



BOW WAVE

Alexandra Yacht Club

www.ayc.on.ca

Volume 13, Issue 5

Sept/Oct, 2011

Commodore's Report

◆ Autumnal greetings to all AYCers, family and friends. What a lovely season we've had this year — lots of sun and wind. After a wet May it's been pretty darn terrific. And here's hoping the rest of September and October are as excellent.

Your club is in solid physical and financial shape — the envy of many of our neighbors. In the last year we have re-capped our sea wall, repaired and resurfaced our balconies, strengthened our mast crane, and progressed well into the ongoing work of strengthening our aging dock and anchor system — and strengthened our fiscal position in the process. We've also had some terrific parties and Sail Pasts, and been able to fully enjoy our modest plot of paradise on the shore of Blue Ontario.

Last November when I was approved by the membership for a third term as your commodore I did say at the AGM after the elections that this was my last year. Thankfully Past Commodore and Life Member, Doug Smith, brought me to Earth by instantly chipping in "Who the Hell asked you?" This of course was his way of saying that the membership decides, which I appreciate. The beauty of this club is that we decide things openly and in full view of each other — and, Doug's point — we never take that for granted.

So in this spirit I am saying that I'd like to pull weeds next season. Whoever the membership selects as Commodore can call on me to attend meetings, if that is their wish. Otherwise, I'll pull weeds. Knowing my ingrained aversion to manual labour I imagine I'll return to the membership with the proposition of a position on the board in a season or three, but right now, after eight consecutive years on the board, weeds are actually looking like a fun prospect.

This is not to diminish participating in the board — for

the most part it is a rewarding and occasionally hilarious activity — but it is a commitment of time and energy that does add up. I admire Joe Koole (in his eleventh straight year) and Don Hood (with the exception of two recent seasons Don has served for more than the last decade), also Ben Koldyk who has been a regular member of various board for most of the last few years — and of course Dave Gardner has been on multiple boards and served in numerous capacities over his membership at AYC. It is this consistency that gives us strength and stability.

In addition to physical and financial improvement projects, your board and the previous two with your approval have attempted to close loopholes and inconsistencies in our By-Laws and House Rules. First and foremost was defining our proxy system, which is now in keeping with most non-profit organizations and which gives greater power to the membership as a whole. This was needed and good.

We have also opened up the process for senior members to submit proposed changes to our By-Laws and House Rules, and we are currently dealing with two such proposals that have emanated from the membership: the first, from Stephen Brown, calls for a new class of membership — Junior Member — that applies to the adult children of senior members. The details and wording of this motion are being finalized for your board's review in early October with the aim being potentially included as a motion in the November AGM agenda.

The second is a new proposal from Brian Bezaire for the hiring of a summer student, which the board has agreed to include as a New Business discussion item at our upcoming AGM, but with no formal vote until Spring at the earliest. In this way we allow such proposed changes to our club structure to be fully aired by the entire membership.

And that's the great point in all of this — whether it's replacing the seawall cap or agreeing on a change to the By-Laws, it is something we do together. I have run several businesses and I am on several boards, and AYC always astonishes me with its — our — ability to get things done. It is a wonderful thing to be part of and I am grateful to have been allowed my small part at the helm. Thank you for your trust.

Nick Pitt, Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report

◆ The sailing season is coming to an end once again. It is now time to deal with haul-out and winter storage.

Please make note off these important dates.

1. Yard Clean up (Mandatory) is Saturday October 15th at 9:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m., lunch will be provided.
2. Haul-out - Saturday October 22nd at 7:30 a.m.
3. Haul-out - Sunday October 23rd at 7:30 a.m.

There will be a list posted in the clubhouse for each of the haul-out days. There is already a draft layout for the yard storage.

Following are a few reminders regarding haul-out:

- Please complete the duties for the entire shift that you have been assigned to. In the past, some people have left as soon as their vessel has been placed in their cradle. This makes it more difficult for all who are left because they must take up the slack.
- Do not attempt to exert yourself beyond your reasonable limits. To avoid injury the more people to lift/move this equipment the lighter it will be for each individual. To reiterate, bend your knees and keep your back straight, and do ask for help.
- The owner of the vessel (or designated agent) must be present for the lifting and placement of the vessel in the cradle.
- The use of water hoses or pressure washers on the days of haul-out are not permitted.
- There are sufficient mast racks available to store masts. Please follow the mast storage allocation

list. Masts stored on top of vessels make it difficult for the line crew to move about. It also makes it easier to place the boat in the yard without the mast protruding beyond the hull.

