



# BOW WAVE

Alexandra Yacht Club

[www.ayc.on.ca](http://www.ayc.on.ca)

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March/April 2008

## Commodore's Report

Will Spring ever come again? Surely all of us are tired of the constant terrible bad weather. But take heart; it will all too soon become time to once again begin the annual ritual of waxing, scrapping, painting and cleaning that signals the beginning of a new boating season at the Alexandra Yacht Club. It is always such a rewarding experience to wander around the yard in those early Spring days and once more see all our members with such broad smiles as they prepare for another season on the water. All the cold miserable Winter days are quickly forgotten.

As we take the covers off our boats its time to once again remind all members that "shrink wrap" should not be put in the club dumpster or left in the yard. Please take it home with you or if you wish keep it in your locker.

Spring also is the kick-off to numerous club work party initiatives both in the yard and on the docks. I know that both Bill and Dave have need of volunteers for a variety of projects they have planned. Watch for sign-up sheets on the Club bulletin board.

Speaking of the AYC bulletin board; the Club Secretary (Nick) has been posting your Boards minutes on the wall but somehow these disappear. The posting of said minutes is one of our methods to keep all AYC members in the loop as to what your Board is doing. Please read these minutes but do not take them away or remove them.

Your Board has had a very busy past few months as we have reviewed our various objectives for the next year while working to align these objectives with the available funds. It's very easy to say we should do this or do that but behind all these wants there is the necessity to understand what we can afford. The bottom line is to arrive at a list of this years objectives or projects that the Club "needs". It's the old needs vs wants thing.

Without, I hope, stealing any thunder from other Board members reports; I can say that we have arrived at the following project goals for this year. "A new tractor" (cradles getting too heavy for our old tractor and too heavy to lug around), "A privacy fence at the North East corner of our yard" (consideration for our Condominium neighbours), "Reworking of the drains in the ladies showers" (long overdue) and finally the "ongoing repairs and maintenance of our docks and dinghy dock". All these will be completed this coming season. I hope everyone will agree that these are projects we need to go ahead with. Joe will be presenting the approved budget for 2008 at our April GM.

We will also be asking the membership at our Spring General Meeting (April 16<sup>th</sup>) to approve the expenditure for the new tractor. Please, lets have a full turn out for these AYC meetings!!!

At our Fall Annual General Meeting there was considerable discussion regarding Officer of the Day and formalizing our visitor policy. At that time it was left to the board to clarify a policy. So, "The AYC offers visitors from a club with reciprocal privileges and presenting a valid current membership card; 2 nights free dockage". One additional nights stay may be given with permission of the OOD or by any Board member. All additional stays if given, must be logged into the OOD book. Maritime law requires that no vessel be turned away or refused shelter in cases of extreme weather conditions.

We are seeking a volunteer to look after our Regalia program for the season. This person would be responsible for the purchase and sales of the Club's Regalia under the direction of the AYC Board. They should be prepared to display and sell the Regalia at most Club work parties and Social events. Give me a call if interested and we can cover the details.

Since our last Bow Wave I have had the opportunity to represent the AYC at Council of Commodores meetings, a meeting with the Toronto Port Authority and with our

neighbour the NYC. I will report further on this at the Spring General Meeting.

Finally, I would ask all members of AYC to think about sending in an article to Bruce for publication in Bow Wave. I know we must have some literary talent among our members and it would be interesting to hear some of your stories. Reports such as mine above are far too bland. But then ..... ? ♦

**Ron Tyson, Commodore**

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## **Vice Commodore's Report**

We had a few extremely cold days in January, so I hope everyone was thorough in winterizing their boat. Now that spring is almost here, we will soon find out.

As always, don't leave your boat plugged in when unattended. Also keep your ladder locked up or it will be removed! There is a small fee to dispose of your shrink-wrap at the club or you can take it home. Please be kind to the environment and flush out your anti-freeze and recycle it.

Launch is April 26, 2008 this year. Please take advantage of those nice days when we get them prior to launch, somehow it seems to cool off again close to launch. If anyone is sanding their bottom they should drape their boat to prevent covering all the other boats in a bottom paint dust from bow to stern. I will be publishing the Launch duty roster and schedule as we get closer to this day. The crane will be of the same size as was used for haul-out last fall. The yard will not be launched row by row, so do not assume that because you are in the row closest to the street that you will come out last.

Please do all you can to avoid injury and be aware of your proximity to what's happening around you. If lifting cradles, bend your knees, not your back. Get help. If climbing ladders, have someone support the base of the ladder. If you feel that the task that you have been assigned to is beyond you, please let me or someone in charge know so that you can be re-assigned.

Parking is always an issue in the spring, our space is limited, so please be considerate and don't take up two spots. A note will be posted in the clubhouse if parking is available nearby at launch. Please keep in mind that the crane will be leaving at the end of launch day so it will need the space in front of the gate to exit the yard. Another consideration is that if emergency vehicles need access to the AYC grounds, there should be no cars in front of the gate.

