



BOW WAVE

Alexandra Yacht Club

www.ayc.on.ca

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Commodore's Report

AYC Membership

At the time of this writing it is a little more than six weeks to launch (meaning I am late with my article and in trouble with George). While the air is still chilled, much of the snow is now gone and there is a sense that the sleeping earth is now quietly stirring, getting ready for what will soon be spring. It is certainly a great time of year to be a boat owner and enthusiast, with the season getting closer by the day.

Between now and launch we have two events of fun and importance: Hug Your Boat is on March 21st and is a great time to get back in touch with members and friends that you haven't seen since Haul Out. Hopefully this year it will not be necessary to get a work party together to dig out the BBQ's, as it was one recent year.

The second event is the Spring GM where we as a membership gather to discuss the ongoing management of our beloved AYC. I enjoy these meetings immensely, as they have always proved to be both fun and constructive, which is rare thing for a gathering of this size in many other organizations. Also it will be the first time that the membership can hear reports from the board that they elected in November.

In the coming weeks Ben Koldyk will be sending out the agenda for this meeting as well as proxy forms. Please do everything you can to attend. The ongoing operation of AYC is something that affects us all and every member is encouraged to listen and contribute. There's also wine and cheese afterwards.

One of the biggest challenges facing AYC is the imbalance in members' volunteer hours. This is a reflection of two very different views of our requirement that each Senior Member contribute 16 hours.

The club is blessed to have many members who view the 16 hours as a minimum and routinely contribute way more than this. We all know the names of these people and we all value their generous efforts.

I have no idea where the club would be without the constant quiet efforts of members like Don Burgess and Kurt Kawczynski, to name just two, and I don't want to get into listing everyone or being criticized for leaving anyone out. The point is simple; we have members who dedicate a significant amount of time and effort to the club without seeking praise or compensation of any kind. They love the place and enjoy making their contribution.

Conversely we have members (and this side of the argument will remain nameless) who scratch and expostulate and drag themselves as reluctantly as possible to get to their minimum 16 hours. These are the members that disappear from the launch crew as soon as their boat hits the water, or that find a way to wait inside if it's raining at yard cleanup.

Of course these are generalizations. We have members who have missed large portions of a season because of business or travel, or for health reasons. These folks aren't the targets in this piece. No, the one's I'm highlighting are the "skivers" (to use a term my father employed with derision); the members that expend an enormous amount of energy dodging work hours.

These members are the ones I wish to talk to and to say, as simply as possible, "How's that working for you? Do you think you are happier and enjoy the club more than the people who actually contribute? Do you think you are getting greater value from your experience at AYC by contributing as little as possible?"

It is a good thing to consider this at the start of the season, when plans and resolutions are made – and what a better, more enjoyable and fulfilling season it will be if the energy spent on dodging work hours is used to generate a needed contribution instead.

Cheers, ♦

Nick Pitt, Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report

The days are getting longer and the clocks have been moved ahead. We are now starting to get some warmer days and our thoughts need to move away from the winter months to the boating season.

Launch this year is May 02, 2009 and we now need to take advantage of any clear days. This winter has been loaded with freezes and thaws so I hope that you all took care of your boats prior to Mr. Frost moving in. I hope that you all will be courteous to your fellow boaters as well as the club. I ask that you not leave your boats plugged in.

I have already made threats that if I continually find your boat plugged in that you may find yourself in need of a new power cord, remember fire is an enemy to us all. Make certain that if you are planning on doing sanding and work on the bottom of your boat that you need to be putting up drapes so as not to get dust on your neighbors' boat.

Also keep in mind to make certain that your ladders are stored and locked underneath your boat. If left out or loose you may have to go hunting to find it.

You can either take your shrink wrap home or we will arrange to dispose of it. There will be a sign up sheet on the yard master board and we will be asking that you pay a small fee for this.

After you have made ready your boat I ask that prior to launch you make certain that the area around your boat has been cleaned up. Please remove any cans, spent brushes, and debris and dispose of these in the disposal bins provided.

When it comes to actual launch day, remember that parking will be at a premium and has yet to be determined. Please keep your eyes open for announcements. The crane will be the same size as what was used for haul out last fall. The yard will not be launched row by row.

Please do not assume that if your boat is near the road that it will be one of the last boats to go in the water. Please make certain that on the day of launch that you have two lines (15) fifteen feet in length attached bow and stern to allow for safe maneuvering of your boat in the slings to the water edge. Do not even consider touching up your bottom coat on the day of launch as this can cause damage to the slings and the next person's boat.

I will be publishing the launch duty rooster and schedule as we get closer to this day. Keep your eyes on the boards.

Once your boat has been launched and you have promptly returned to the launch area, please make certain that your cradle pads are stowed so that you know where they are.

Remember that your presence or a delegate identified as your representative is signed in on the day of launch.

Anyone planning on not launching on May 02, 2009 should notify the board ASAP. If no word then it is assumed that your boat will be going in the water.