- Make sure that you have all the parts to your cradle installed, including the pads, in a timely fashion to reduce crane downtime.
- The lines attached bow and stern when lifting the boat should be 15', no longer!
- All ladders must be properly secured using a lock.
- Refer to the roster sheet available before launch and at launch for your specific duties.

We have had an exemplary summer for boating and hope the rest of the season will follow suit.

David Gardner, Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore's Report

◆ Docks:

The water level is rapidly dropping and we have undertaken the chain tightening task at a work party. This is a continuous process as the water drops from its record high levels over the summer that cannot be maintained solely through work parties. Remember we are each responsible for our own slips. If you have questions or concerns, see me or your dock manager. We will advise you as to the process.

Chain replacement is still an issue with the lack of divers at the club. An attempt to do the work internally will happen this coming week since the water is warmer and much clearer than the last attempt.. As well a process has been developed to install new blocks along M-Dock improving the holding capabilities that will not require divers and intend to get some of those done over the next few weeks.

Work Boat:

As you all know, the board has decided to sell off the club boat. I did not receive (understandably) any offers of purchase from any of our members and thus will sell the boat off to the public next spring in an as is condition for the best price we can get whatever that is. Attempts to get the boat to run have failed and I can't seem to get an answer as to what specifically ails the craft. As well I doubt it would make sense to try to sell it this fall. So we will store it and come spring, it goes on the market.

Basin Debris:

The Weed Warrior Program continues to be effective in controlling the weeds along the wall. We do however need to start looking out on the docks when weeds are not present along the wall and start cleaning them up out there. So if you're up for doing a bit of weeding and you don't see weeds along the wall, look out amongst our fine fleet and you can get out there and make a difference as well and get hours for it.

Dock Power Supply:

It's pretty obvious that we need to up the electrical outlets on the docks and in particular along D Dock and at the North End of the Main. According to Jerry K. We have enough power to install an additional pedestal out that way which would solve this particular problem but I continue to believe as do many long term members that we need to evaluate the entire supply system and develop a program that updates the whole grid. This could mean moving boats around to better service those in need of more power or it could mean transformers being purchased and installed half way down the dock or one of several other alternatives that have been suggested. The idea now is to have the various ideas evaluated by an electrical engineer and develop the most efficient and cost effective solution. This process has just started and I will report findings and recommendations as they become known.

All above efforts have and will continue to improve the club operationally, safely and with a keen interest in cost control. I trust we can all work together to maintain the improvements and continue to volunteer your much needed time to make further improvements.

Ken Daisley, Rear Commodore

Secretary's Report

♦ "Greatness is not where we stand, but in what direction we are moving....we must sail, sometimes with the wind, sometimes against it, but sail we must, and not drift nor lie at anchor."- Oliver Wendell Holmes

Well, given the we are on the final leg of our sailing season. Let's take a moment to reflect on all the things that went well.

* Appears that we had an increase in the number of visitors. - Reciprocal agreements delivered on time, despite mail strike. Thanks Bob Anglin for updating the Map.

* Minutes posted on the members bulletin board - in a timely fashion, and available on-line. Special thanks to Bruce Buttimore for assistance in posting.

* Membership cards - delivered (needs improvement, time and materials)...i.e. Membership Cards for next season should be delivered in January/February (at the latest).

* AGM Materials delivered on time

* Board meeting notices delivered on time

* Correspondence - delivered on time, but we could improve our filing system.

* Revised Visitor's Brochure - Thanks and Bill Restivo for the "Trash Talking" section. I hope that such will improve awareness of how refuse is handled at AYC, for members and guests alike.

One more tack and the AGM will be here! Let the excitement build!

So, where do we go from here? Well, one thing that I have noticed is that our by-laws and our club rules codify how we govern ourselves in terms of decisions, behaviours, and responsibilities, but they are really kind of silent on what AYC is really about? Why did a few people get together a 106 years ago and decide to form a club? What was it that brought them together, what was the reason, the vision, the purpose? These aspects are what have given our club its greatness, its prosperity and its longevity. But somewhere along the line, many of us new members and even many of our mature members, have not kept or have failed to keep such in the foreground. I think it is important for members and board members to have mission and vision statement. This acts as a framework to enable, to support decision making and planning. Decisions, investments, and proposals all need to align with and cascade from this common belief as to what we are about and who we are.