With regard to boat preparations, please try to clean up around your boat removing any cans, spent brushes, garbage and other debris prior to launch and dispose of the refuse in the disposal bin provided. On day of launch, please have lines attached to bow and stern of the boat of correct length (15 feet) to allow for safe maneuvering of your boat in the slings to the water's edge. Do not try to bottom paint the portion of hull that was covered by your cradle pad while the boat is in the slings. The anti-fouling paint is solvent based and the slings are made from artificial fibers so the integrity of the slings could be undermined if the solvent should come in contact with the slings. Testing a pair of slings to certify them usable costs many hundreds of dollars of the club's funds. Managing the slings better may extend the life of the slings. Simple acts like supporting the slings such that they do not get dragged through the gravel and get impregnated with grit will certainly help to prolong the life of the slings.

Please be present at your boat when it is being launched or have someone be present that you have designated to act on your behalf. If you have someone else to look after your boat, please inform the crane director ahead of time to avoid unnecessary confusion and running around looking for people who are not there. It is also your responsibility to let the crane director know if you are satisfied that the boat is properly located in the slings.

If you need help in docking/mooring, please advise the person in charge at dockside and someone will accompany you out or make the AYC's launch available to tow or pick you up as necessary. Once your boat is launched, please proceed to dock/moor your boat in a crisp and orderly fashion and return to your assigned duties.

Once your boat has been launched and you have promptly returned to the launch area, please make sure that your cradle pads are stowed so you know where they are. Usually someone on the cradle crew will place them on the periphery of the grounds for you to pick up. If you are claiming cradle pads, please make sure that they are indeed yours.

Anyone planning on not launching April 26, 2008 should request so A.S.A.P. ♦

**David Gardner, Vice Commodore**

## Rear Commodore's Report

Our floating dock system appears to have survived the harsh winter so far, with no apparent buckling in spite of significant pressure from the ice which currently covers the entire basin. There are a few jet-floats that have been forced slightly up or down by the ice and the chains that tether the main dock to the seawall have had to be loosened twice to relieve tension. It is hoped that not too many anchors have been pulled out of position.

The water level in the basin is rising – about 12 inches in the past two months. Our power cables appear to be safe for the moment. The latest Canadian Hydrographic Services chart projects a continuing rise in Lake Ontario levels, at least until the end of June.

There will be two mooring work parties this spring, the first on Saturday, April 12 and the second on Saturday, April 19. On April 12, a small group of volunteers will launch the “Lollipop”, carry out an inspection of ground tackle, and make minor modifications to some slips on “A” dock. On April 19, a larger group of volunteers will be needed to tighten anchor chains, install power pedestals, hook up water hoses and power-wash all the docks. Sign-up sheets for both work parties will be posted on the club bulletin board by mid-March. Since there will only be work for a limited number of volunteers on each date, please don't volunteer if all the sign-up sheet spaces have already been filled.

A preliminary slip assignment diagram will be posted by April 1. At least two new boats will be added to our fleet so one or two re-assignments may be necessary. If you have any issue regarding your current slip assignment, please let me know as soon as possible. ♦

**Bill McLean, Rear Commodore**

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## Treasurer's Report

It's around 20C as I sit here in Hilton Head Island, S.C. writing a brief article for the Bow Wave. It's beautiful day for sailing as there is sun and a breeze. I just do not have *Primetime* so satisfied with biking on the beach.

Not much to say other than to remind those few of you who have still not paid the Summer Invoice, that the end of March is crucial. Any dues/membership fees that are not paid by March 31 will result in automatic suspension of the membership (ref. ByLaws Section 1.6). Hopefully this will not be necessary for any.

Hope you have a good "Hug Your Boat" party. ♦

**Joe Koole, Treasurer**

## House Director's Report

I'm thinking that with all the snow dumped on us lately and with launch day less than 60 days away we can almost begin to get excited about boating activities.

Haul-out seems so long ago. I trust that AYC members are keeping busy over the winter with trips to places that have warmth, sun and sand, trips to places that have hills and snow, excursions to arenas to slide rocks down the ice, or simply enjoying the warmth of a fireplace with friends and a glass or two.

There have been some changes to the clubhouse. The new phones, in the kitchen and in the lobby, have lights that indicate when the other phone is in-use. This should eliminate picking up one phone when the other is in use. They also have a “hold” button and some speed dial buttons for programming numbers for Canada Customs, taxi services or pizza. We are in the process of reviewing quotes to improve the drainage in the women's shower.

A huge “Thank you” goes out to all who have used the clubhouse for meetings, parties and other types of gatherings for cleaning up and generally leaving the facilities in better shape than you found them.

Hope to see you on Hug Your Boat day. ♦

**Paul Kirby, House Director**

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## Social Director's Report

Hug your Boat is fast approaching and with the snow we are planning on going ahead rain or shine. So make your best effort to attend. We may need some snow removal help to get the parking lot cleared. See you all there. ♦

**Sandy Murray, Social Director**

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## Membership Director's Report

Greetings Everyone!

The new boating season is fast approaching hope your winter months have been kind! I know that I have had a great winter enjoying the slopes every chance that I got!

