

The Masthead



Vol. 15 No. 5. September 1977

Gatineau River Yacht Club
Box 124, R.R. 1,
Chelsea, Quebec, JOX 1N0

THE COMMODORE'S HOIST

The training programs have been completed, the 17th Birthday Party is over, another Sailorama is history, the Cup races are all but completed, and the Fall Series is underway. Leaves in the Gatineau are starting to change colour and we are nearing the end of the sailing season.

Some of you may have regrets for not having been able to participate more fully in the summer season past. I suggest to you "all is not lost". The remaining time in September and October can be the most fulfilling time of year to sail. The winds, the colours, and yes - even the temperature - seem to get together at this time of year so that weekend sailing can and will be superb.

We have a new and energetic crop of sailors who have survived the rigours of excellent "classroom" instruction and are "champing at the sheets" to put their newly acquired knowledge and talents to the test of competitive sailing. The Fall series of races should prove to be very exciting because the old guard will be there to meet the challenge.

For all of you who appreciate a sailing stroll through an incomparable environment of sun-touched water and multicoloured mountains in a continually changing panorama, fall cruising on the Gatineau is a MUST.

We have not yet had a final word from Quebec City on our septic system. We are in contact with Quebec City and at this writing "things" are more positive than they were three months ago. If all goes well we could be into the Clubhouse building program starting this fall (foundation) to be completed next Spring. The Board of Directors will call a special meeting of the membership prior to the commencement of the building program. This meeting will ensure that all members are informed as to the nature of the structure and the details of the building schedule.

I'll sign off with an irrelevant but famous old saying: "He who laughs last.....is the last to get the joke."

Jon Hutton

REAR-COMMODORE'S REPORT

Since the last Masthead, things have been fairly quiet on the social scene at the G.R.Y.C. August's weather didn't do much to encourage members to come out unless they were involved in the sailing. One bright spot was the "Beans and Jeans" party ably organized by Lynne Erskine, assisted by Pat Bailey. A small group of fun-loving members turned out August 26 for what was one of the most beautiful evenings of the summer. And, of course, there was lots of "esprit du club" in evidence on September 3rd, when the G.R.Y.C. celebrated its 17th birthday. Put together a bunch of kids, proud parents, relieved instructors, cake, ice cream and prizes and the Club House really starts jumping. Thanks here to Elizabeth Duffy and Karen Jessen who assisted in serving the starving hordes.

Some important announcements:

1. Final bar bills are being mailed with this Masthead. For the remainder of the season beer will be available in limited quantities on week-ends only and on a cash basis. PLEASE PAY UP PROMPTLY. Kotik needs your money.
2. Monday, October 10, is the date for the Fall Clean-Up. Bring along your can of soup for the pot. Coffee and something to go with the soup will be provided.
3. The canteen will operate only on week-ends and with hours limited to shortly before and after racing unless otherwise posted.
4. Be sure to remember the 5th of November, the Club Prize-Giving and Dinner Dance - again at the Carleton Faculty Club. Cost will be \$8:00 per person - to include the greatest of discos - and there will be a cash bar.
5. And please do remember the Annual Meeting commencing at 7:45 p.m. on Thursday, November 17 at the Old Town Hall in Aylmer. Its at the NE corner of Upper Aylmer Road and Vanier. (Its now the police station).

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FLEET CAPTAIN'S REPORT

It is really amazing where the summer sailing season goes to, one minute it starts and before you've turned around its finishing. And there have been a number of highly successful events to report on since the last Masthead.

The Evans Shield took the ladies out in very brisk weather, as no doubt Francis will tell you. We thought we had got rid of Cynthia Des Brisay at the district junior championships, but she materialized at the last minute to post her second consecutive win. Judy Erskine was second and Ann Wood third.

For the second special event of the year, we departed from the usual club activities and ran some team races. The weather cooperated and produced 20 mph winds, which made the manoeuvring to shake off opponents even more entertaining. The Strutt-Harley-Parkinson-Black-Seally-Des Brisay team won handsomely, of course!

Pat Evans ran his "Sailorama" on the Club's Birthday, September 3, and ordered up his special weather, sunny and breezy. We had an excellent turnout, and a super afternoon sailing. The Junior Trophies were awarded after the sailing and "washed down" with cake and ice-cream.

On the 11th of September three races were run for the CJOH Trophy. This turned out to be a very tight battle for the top spot between Peter Stranks and Cynthia Des Brisay, with Cynthia just coming through in the last race.

After the Young Trophy on the 17th September, the last Special Event will be run on the 2nd of October. We have called this the Fall Frostbite Cruise. It is not a competition, but rather a sail up the river early in the morning to take advantage of the beautiful fall colours in the Gatineau. It is much more peaceful to see them from a sail boat rather than a car. We are intending to set sail at 9:00 a.m. with NO EXCUSES for lateness, because I'm coming from town.

Since next year you will have to sucker somebody else to be the Fleet Captain, this will be my last Masthead for some time. I therefore wish you all the best of sailing and I'll see you on the dock on October 2nd at 9:00 a.m. sharp.

Andrew Harley

WETSUITS

If anyone is interested in obtaining a wetsuit - or in making one from a kit - at reasonable cost, I do have a brochure or two. I made a kit whilst in England. Wetsuits are a little tedious to make, taking approximately 20 hours, but they are not difficult.

If you wish to write direct, the company is: Aquaequipment, 69 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts.