To that end, let us move forward and include such as preambles in our by-laws, our Club Rules, our membership applications, and our website. I would like to see something like the following statement adopted:

The purpose of the Alexandra Yacht Club shall be to further the sport of safe boating including sailing, racing, power boating and cruising, through:

- a) the development and encouragement of seamanship and sportsmanship,
- b) providing shore and marine facilities for the benefit and recreational use of its members,
- c) collaboration and co-operation with other yacht clubs and boating associations,

- d) the preservation of yachting traditions, and
- e) providing a safe and comfortable haven on the Toronto Waterfront for members and family of this fine club.

The need for such was further validated in a recent conversation with our Fleet Captain, Stephen Brown. He quite astutely pointed out that we as a community and as a yachting club put a lot of value, effort and investment into "land activities" and very little in "on water activities. We need to ask, are we sustaining our greatness?

Keith Whalen, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

◆ All of the "money" is in for the year. Ahead is the bookkeeping, reconciling expense statements, balancing, putting all of the financial happenings into a year end AYC statements and find out how we fared? Winds were favourable and hopefully this will also be reflected in our finances.

This is the final Report for this fiscal year and I take this opportunity to say that I still enjoy being the Club's treasurer. As I write this, I "feel like running again" for next year!

Come to the AGM and get all the facts!

Thanks for all the cooperation in and out of the boardroom.

Joe Koole, Treasurer

House Director's Report

◆ As our too short season is winding down, I have observed some very positive things and, unfortunately, some negatives. On the positive side, the club was well used and enjoyed. More, I think, than in past years. This accounts for more

buzz, comradely, and therefore more friendships, which is the best of all results

Also, I believe that we have seen more guests from other clubs than ever before. This also bodes well for our club as others are discovering that AYC is a great place to be.

On the flip side of the coin, being the negative, there are also some issues that need to be mentioned.

- A) Our waste removal situation seems to be of concern to too few of our members and probably, guests. Whether an item should go in the garbage, recycle or deposit return bin does not seem to matter to many. They just put them where it is convenient for them.
- B) Cardboard boxes are most often not broken down as they should be. They are not always put in the recycle bins as they should be. Many end up in the dumpster, unbroken. This makes a huge difference to our pick up frequency and adds great expense to the operation of our club.
- C) Last but not least, some items ending up in our club dumpster are items imported from elsewhere. This is a serious misdeed to the club and to fellow members.
- D) Site maintenance is done exceptionally by some while others could care less. They care only about getting their hours. Many do not even bother to show up.

Our club is only as strong as its members. The better we all participate, the stronger we all will be and the more we enjoy the time we spent at our club. We have many members who demonstrate day to day that they care a great deal about our club. I believe that the members who care less or not at all, need to be held accountable by those that do.

Ben Koldyk, House Director

Social Director's Report

◆ It's newsletter time again. This summer is flying by too fast. Socially it was Sail Past and then Caribbean Night and soon it will be the last social of the summer: Hog fest. This year we will be combining "Hog Fest" with the "Almost around the Island" race. Two great events in one!

Once again we will be using the Evite. Please use the invite response to advise me if you will be coming to the festivities. The reply helps me plan the food and beverages for the events.

Sail Past, earlier this year brought out some great dancers with Ray Brioux showing us his dance steps that kept us wondering “Where did he learn this stuff?” Caribbean Night was sure a challenge to find the best dancer/entertainer of the evening. At first I was sure that it was Stephanie Makay, who got up and showed us some moves that we have never seen at this club. Then there was Roger Axon being very cool. In the end of the evening it was a toss up between Keith Whalen and Bob Keybakhi.

Keith tried to impress us with his version something that came in on a wave. Nice outfit too. Bob Keybakhi, looking like something that escaped from Gilligan’s Island came up with some kind of dance step that was a cross between Ferris Bueller and Charo. Both of these guys should go on “So You Think You Can Dance”. Now that would be worth the price of admission. When we asked Dave Gardner what he thought of the dancers: he just sat there smiling from beer to beer. But we know Dave enjoyed himself, as he was the last to leave the party.

