦

David Gardner, Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore's Report

If the recent trend continues, it's possible that sometime in the future, deep-draft keel boats will have trouble maneuvering through shallower areas of our basin. A quick glance at the stained east wall (by our condominium neighbours) confirms that an alarming drop in water level has taken place.

The most recent U.S. National Oceanic & Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) Great Lakes chart illustrates a steady decline in Lake Ontario water levels during the final six months of 2007. The December level was almost 20 inches lower than for the same month in 2006. A dry September (less than 1.6 inches of rainfall instead of the average 3 inches) contributed to the drop in Great Lake water levels but I think many of us have nagging, unsubstantiated suspicions there may be other climate related factors involved, such as the diversion of water to parched areas south of here.

Anyhow, the water at our main dock ramp is now only about 7 feet deep, which means there is a four-foot drop from the top of the sea-wall to the water. Our dock-

power electrical cables have become more exposed and although the "bubbler" is in continuous operation to prevent ice forming where the cables enter the water, during mild periods like those experienced at Christmas, large chunks of ice were driven to and fro by wind and current and chafed against these cables. We have placed a skirt of jet-floats around the cables to keep the ice at bay but more substantial protection will have to be designed and installed before the next major break-up of ice occurs.

About two and a half years ago we took soundings and found that water depths around our docks ranged from ten to twelve feet. Since we are presently a couple of feet below those levels, what might we expect in 2008? Canadian Hydrographic Services and U.S Army Corps of Engineers charts predict a rise in Lake Ontario water level of almost 8 inches by March and further 8 inches by May but both agencies only extend their predictions forward six months so it is difficult to speculate what might be in store for the second half of 2008. Hopefully, there are sufficient Great Lakes water level controls in place to preclude a repeat of the 2007 downward trend.

It is interesting to look at data from the era before the St. Lawrence Seaway and other Great Lake water control points were established and see that levels fluctuated dramatically. For example, on Lake Ontario, the December 2007 level was 25 inches higher than that recorded for the same month in 1934 but 32 inches lower than the level recorded for December 1945. If we ever again sank to the 1934 level, we would have depths of less than 6 feet of water in the shallowest areas of our basin, and that would not be good for navigation, considering there are abandoned ground tackle and other objects littering the bottom. ♦

Bill McLean, Rear Commodore

Secretary's Report

Happy New Year to all at AYC.

At the Spring General Meeting membership cards will be available for pick up by all senior members.

The cards of those not in attendance and/or of associate members will be mailed out prior to Launch. ♦

Nick Pltt, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

It's New Year's Day as I write this. Happy New Year to all that read this and may blessings abound in 2008.

I have just received an email from Anton with my Summer 2008 Invoice attached. Printed it right away, initialed and signed where required and wrote the cheque so it will not be forgotten. If you have not received your invoice by, say, January 10th, please call Anton to obtain (416-699-9294).

You can either drop the signed invoice plus the cheque into the office at AYC or mail it to Anton or AYC. Do it now!

Please do not forget that the signed invoice needs to accompany the payment. If you wish to pay after January 31st, please remember the 5% penalty plus an additional 1% for every full or partial month after February 29. If we all deal with the payment promptly it will save you money, embarrassment and follow-up on my part.

In the event that there is an error in your invoice (excluding Work Hours) please speak to Anton. As for Work Hours, you should pay the full Invoice and write the Board for adjustment. Our meetings are January 9 and February 6 (as far as I know).

In the event you are planning to resign from the club after launch, it will be necessary to pay the invoice and a rebate cheque will be issued once your resignation becomes effective.

Thanks. ♦

Joe Koole, Treasurer

House Director's Report

Happy New Year. My wish is that all AYC members have a great '08!

I am very pleased to serve the Club as House Director and intend to maintain the Club in the fine condition that it is in currently and look at ways to improve things.

Projects under consideration include upgrading the stereo system including the addition of wall mounted speakers, adding a drain to the stall in the women's shower that does not have its own drain, reducing the amount of water used by the flush toilets in both washrooms and replacing the phone in the kitchen.

If you feel that something could be done to improve the clubhouse, please contact me by email at paulkirby@rogers.com or by phone at 416-605-6839.

If you would like to earn work hours for a project that is required, please let me know you are available as projects come up from time to time. As well, I will send out requests inviting members to sign up and earn work hours when projects do come up.

All the very best for an active and enjoyable winter season. ♦

Paul Kirby, House Director

Social Director's Report

1. A social committee has been established. Its members are: Sandy Murray, Don Burgess, Phil Dunk, Ingrid Kuter and Anne Axon.
2. The plan for 2008 is to have several events and ensure they are better attended.
3. Social events to include:
 - Christmas Wine & Cheese (December 9)
 - Hug Your Boat
 - Sail Past
 - Hog Fest
 - Spring and Fall General Meetings

When any party is arranged in the winter season, weather has always played a factor. Earlier in the day the weather looked like it might not co-operate but as the day rolled on the members arrived at the clubhouse each bearing the best of seasons tidings. The club soon took on a festive air and friends soon caught up on the gossip and shared good times or jokes with others. It was just one of those days where everything was "Just Right".

