



# Gatineau River Yacht Club **2010 Annual Report**

Presented at the Annual General Meeting  
November 29, 2010  
Larrimac Golf Club  
Chelsea, QC



## **GRYC Board of Directors – 2010**

**Commodore** – Geoff Erskine

**Past Commodore** – Joseph Dion

**Vice Commodore** – David Newing

**Rear Commodore** – Jos Woods

**Secretary** – Neil Rask

**Treasurer** – Peter Goodman

**Fleet Captains** – Patti Goodman & Marc Ranger

**Communications Director** – John Crook

**Facilities Director** – Warren Place

**Youth Program Director** – Hamish McIntosh

## **Table of Contents**

<b>GRYC Board of Directors – 2010 .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Commodore’s Report .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Vice Commodore’s Report .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Treasurer’s Report .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Secretary’s Report .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Fleet Captains’ Report.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Rear Commodore’s Report.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Facilities Director’s Report .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Communications Director’s Report.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Sailing School &amp; Youth Program’s Report .....</b>	<b>17</b>

## Commodore's Report

Another summer has come and gone and it is again time to report on some of the club highlights and future plans. Let me begin by saying I have enjoyed serving as your Commodore during the past year. I would like to express my sincere thanks to your dedicated and forward thinking Board of Directors. From meetings in early January to the AGM in November, these members invest countless hours contributing to the good management and well-being of your club. Special thanks to Hamish and Patti who will be stepping away after lengthy "tours of duty". I would also like to thank club managers Nick Anning and John Russell, as well as our five instructors; Dom, Jordan, Kelly, Jaquie and Sophie.

Our 48th season got off to a good start with seven new families joining the club (eight if you include the new beaver family living under the pram docks). Fortunately, we remain in the enviable position of retaining a sizeable waiting list for new membership. After Bridge-Down a full schedule of sailing and social events began. From Spring Series to Fall Frostbite and all the club nights in between, a huge thank you goes out to all our volunteers that ensure these events run smoothly and safely. Our Junior Program was another success, although we did rely on non-members to fill 70% of our available spaces. In addition to the normal White & Bronze Sail courses, the club had enough interest to also offer a Silver Sail Program for the first time in many years. These young sailors represented GRYC with both skill and sportsmanship at numerous events including The Canadian Laser Championships, The Quebec Summer Games, The Canadian Youth Championships, Britannia's National Capital Regatta and C.O.R.K.

I am pleased to report our club finds itself in healthy financial shape. Of course this did not just happen by accident. Previous Boards, as well as the current one, have carefully remained within operating budgets in order to maintain sufficient future reserves to undertake various renewal projects. Some of these future priorities will include: replacement of docks, kitchen counters, club sailboats and septic system. Even though each of these projects will be planned for, it is important that the club remain in a position whereby larger capital expenditures may be incurred without the need to borrow money, or raise membership fees. Our largest capital expenditure this year was the acquisition of a new safety boat and motor. We also had a 470 sailboat donated to the club by Mr. Ted Bigelow from Barrie, Ontario.

All in all, this summer felt like one of our best in a long time – great weather, good winds and warm water. Even so, it has been noticeable that overall club participation is in decline. Increasingly, many club events are under-attended and even some weekends on the Islands can be very quiet. In fact, many other clubs and associations are also experiencing either declining membership and/or underutilized facilities. There are

numerous reasons for this trend and many are beyond our direct control. Changing demographics (smaller family sizes, more single parent families, aging population, etc.) coupled with competing priorities for both time and disposable income are only a few issues. Therefore, in an attempt to reverse this pattern your Board feels it would be in the club's best interests to expand the membership base. An increase in membership coupled with some enhanced programming should provide the catalysts needed to begin the process of rejuvenation which will see the club continue to prosper well into the future.

Your Board has considered many of the issues related to an increase in membership. One of the primary considerations is the capability of our septic system to handle an increase in member & guest visits. Although not one of the more "glamorous" projects for the club, the Board agrees that our current system not only has a finite capacity but also a limited life expectancy. For these reasons the system was emptied at the start of the season, inspected and a water meter installed in order to better understand both current usage and future needs. It is the opinion of the Board that we should be undertaking an upgrade and/or replacement of this system within the next two years.

Over the years, from Junior Commodore in 1976 to Commodore in 2010, there are two things that, for me, have come to symbolize GRYC. The first would be the unique and picturesque Islands themselves. The second is the less tangible (but arguably more important) culture of "volunteerism" that continues to exist at the club. I believe it is this spirit of cooperation that makes GRYC increasingly unique in today's busy world. I suggest we should never underestimate the importance of our volunteers nor take them for granted. To all of you, past and present, I say thank you!

