

# GRYC celebrates 25th annivers

By David T Ruddel  
for the NEWS

### Idyllic!

A tiny piece of paradise only 10 miles from town!

Waterfront property which is far cheaper to maintain than a chalet or house.

A place to relax in an informal atmosphere.

An opportunity to share in family-related activities.

An ideal club for the sailor of small craft.

These are some of the reasons the members of the Gatineau River Yacht club give for their loyalty to this association, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Spread over two acres and located on two islands in the Gatineau River, near Kirk's Ferry, the club is linked to the mainland by a 350 foot long wooden walkway, recently built as a cost of about \$12,000 by volunteers under the supervision on Don Henning, a former commodore, and Malcolm McHattie, the current one. The structure replaces an older one which was badly deteriorated.

With a new walkway and a recently built club house (1979-1980) the GRYC is in an excellent position to enjoy its future. A dark cloud on the horizon is the proposed location of a new dump next to Blackburn Creek in Cantley which could pollute the water these people so enjoy.

### GRYC HISTORY

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The early history of the GRYC, which has been recorded in an illustrated logbook kept by Pat Evans, includes stories of national, regional and local significance.

In 1964, only two years after the association was founded, it hosted the first National 420 Regatta. The "420" is a class of sailboat measuring 420 centimetres, designed in France.

In 1967 the National Centennial Junior Regatta took place on the Gatineau River, with 20 of the country's finest young sailors (aged 13-18) competing. After an eventful week, a big party was thrown: "Quality Caterers" served a buffet supper to 220 people; Dr. Gaston Isabelle presented prizes to the best sailors; the Hon. Doug Harkness, then Minister of Defence, and a GRYC member, gave Canadian Centennial medals to the remaining contenders; and a 35 piece Navy band put on the music.

Astronomy courses and "ornamental" swimming are other notable events put on by the GRYC's imaginative members.

During the 1960s this organization had an ambitious social program: Bar B-Qs, sing-songs, Albacore movie nights,



One of the National Centennial Junior Regatta the Gatineau River, 1967; from Pat Evan's log.

annual dances and buffets at the Wakefield Inn, were capped by turkey lunches put on by female members for volunteers involved in the October clean-up.

Two early parties in the 1960s which show that club members were very much part of the evolving social scene, include an "Hawaiian Night" in 1964 and a "Flower Power" evening in 1969. The club's first theme party saw the islands decorated in an Hawaiian style, grass-skirted women and baby-bath-tubs filled with punch which members emptied using straws.

Although attendance at some of the numerous social gatherings at the

Continued to Page 16

### CLSC

DE LA VALLÉE DE LA GATINEAU

### PRE NATAL CLASSES

These meetings are free and are offered to pregnant women and their spouse.

THE BEST TIME TO REGISTER: At the beginning of your pregnancy

Topics to be discussed: Psychological and physiological changes; Anatomy and fetal development; Labor and delivery; Feeding

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186 river road, wakefield, quebec  
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#### GRYC HISTORY

The original "Gleneagle Sailing Club" was formed in 1962 by five local residents: Gerry Byers, Pat Evans, Ivan Herbert, Allen Richens, and John Winfield. Initially, this group rented a small cottage located at the foot of the Gleneagle Road. In 1963, Frank Macintyre alerted Pat Evans that the islands were up for sale. After plans for the purchase were discussed, members raised about \$9,000 to acquire the islands, including a large cottage, and extended their old boardwalk to the new property.

From a membership of 39 adults and 16 juniors in the winter of 1963, the club grew to its present membership of a little over 200 people.

Family memberships jumped from \$15 in 1962 to \$50 in 1967. Today, it costs \$100 for an initiation fee and \$230 annually for a family membership. These charges are comparable to those of other clubs in the area. Contrary to the crowded situations

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October 24th, 31st, November 7th, 1987, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For registration please call at 456-2819.

## ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

WAKEFIELD



BRANCH 214

### October Events

Card Party - 500 and Bridge  
Saturday 17 October, 8:00 p.m. - \$2.50

Halloween Dance (Dubois Bros)  
Saturday 31 October, 8:30 p.m.  
Admission \$3.00

Costumes admitted free • Costume Prizes

The Windup Horseshoe Party in September closed the Legion horseshoes for the season. The champion and winner of the \$25.00 prize money was Chris McDermott. See you next summer.