The next morning when it came time to tear down the Hugh Nicholson and Scott Durdle were there to lend a helping hand and clean the place up. Thanks guys. Once again a reminder that “Hog Fest” and the “Almost around the Island” race will be held on September 17th. The hog has been ordered, the corn is still in the field waiting to be picked, the fair winds have been ordered and the band is practicing for a great evening of entertainment. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Phil Dunk, Social Director

Membership Director’s Report

◆ Not much to report, our membership is full, and the waiting list grows ever day.

We have had one resignation, Don Sutherland. Don has been a member for many years and a very keen and active racer. He may have even won a race or two but Don didn’t care where he fell in the fleet as long as

he was racing. He was our resident electrician and has pulled many miles of wire in his day.

Don will be staying on as an associate member.

Don Hood, Membership Director

Communications Director’s Report

◆ Being still a newby (well, kinda, sorta), I always enjoy speaking with long time members about our club back in the day. One fine summer night, Gerhart Kuter and I were discussing just that. He mentioned he had a photo album with a bunch of pix that story boarded the clubhouse move from the east side to where we are now. Seeing the pictures and hearing the stories was really interesting to me.

I’ve asked Gerhart if he would like to share the memories with the members on the website. He happily agreed so in the next few weeks, we will scan and caption the photos, and post a slide show on the site. I’ll send a note out when this is done.

Hope you all enjoyed the great weather we had this summer. I know I did.

Rick Martell, Communications Director

Fleet Captain’s Report

◆ We have reached the end of another racing season at AYC. The season marked a return to well placed race buoys, and an interesting accommodation with National which saw us running our race from their race committee boat. That change, which will likely continue if they continue to race on Thursdays, made for more comfortable and less stressful RC work, and for a bit of a later start time which most of us made some use of.

Winds were not consistent but some of the sailing was wonderful with strong winds and flat water. The race committee had the good sense to abandon or not start or not even leave the dock on other nights where there was not enough wind so all the races that were run were good races.

Shout outs - Joe was especially helpful with the food, Gareth was always very quick with the results and Doug

continues to be our face for the AHMEN series. And everyone who came out - more people makes for more interesting racing

I for one am looking forward to next year.

The almost around the island race is coming up, and I hear from a number of sailors that they are in for that. It should be good fun.

Stephen Brown, Fleet Captain

Member's Report

2011 CLUB CRUISE

Weather played an interesting part in the 3rd annual cruise to CBYC, but did not diminish its success. The Saturday morning fog dissipated as the boats travelled out from the shore, and the side effects of hurricane Irene caused a rolly trip back for the seven boats that returned on Sunday. For the three boats that stayed over until Monday, the lake was calm and windless.

Participants this year included E.T., Tiny Dancer, Spice of Life, Encore, R Ducky, Tearaway, Illeone, Miss Avenger, Carpe Diem and The Launch: seven repeaters and three first-timers.

Thanks to: Dave and Michelle Gardner, E.T., (Dave also known as Blender Man) for again generously mixing pina coladas and strawberry daiquiris for the welcoming toast. First-timer Phil Dunk, R Ducky, who brought a bottle of scotch to taste, and also first-timers Greg, Beatrice and daughter Savannah Shears, Spice of Life, for sharing the Milan Prosecco.

Our cruisers were greeted by two Dock Assistants, Kylon and Ryan, who helped get us into our slips. Talk about great hospitality, they even had the happy hour area and all the tables and chairs washed and ready to go.

Appetizers filled the table for the non-stop happy hour that went into the early hours of the morning. Adding to the festivities this year were two celebrations - a birthday for Julia Phelan, Tiny Dancer, and an anniversary for Mel and Dan Peel, Miss Avenger.

The award for most interesting cruise goes to Dave Tuninga, Tiny Dancer. He sailed to CBYC with one woman, spent the night with a different woman and sailed home alone. You had to be there.

An informal vote indicated "same place next year". Cruise pictures are on the club website.

Cruise Directors
Bill and Diana Restivo
ENCORE

AYC Events

September 17: Hogfest , Almost Around the Island Race
October 15: Yard Cleanup
October 22: Haulout
October 23: Haulout