Looking forward to the work ahead! ♦

Kevin Tapping, Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore's Report

The days are getting longer, the ice is retreating, and launch is just around the corner. Thoughts are drifting to the boat, compiling this year's to-do list and wondering how much it will cost this year... it's worth it. Just remember, when you start your boat for the first time this year, ensure to make an effort to keep your anti-freeze out of the harbor.

Seems the docks have faired well through the icy winter. We are planning to change out a few more leaky Jet Floats during the dock party (April 25 – sign up posted at AYC) and at this point in the docks life it can be expected that this will be an ongoing process. We are having a master electrician come down to take a look at our docks electrical system this spring to assess and comment on the problem of tripped breakers experienced by some members.

I will be looking for four people to help build the dingy dock during the spring clean up. Volunteers should have a descent cordless drill and hammer/pouch to help out with this build – should be a fun one. We should be able to finish this in one day; if not, I will have a sign-up for completion.

Bill McLean is building us four more emergency ladders for the west side of the main dock. They will be positioned at the ends of the finger docks should anybody end up taking an unplanned swim on that side.

We have a couple of new boats joining us this year and at this point I don't see any reason to move slip allocations around.

I look forward to seeing you all in the spring. ♦

Michael Lagimodiere, Rear Commodore

Treasurer's Report

There is not much going on in the month of March as far as AYC business goes. The Dues are almost all paid. A reminder for those who have not paid to do so now. For Senior members, March 31 is the date that an automatic suspension kicks in if dues remain unpaid, something that you will want to avoid.

The Budget is done and if all goes to plans there will again be "nice" improvements and necessary maintenance. At the end of the year the club's finances should still be in good shape. There is one uncertainty, namely the Assessment value of our property that tripled, that is being appealed.

We hope that in the end our tax bill will not be appreciably higher than 2008. Our Commodore and I met with our Landlord (City) in early March and have agreement to appeal. The Commodore's report may also say something about this.

I am writing this report from Hilton Head S.C. where today it is a very sunny 75F. A good day for sailing, however, Primetime is far away, so I am sticking with biking. Tomorrow is a golf day, even though I am not much of a golfer (usually in the 170 strokes range?) but will be fun.

When we return to Toronto it will be a mere 5 weeks to Launch and there will be lot to do.

Looking forward to another good season for AYC and self.

Enjoy Hug Your Boat". See you in April, working! ♦

Joe Koole, Treasurer

House Director's Report

We have had to repair the urinal drains in the men's washroom as they were partially clogged and leaking. The work included removing the urinals, removing the drywall, replacing the drains, repairing the wall including priming and painting, cleaning the drains and replacing the urinals. A "Thank you" to Ian Kuter for all his help with drywall repairs.

Last Fall, there was some damage to our copper water pipes along the west wall due to a quick drop in temperature just before we shut off and drained the water pipes. I am seeking a member who would be interested in repairing the damaged pipes before the end of March. If you would like to take on this repair job for work hours, please contact me by email at paulkirby@rogers.com or by phone at 416-605-6839 to discuss this.

I look forward to seeking many of you at the club over the next few weeks as we ready our vessels for the coming boating season. ♦

Paul Kirby, House Director

Social Director's Report

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Dan Peel, Social Director

Membership Director's Report

We are pleased to announce we have a new Senior Member. Rohan Vilinik and his partner Gita were admitted to the club Mar 4. They have a 28 foot Carver. We now have three of these in the club.

We also have a new Associate Member Michael Pinet who joined March 4

We have had 4 members resign and most are staying as Associate Members. Ian Kuter, Lise St Germain, Ken Lucas, and Jeff Blundell have left us. All but Jeff Blundell will remain with AYC as associate members

We have a few new applications to consider and they are all posted on the board.

I will arrange to have some new applicants available for an interview by the board @ out next meeting in April. ♦

Stuart Rice, Membership Director

Communications Director's Report

Hope you are all looking forward to Launch, it will be here before you know it. Really not too much to report at this time, must be that time of the year. Enjoy Hug Your Boat and look forward to seeing you all around the Club in the coming weeks. ♦

George Jenkins, Communications Director

Fleet Captain's Report

Before the next Bow Wave comes out, we will have already started the 2009 race season! If you are interested in racing with us on Thursday nights, please contact Matt Filleti at mfilleti@rogers.com. All levels are welcome.

The racing link on the AYC webpage will be updated shortly. Check there for the 2009 season schedule, historical results, forms, and other events.

The NYC has been generous to us for the last couple of years, offering us a race course and committee boat. This year we are going to take care of our own race committee. Our course will consist of D, G, and 0. I'll inform the racers of the race committee sign up sheet after launch.

I used to promote the Ice Breaker Regatta shortly after launch. This year I'll be running it in the fall to see if I can improve participation with the lure of better weather. Check the AYC webpage, and stay tuned for updates regarding the Ice Breaker, and the Almost Around the Island Race. ♦

Matt Filleti, Fleet Captain

Secretary Director's Report

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Ben Koldyk, Secretary Director

AYC Events 2009

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