



BOW WAVE

Alexandra Yacht Club

www.ayc.on.ca

Volume 11, Issue 1

January/February 2009

Commodore's Report

The thing I like best about the New Year is that the days start getting longer. It will not be that long before we are all involved in that gorgeous process of unwrapping and re-commissioning our beloved vessels for another season of whatever the weather and our spirits hold in store.

Heading into '09 AYC is in vibrant good shape. We are re-landscaped, we are comfortable monetarily, we are the best-kept secret this side of Youngstown — I am a lucky commodore and will do everything in my power to ensure that AYC stays strong. I have no doubt our entire membership feels the same way.

This year we have a very new board.

Joseph Koole remains the steady hand at treasurer, and Paul Kirby has the house running well, but after this it is a surprising number of either new faces or new assignments.

Kevin Tapping has stepped forward to take over vice and run our yard. Other than his quirky sense of humour, I can't think of anyone more qualified. Our mast crane needs a professional re-assessment, our sea wall has symptoms of potential instability, the challenges of winter storage – Kevin's skills are well placed to address these things.

At rear we have Michael Lagimodiere. The Jet Floats are aging and energy will be needed to sort out the problem. Michael has that in spades I think we would all agree. We'll see whether he can bark loud enough at dock parties.

At Secretary, which is the silent heavy-load position of every board, Ben Koldyk has taken over and applies his special brand of frankness to the meetings and the minutes.

At communications we have the return to the board of George Jenkins. I think he is able to tolerate the meetings better than he tolerates slugging weeds. George is a networker and gets the word out, by profession (as a Union official with GO Transit) and by temperament. Communications is well covered.

At Social we have new member (2007) Dan Peel. I think he's a natural at this sort of thing. He is tasked with keeping to what works – Hug Your Boat, Hogfest – and looking for new ideas for social events: a Caribbean Night, for example. He has strong ideas, no doubt.

At Membership another (relatively) new member, Stuart Rice, is now in charge. This new blood in membership and on the board is such an asset. Stuart has to manage a pool of potential applicants that are waiting to join AYC. In bad economic times our membership appears to be holding its strength. Stuart's a cool hand at this task.

And this board benefits unquestionably by the active participation of past Commodore Ron Tyson. Ron's energy with regard to any issue involving AYC is unstoppable. He loves the club. I think that the solid managing of AYC is benefited by the participation of past commodore's in the process. It's a solid team that contains both continuity with past boards and new energy and ideas for moving forward. We will get a lot done.

So, let's look forward to a new season and all it brings. I know I can't wait.

HERE'S TO A GREAT '09

Cheers, ♦

Nick Pitt, Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday! That being said, boating season will be here before we know it. So, those of you who are looking for hours, rather than waiting for the fall AGM, there are hours that can be attained now. This message goes out in particular to the neophytes, who might inadvertently, might infringe upon the rights of others and inhibit a smooth AGM. The philosophy of the AYC is directly related to and dependant on, the observation of common courtesy and an attitude of cooperation and mutual help of all members. So if you need hours, we will give them to you. There is work to be done even now!
Thanks All Folks! ♦

Kevin Tapping, Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore's Report

Here we are in the middle of a Toronto winter, seems a funny time of year to be talking about docks and club projects, but the glorious weather will be here soon enough.

We are launching May 2nd and therefore will be having a dock 'party' the week before (April 25). Other than the usual plumbing and electrical work, we will be changing out a few more leaky Jet Floats. There will be a sign-up sheet posted, or you can contact me directly if you want to help out - and get hours!

On May 9th we will be having the yard cleanup, and on that day we will be building a new dingy dock. More members are keeping inflatables at the club and there is a need for additional mooring to accommodate them. The plan is to build a roughly 12' x 12' wood dock sitting on Jet Floats replacing the large assembly of floats that make up the current dingy dock. This will provide a stable platform to tie up to and launch from, while freeing up half of the floats that are currently being used.

These extra floats will be kept in inventory to make repairs to the main docks as needed. I have some big shoes to fill of past Rear Commodores, and welcome any input from the membership with their ideas, questions, or concerns.

Sincerely, ♦

Michael Lagimodiere, Rear Commodore

Treasurer's Report

By now all Senior, Life and Associate members should have an invoice for the Membership Dues, Mooring, Locker, Work Hours as applicable. If you have not received an invoice, please contact Paul Madeley (paulmgm1@rogers.com or 416-322-7318). To avoid penalties etc. please pay the full amount invoiced on or before January 31st. except for Associate members that have a payment date of February 28th. Should you feel that there is a mistake in the invoice, please feel free to email me (primetimeayc@rogers.com) with the details. Again, please note that full payment of the invoice (or amended) must be made by January 31st (or February 28 for Associate members). ♦

Joe Koole, Treasurer

House Director's Report

A very "Happy New Year" to all AYC members. I hope that 2009 is an excellent year for everyone.

I am very pleased to again serve the Club as House Director and intend to maintain the Club in the fine condition that it is in currently. A 'thank you' to all who continue to regularly assist in the upkeep of the clubhouse.

Projects under consideration include reducing the amount of water used by the flush toilets in both washrooms by either replacing them with low-flow flush toilets or installing a dual flush mechanism. Again, this year, I will consider an upgrade to the stereo system to include the addition of wall mounted speakers in the north-west and south-west corners. There are plans underway to install a movie screen which operates electrically.

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 you feel is required, please contact me beforehand to work out the details of the work to be done and the number of hours to be allocated to the project. Occasionally, I will send out or post 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

Happy New Year to everyone at AYC.