I have also been receiving inquiries into AYC. Based on the numbers I would have to say that we as a club must be doing something right. Despite the fact that we are a small self-help club it does not seem to deter new members. And how do these new member get to know

what this club is all about? Not only the new members but how about existing members? Does everyone really know what it is that they can be doing to get hours. And if they do know what the jobs are, do they really know what each job entails.

I am proposing that we set up an orientation program so that new and existing members learn what it is that can be done, where things are, and how it is performed. There are so many senior members that could pass on their experiences and knowledge. I think that by getting everyone on the same page as far as what is expected I think that we can make our club more welcoming and efficient.

Looking forward to the coming season! ♦

**Kevin Tapping, Membership Director**

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## **Communications Director's Report**

It has been a tough winter with all the snow so I have no doubt we are all looking forward to the sailing season which is not far away now!

At our last board meeting we discussed having more input from members for the Bow Wave and having a 'Guest Column'. So if any of you would like to submit any interesting trip reports or anything you think may be of interest to the members you are very welcome to do so. This may also include comments, feedback or just a good photo, for example.

Have a good launch day... ♦

**Bruce Buttimore, Communications Director**

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## **Fleet Captain's Report**

The Windjammer dinner was a success. AYC racers and cruisers enjoyed a presentation by Adam Mayers (local Toronto Star editor and author) about the Fastnet race of 1979. It was an awesome history lesson involving world-class racers from around the world, and our own backyard. The evening was successful due to the many volunteers who helped out.

The results for the 2007 race season are on the AYC webpage. In case you don't have access, I'll post the big winners here:

### **SPRING SERIES**

#### **SPINNAKER**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Indefatigable – Brian Iler
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Burnin' Rudder – Matt Filleti
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sawfish – Ian Kuter

### **SPRING SERIES**

#### **WHITE SAILS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Mirror Image – Greg Brown
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Prime Time – Joe Koole
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Osprey – Gareth Clemo

### **SUMMER SERIES**

#### **SPINNAKER**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Hellion – Mike Lagimodiere
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Calico – Don Sutherland
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Burnin' Rudder – Pete Wolniak

### **SUMMER SERIES**

#### **WHITE SAILS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Mirror Image – Greg Brown
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Prime Time – Joe Koole
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Palabora – Alan Glennie

### **OVERALL 2007**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Mirror Image – Greg Brown
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Prime Time – Joe Koole
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Burnin' Rudder – Pete Wolniak

**Matt Filleti, Fleet Captain**

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## **Report on the Western Gap Dock Wall**

You will have noticed the "Keep Off Danger" signs on the Western Gap dock wall along the south side of Stadium road by our Club. They were erected last summer by the City, as a precaution following the collapse of a 20-foot portion adjacent to the National Yacht Club in December 2006. As local MPP Rosario Marchese says: "This is a huge safety hazard and there's no telling when the rest of the wall will collapse."

The wall was built in 1910 by the federal Department of Public Works – this is stated on a plaque on the wall, just west of the collapsed portion.

What's interesting is the degree of finger-pointing, as both the provincial government, which admits it owns the land on which the wall is located, and the federal government, which has responsibility for harbours under the Canadian constitution, look to the other for action.

Until recently, there's been no progress to report. Feeling some frustration, Olivia Chow, MP for the area, along

with Rosario Marchese, MPP, called a press conference on February 21, in which I participated on behalf of CommunityAIR – my view, not surprisingly, was that the Toronto Port Authority, having as its primary responsibility, the effective operation of the port, should actually assume that responsibility, and devote resources to the task of repairing this essential port facility.

To our complete surprise, the following story appeared in the media the next day:

A large portion of the western harbour wall that fell into Lake Ontario more than a year ago will likely be repaired in the spring, said the Toronto Port Authority (TPA).

"We've taken the matter extremely seriously and we're trying to find the best way to go about repairing it," said Lisa Raitt, president of the TPA.

Nathan Rotman of Olivia Chow's office followed up. Here's his report:

Don't get too excited too quickly.

I just got off the phone with Ken Lundy at the TPA.

They're surprised to know that the wall is confirmed as provincial crown land and can't confirm that they're fixing it this spring. They're investigating options.

So no progress, really. I thought Club members might be interested, though, in the story as it progresses (or not, as it turns out).

**Brian Iler, Past Commodore**

### **New Member at AYC**

Alexander Stephen Blundell ... born February 11th, 2008. He will be working the sheets on Carramy Shadow before you know it. Mom and Dad (Lisa and Jeff) are doing well and adjusting to life without sleep.

### **Lost Binoculars?**

Binoculars in a case were left in the clubhouse last Fall. Please contact [Bruce Buttimore](#) (416-594-1293). You will be asked to identify them...

### **AYC Events 2008**

Spring General Meeting - Wed Apr 16

Spring Dock Party I - Sat Apr 12

Spring Dock Party II - Sat Apr 19

Launch - Sat Apr 26

Yard Cleanup - Sat May 3

Sailpast - Sat June 14

Haul-Out - Oct 25-26