December is known as the season of giving and so it is at Alexandra. The annual wine and cheese party was well attended by the club members. Each of the guests brought gifts for Covenant House, Later these were taken to Covenant House and distributed to the kids who are less fortunate than us. This has been a tradition at the club and those who donated, both the club and Covenant House thank you.

This was the first event that was put on by our new executive and it was marked as a great success. Look for out next event "Hug Your Boat". Wow, next thing we will be thinking of is Launch Day. Where does the time

go. Also I would like to thank the members of the social committee for all their help.

See you all at the club. ♦

Sandy Murray, Social Director

Membership Director's Report

Greetings to the new year of 2008!

I am honoured to be in the position of membership director. I know that I have some large shoes to fill as Don Hood had done an exceptional job maintaining a full membership.

I am looking at making some changes in how membership to AYC should be handled. I envision a new system.

Gone are the days of waiting lists. I see that we should honour past members that were in good standing and welcome them back. The next consideration should be our associate members and bring them on board as full members. After this it is based on application with first consideration being given to those who are friends of present members. I am looking forward to revising the process. ♦

Kevin Tapping, Membership Director

Communications Director's Report

The Wi-Fi has been removed for the winter to prevent damage. The clubhouse computer is still available for email, etc.

A Wi-Fi repeater will be installed in the spring to increase the signal to the boats on the end-docks.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year. ♦

Bruce Buttimore, Communications Director

Panama Canal

You don't need to pay a large sum to transit the Panama Canal. Every yacht that goes through needs four line handlers. The Panama Canal Yacht Club (another P.C.Y.C.) is in Colon, Panama, and takes names of volunteers to go westbound through the canal. And that's more interesting than on a cruise ship.

CPS Courses

Many courses will be offered in the G.T. Area, starting in January, by Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons. For more information go to: www.cps-ecp.ca.

The Extended Cruising (a.k.a. Offshore Sailing) course will be offered at Forest Hill C.I. (Eglinton and Bathurst) starting on Wednesday, January 30. Very knowledgeable and experienced lecturers will present a wide variety of topics pertinent to cruisers. Non-members of CPS are welcome, as are power boaters.

Ontario Sailing Association also has an excellent series of courses: www.sailon.org

The P.C.O.C. (Pleasure Craft Operators Card) will be required for all operators of power-driven boats starting in September 15, 2009. That's next year! ♦

Bob Anglin

CALLING ALL GOOD IDEAS

The board of directors wishes to promote an active and orderly discussion of new ideas at the Spring General Meeting in April. With this in mind we are making this call for the submission of motions to be considered for inclusion on the agenda of that meeting.

Anyone with a strong idea for improving the club is encouraged to draft a brief motion describing their proposal, and forward it to me at nick@warwickgp.com on or before March 5th. The board will review these proposals at its March meeting and decide on inclusion in the Spring GM agenda.

All proposals are welcomed and will be fully considered. In this way our Spring GM can include a significant contribution from the entire membership.

The board is also intent on hearing ideas that may not be at the "motion" stage but which are worthy of discussion in their own right, with the aim of them becoming motions taken to the membership at a later meeting. These ideas can be forwarded to the secretary any time before the Spring GM. It is understood that they will be discussed and examined but any formal motion will happen at a later meeting.

In this way the board wishes to promote the active participation of the membership in the ongoing management of the club.

WINDJAMMER

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2008 5:30 p.m.

6:00 Dinner
7:30 Adam Mayers speaks
9:00 Awards

Come listen to Adam Mayers, senior editor at the Toronto Star web page, and author of four books. He will tell the tale of the 1979 Fastnet Race. An ocean crossing between England and Ireland in which a massive storm took lives and boats.

Enjoy dinner and the company of AYC members. Use the opportunity to rejuvenate your love for boating, even though it's the middle of winter.

RSVP before Jan. 31
Cost \$25 per person
Includes dinner, presentation and awards.
BYOB

Send money to:
Matt Filletti
4 Dornfell St. North York
ON M2R 2Y6

<mailto:mfilletti@rogers.com>
416-733-8148

E-mail me the money or send a cheque payable to "Matt Filletti"

A sailing race gone wrong **Beyond Endurance**

300 boats, 600 miles, 1 deadly storm

By Adam Mayers

On Saturday August 11 1979, 303 boats set sail on a 600-mile race from the south coast of England to a lighthouse off the Irish coast called Fastnet Rock. They expected a challenge, but not the fight for their lives that remains the worst disaster in the sport of ocean-racing.

A storm of near hurricane-force descended on the fleet and within the space of 30 hours 15 people died, 25 boats were abandoned and 136 people rescued. It was the largest British air-sea operation

since World War II. The fleet included 28 Canadian men in three boats from Toronto, Hamilton and Vancouver on a trip to indulge their sailing passion and to do their country proud. That night in the Irish Sea race remains one of the most dramatic moments of their lives.

Beyond Endurance tells their story.

What's been said about Beyond Endurance:

A powerful and moving story.

Derek Lundy, author of Godforsaken Sea and Way of the Ship

Dramatic and exhaustive.

Globe & Mail

A gripping narrative.

Hamilton Spectator

AYC Events 2008

Windjammer – Feb 9

Spring General Meeting - Apr 16

Spring Work Party - Apr 19

Launch - Apr 26

Yard Cleanup - May 3

Haul-Out - Oct 25-26