**SUPPORT YOUR LEGION**

# *celebrates 25th anniversary*

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*One of the National Centennial Junior Regatta races on the Gatineau River, 1967; from Pat Evan's log.*

annual dinner and buffet at

# GRYC

Continued from Page 13

GRYC might have slipped a bit from the heady days of the 1960s, members still enjoy stopping by to catch up with the latest changes.

One party which has grown in recent years, some would say out of proportion, is the annual one put on by the club's 5 or 6 instructors: it attracts between 175 and 300 teenagers and young adults who flood the Gatineau River with their music until well after midnight.

## LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

Today, as it has been for a number of years, the membership is composed of

both local residents and Ottawans. The Ardells, Browns, Byers, Chudleighs, Cross's, Daughertys, Erskines, Gachnangs, Grants, Laberges, Landons, Omhoit-Jensens, Macintyres, Quipps, Richens, Ryans, Sparks, Struts, Treleavens, Wilsons and Winfields are a few of the family names found in Pat Evan's diary who still live in the area.

In the mid 1960s Jimmy Brown and Bruce MacDonald were the GRYC's junior champions and in 1966 they won first place in the 420 National Regatta and second place in the North American championships. Other young award-winning sailors of earlier days, some of whom have left the area, include the DesBrisays, Laycrafts, Pattersons, Erskines and Omholt-Jensens.

A new lighthouse, built to replace the former one destroyed in the storm two years ago, has just been dedicated to the memory of one of the club's young sailors, Hugh Pomeroy, who lost his life in a car accident while training for cross-country skiing at Lake Placid.

## GRYC FUNCTIONS

In addition to the many activities mentioned above, the club provides different things to its members.

During late July and early August, the river buzzes with the sound of children taking lessons or enjoying the companionship of friends in a secure and protective environment. This summer about 40 youngsters were enrolled in a combined swimming and sailing course.

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1967 to about 20 in the summer of 1969.

Manned by husband and wife teams or family members, these boats contributed to maintaining group interests. When the one-sail, single-person Laser made its appearance about 15 years ago, it began to change the nature of sailing events.

By the time Lasers had become the most popular club boats, surfboards were capturing the imagination of sailors. Considered by experienced skippers as "an abortion of sailing", is not surprising that early surfers were somewhat marginal in the membership of sailing clubs. Since surfers can take their light and highly portable boards anywhere, membership in clubs became less important.

Parents no longer have to worry about getting the family together for a sail, since everyone can take off in different boats, each doing an activity which suits them best. A number of couples have two sail-boards so that they can sail whenever they want.

## FAMILIES BACK

While an increasing individualism has affected club membership in the Ottawa area, family sailing is once more on the upswing. Vice-commodore Alain Godbout maintains that parents with pre-school age children who are joining the club enjoy taking the family out in the larger crafts.

Since the GRYC has an array of boats for the use of members, sailors have a greater choice of crafts than their predecessors who often had to rope a wife or a child into crewing the family boat.

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Pattersons, Eskines and Omholt-Jensens.

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Although sailing is still at the centre of the club's activities, many members don't sail. For them the islands are a place to swim or to keep their canoes and kayaks and to picnic in a surprisingly secluded spot nestled between rolling hills in the middle of a beautiful river.

### SAILING & INDIVIDUALISM

The GRYC has evolved in a way similar to that of other sailing clubs, from a very family-oriented association to one of a more individualistic nature. This is evident in the evolution of the membership's sailboats.

Originally, the most popular boats were the 13'9" 420s and 17' Y-Flyers, which were displaced in the late 1960s by the 13'4" Albacores. In fact, GRYC members took to the Albacore quicker than people from other clubs: the number jumped from 3 at the end of the summer of

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Since the GRYC has an array of boats for the use of members, sailors have a greater choice of crafts than their predecessors who often had to rope a wife or a child into crewing the family boat.

A number of surfers who have sailed in the area waters have found a friendly homebase at the GRYC and are now participating in social activities.

This association is more heterogenous than it once was, but members are finding new ways of celebrating their enjoyment of the water together. The GRYC is, then, a great place for learning aquatic skills, cruising around in small craft or merely enjoying the beautiful setting on the Gatineau River.

In the words of life-long members of the GRYC, the club provides its members with FAIR WINDS & A SNUG HARBOUR.

\* I am indebted to Pat Evans, Alain Godbout, Diane and Don Henning, Diana Pethick and Allen and Joyce Richens who provided valuable information on the GRYC.