*Geoff Erskine*  
*Commodore*

## Vice Commodore's Report

The Vice Commodore has a very open and flexible portfolio. Apart from deputizing for the Commodore in his absence, this position has effectively been seen as 'Board Member at Large' position – carrying out those duties as needed in accordance with the priorities of the Club as these become evident for each year.

Over 2010 Vice Commodore duties have included the following:

1. *Working with the Fleet Captain to acquire a new crash boat – and continuing to ensure the maintenance and serviceability of all crash boats.*  
Over 2010, a used but near-new crash boat has been acquired well within budget and near full serviceability has been maintained on our other ageing crash boats.
2. *Representing GRYC on the informal Summerlea Roads Association – with current focus on road maintenance and signage.* This as-yet informal road association has been regularly convened and GRYC has played their part in phase one of the agreed road maintenance and signage plan – with a second phase due to take place in 2011.
3. *Club and Regatta Trophies and Plaques –* We are well overdue for a review of our trophy inventory – both in terms of retiring or repurposing some trophies, refurbishing those that are not retired and commissioning new trophies as needed. It is intended to form a small working committee to carry out this much needed review in early 2011
4. *The New Membership Committee –* A revised membership application and new member interview and selection process was introduced in early 2010 to better select and prioritize offering new memberships. Generally successful, though further upgrades of our selection process will be developed for 2011 – particularly laying greater emphasis on the ongoing responsibilities of sponsors.
5. *The Sailing Committee* has met as needed with Vice Commodore's assistance primarily concerning the Big Boat series.

Over 2011 the Vice Commodore will also be involved with two further areas of priority action as now needed:

6. *A Dock Extension Committee –* Planning for new docks as needed for an expanded big boat and dinghy Fleet, and
7. *A Fleet Replacement Planning Committee –* Starting to plan for and seek funding for a comprehensive replacement of our aging Fleet.

*David Newing*  
*Vice Commodore*

# Treasurer's Report

## Under spent

- \$7K revenue increase (initiation, interest, non-volunteer fines)
- \$7K facilities (docks, shed, outdoor furniture)
- \$8K sails & boats not bought, sandpiper repairs cheaper, repair materials less
- \$2.3K legal/insurance
- \$1.5K in social events

## Over spent

- \$1.4K septic inspection and water meter installation
- \$1.5K replaced manager and membership laptop computers
- \$8.5K septic replacement reserve – 2010 contribution

Net Budgeted: \$-26.8K

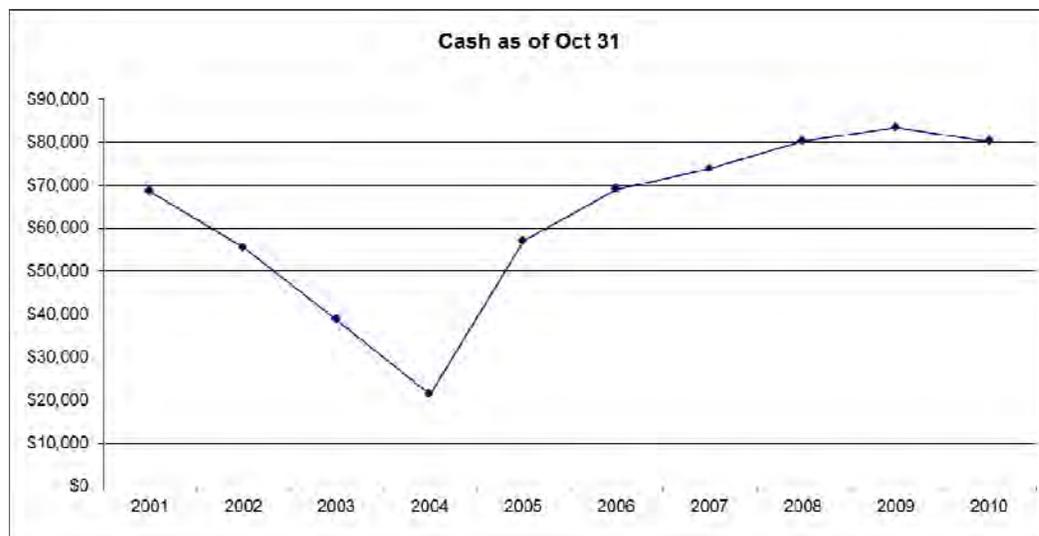
Net Actual: \$-4.2K

Cash on hand as of October 31, 2010: \$80.2K (plus 12K reserve funds – septic/facility)

## Proposed Budget 2011

### Highlights

- Salary increases budgeted
- Proposed number of club members increase - 10% , increase in JP fees
- Kitchen renovation – floor, counters, new appliances
- Provision for additional dock space
- 2011 contribution to dedicated septic reserve
- Forecast draw down of \$18.5K