Our "Xmas Wine and Cheese Party" has come and gone with great success. The party was extremely well attended and we can be very proud of the many gifts generously donated to Covenant House by our membership. Our board of directors and many of the membership have suggested that we look at adding some new events to the calendar for 2009. Ideas so far include a Caribbean Island Night in August or possibly an Oktoberfest in October.

If anyone has any input or suggestions I am always open to hearing from them. Also, if any member is interested in helping me pull our events together and making them happen please let me know so we can form our 2009 Social Committee. I would like to have the committee in place before "Hug Your Boat" (March 21/09). My email address is dpeel@theatred.com Right now our event rundown looks like this:

Hug Your Boat (March 21)

Spring & Fall GM

Sail Past (June)

Caribbean Island Night (Proposed August)

Hog Fest (September)

Oktoberfest (Proposed October)

That's all for now, stay in touch, see you around the club. ♦

Dan Peel, Social Director

Membership Director's Report

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of our Members.

I am honored to represent our Yacht Club and having Kevin and Don available as mentors will make the transition smooth. I will be reviewing the application document as requested and we have had a few requests for membership already.

Regards, ♦

Stuart Rice, Membership Director

Communications Director's Report

I would like to wish the AYC Membership a very prosperous and opportune 2009. Do you have an interesting yarn, anecdote or boating experience you would like to share? Then why don't you drop me an email and we will add you to an upcoming issue of the Bow Wave. ♦

George Jenkins, Communications Director

Fleet Captain's Report

This submission has caught me at a time with very little to say! Not much is going on regarding racing.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Doug McDonell for his efforts as the AYC representative in the AHMEN race series. Thanks for all you do representing our club at AHMEN.

In case you don't know, AHMEN is race series that involves many clubs from the Toronto area namely: AYC, QCYC, NYC, EYC, TSCC, NCC, PCYC and ABYC. The AYC had 5 boats participating: Primetime – Joe Koole, Catch 22 – Chris Guth, Burnin' Rudder – Pete Wolniak, Stuart Rice – One, and Wolf Lixfield – Zen. We all had fun participating, and after it was all done Joe Koole took home first place in his division. Congratulations to Joe who earned his win among a very competitive fleet. ♦

Matt Filleti, Fleet Captain

Report on the Haul Out

The Haul Out went fairly well this year. At least it did until the first boat was hauled. This was, of course, and as usual, the mighty Poltalloch.

I was at the club well before sunrise because of my fear of Dave Gardner. The great crane loomed in the darkness, the shore crew loomed in the darkness, the shore crew was in place; and away she flew. Well there was a bit of tautness. And then one of the lubbers observed that the boat was still secured to the dock. By this time the crane was tilting precariously; and there was a moment of anxiety all round. Toppling is always a potential threat in these situations. Immediately the Skipper sprang into action. He nimbly cast off the five heavy lines and raised both anchors; and away she flew.

The crane righted itself and then one of the landsmen called out "Man on board !"

Yes, it was true. In all the confusion in the darkness and the freezing rain in the windswept yard, I had understandably failed to debark. But it was too late now to return to earth, or so decided the Commodore on weighing the cost of the crane rental against the value of the heroic flyer. And so away I flew. Actually you would be surprised at the view one gets at sunrise far up in the swinging sky.

Now the ride may have been entertaining for me; but the crane operator was distressed and sort of took it all personally. In short he decompensated and in this state he overshot the cradle, the fence and the road and set me down in the Western Gap. I drew this error to the attention for the already deranged operator - mostly using semaphore which I had half learned when I was a Surgeon-lieutenant in the Navy kind of a long time ago.

This poor fellow, for whom I have only the most profound admiration and sympathy, just panicked and started throwing toggle switches randomly. You see he understood no semaphore at all and thought I was being critical of him. And so, for the second time in the morning, away I flew; but this time I landed in a handy cradle just inside the yard of the National Yacht Club. And there I was warmly greeted by a gang of jolly fellows in black tie who welcomed me into their midst. And then they carried me off triumphantly to their five star Parisienne, and a huge tumbler of Chateau Lafite Rothschild 1972, their usual breakfast as it turned out.

But here's the thing: it was only after I was pressed into joining their club that it was revealed to me that the crane operator was a plant and that this was all part of their ingenious scheme to seize every single one of the members of my former club.

"But why would you want to do this ?" I asked a group of dandies who were parading me about their huge marbled yard and showing me their 20 - jet hot tubs, their beauty salons and their 72 inch flat screen plasma sets and they replied as one "It is upgrading, dear boy. We are heavily into upgrading; and we will never stop until we have all of you."

Andrew Malcolm
Senior Member
Alexandra Yacht Club

Flag Etiquette

I have noticed lately that some of the yachts in the harbour leave their national ensign flying on their boats at all times. Flag etiquette and usage dictates that ensigns fly on the boats only when the owner (and/or family or friends) is on board. Traditionally we have followed this custom at our Club. It is useful to be able to identify when a yacht is occupied. Yachts must remove their ensign when racing.

It is custom for sailing yachts to fly the Club burgee at the masthead. However, because of the instruments at many mastheads, it has become an acceptable alternative to fly the Club burgee from the starboard spreader. Power yachts fly the Club burgee at their stern or at the masthead if they have one.

Submitted by

Don Hood
Senior Member
Alexandra Yacht Club

AYC Events 2009

Hug Your Boat Sat Mar 21
Spring AGM Wed Apr 15
Dock Work Party Sat Apr 25
Launch Sat May 2
Spring Yard Clean-up Sat May 9
Sail Past Sat June 13
Hog Fest Sat Sept 12
Fall Yard Clean-up Sat Oct 17
Haul Out - Oct 24 - 25