Members of Yacht Clubs get a 10% discount and orders over £100 get a 15% discount.

Muriel A. How

JUNIOR AND ADULT PROGRAMMES

The Junior prize-giving and the Club's birthday party mark the end of another training season and it is once again time to evaluate the activities where we performed well and to plan what changes we should make for next season's programmes. The pattern of previous years did not remain true for 1977. There were 50% more enrolments for the August sessions than for July:

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Junior Sailing	24	38
Junior Swimming	20	34
	—	—
	44	72
	==	==

The August sailing classes were oversubscribed, leading to some difficulties in rounding up enough suitable two-handed boats (Code 40's and Albacores). The swimming programme also had to be adapted to meet changing demands when, for example, 15 applications were received for a Bronze Medallion/Bronze Cross course in August, where only Leader Patrol was originally offered. Due to the special efforts of the Instructor teams under Geoff Erskine and Rob Lafleur all the late applicants were accomodated somehow. Thanks, guys -- and you too, Cynthia! The result of all the testing was not available for printing in this issue of the "Mast-head".

Consideration is already being given to next year's programmes. We can expect to see some modifications introduced in 1978, of which more details later, but perhaps along the following lines:

- the introduction of a "Junior Skippers" programme for the 7 - 10 year olds who are not generally big enough or strong enough to handle Albacores; to be taught in the Club Prams
- a restriction on sailing class sizes, based on the assured availability of boats
- the possibility of three 3-week sessions instead of two 4-week sessions as now, with longer daily classes to give at least the same number of hours of instruction per class.

In summary, a successful summer for the Junior Programme but one with several problems that will need to be overcome or our standards will fall. The 1978 programme structure should be such that it will attract the members to sign up and also continue to attract instructors of comparable qualifications to those who have done such a good job this year.

The mid-week Adult Sailing programme was not a success, with insufficient enrolment to justify two sessions. However, the evening/weekend "businesspersons" courses were popular and well attended in both July and August. As with the Junior programme, changes are in the wind for next year, so if you have any bright ideas why not contact us and let us know what they are.

Beryl Stoker
John Seally

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JUNIOR SQUADRON NEWS

The junior program has ended and the island is at peace once again. The juniors had a most enjoyable summer. Many, if not all, benefitted from the sailing and swimming courses that were offered.

The juniors had fun making the executive committees' objective a reality. The activities that were planned and carried out during the summer were; a barbecue, two wiener roasts, parties, water skiing and the Junior Regatta. At each one of these events there was always an exceptionally large turn out, which helped them to be so successful.

I hope the enthusiasm and participation of the junior squadron will flow into next summer as well as those to follow as it did this summer.

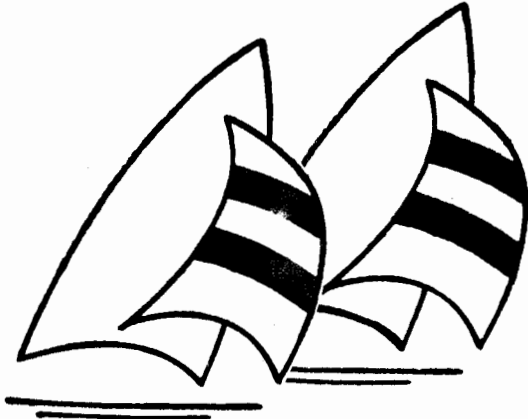
Warren Place
Junior Commodore

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So often we hear the cry from members "oh, but I did not know" with the reply - "but it was in The Masthead". Hopefully, you will all remove the back page and hang it in a prominent place so that participation at the last few events of the year will be fantastic.

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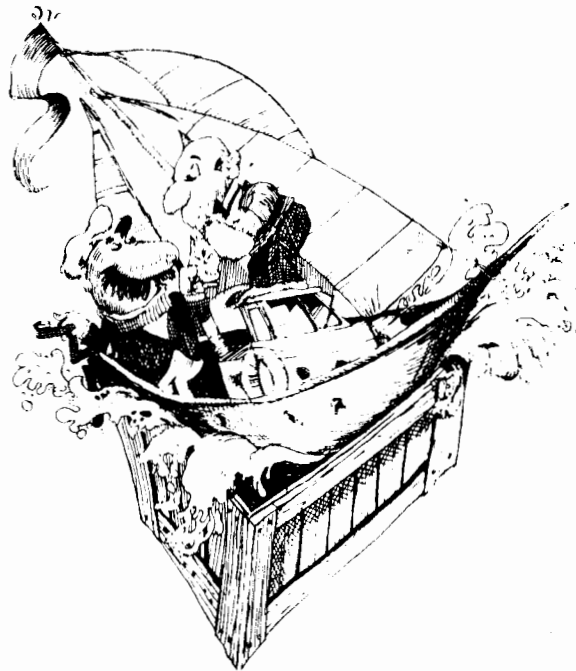
THE G.R.Y.C. PAGE TO REMEMBER



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2
9:00 a.m.

FALL CRUISE UP THE
GATINEAU

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

PACK UP YOUR BOAT AND
CLEAN UP DAY

(Bring your can of soup)

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5
7:30 p.m.

SKIPPERS - BRING YOUR GAL
AND ENJOY THE FUN
AT THE CARLETON FACULTY CLUB

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17
7:45 p.m.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Old Town Hall, Aylmer
NE Corner Vanier &
Upper Aylmer Road.