## Fees for 2011

### 2011 Membership Fees

Type	2010 Members	2010 Fees	2011 Members	2011 Fees	2011 Total
Family	101	500.00	114	500.00	57,000.00
Single	26	310.00	29	310.00	8,990.00
Retaining	16	110.00	13	110.00	1,430.00
Late fees	0	100.00	0	100.00	0
Non-Volunteer	0	150.00	0	150.00	0
Initiation Fee – family		700.00	10	700.00	7,000.00
Initiation Fee – adult		300.00	3	300.00	900.00
quota	234		257		

### 2011 Facilities Fees

Item	Price 2010	Price 2011	Quantity 2011	Total
Finger Dock	\$90.00	\$90.00	19	1,710.00
Island dock	\$75.00	\$75.00	15	1,125.00
Laser rack	\$50.00	\$50.00	23	1,150.00
Canoe rack	\$40.00	\$40.00	37	1,480.00
Wind Surfer	\$25.00	\$25.00	5	125.00
Dolly	\$50.00	\$50.00	1	50.00
Locker	\$20.00	\$20.00	32	640.00

### 2011 Sailing School Fees

Item	Price 2010	Price 2011	Quantity 2011	Total
Members (2 weeks)	350.00	360.00	30	10,800.00
Non-Members (2 weeks)	460.00	470.00	50	23,500.00

Detailed information is available in the 2010 financial statement distributed at the AGM or by contacting [secretary@gryc.ca](mailto:secretary@gryc.ca).

*Peter Goodman*  
*Treasurer*

# Secretary's Report

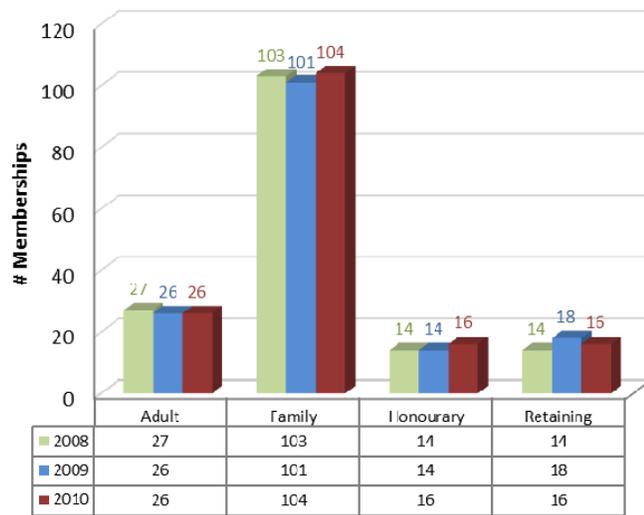
The total membership as of the end of the 2010 season is as follows:

Membership Type	Memberships	Member units
Adult	26	26
Family	104	208
Honourary	16	0
Retaining Adult	2	(4)*
Retaining Family	14	(28)*
<b>Vacancies</b>	<b>(based on cap of 234)</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Vacancies</i>	<i>(based on cap of 257)</i>	<b>23</b>

\* not included in total

The changes to the membership from 2009 were as follows:

Change	#
Family to Adult	0
Retaining Adult Renewal	1
Retaining Family Renewal	3
Adult to Retaining	0
Family to Retaining	6
New Adult	0
New Family	7
Lapsed Adult	1
Lapsed Family	1
<b>Lapsed Retaining</b>	<b>4</b>



## Membership

After reviewing the waiting list and applying our current priority list for new members, we were pleased to welcome seven new families into the membership in 2010. Six families chose to go on retaining while three families and one adult renewed their membership from retaining status. We bid farewell to one adult, one family, and four retaining members who decided not to renew their memberships.

Over the course of 2009 and early into 2010, the newly formed Membership Review Committee reviewed and revised the membership application process. This was done to increase the available information about applicants to help the committee make more informed decisions when selecting those to be offered memberships. A new application form was created along with information regarding applying for membership at the GRYC. This was posted to our website and we began receiving membership applications almost immediately. Since February 2010, 25 new membership applications have been received.

With the influx of membership applications and after offers of membership were made for 2010, the waiting list currently stands at 35 applicants made up of 31 families and 4 adults. With a capped membership, we are limited as to how many memberships we can offer by how many members leave the Club or go on retaining status. As such, it is difficult to determine the length of the waiting list by time.

In early 2010, the Membership Review Committee sorted the waiting list according to the guidelines set out in the Club by-laws and priority criteria determined by the Board. Those already on the waiting list were asked to complete and resubmit the revised application form. With this information, we were able to know more about applicants which helped to determine the order in which memberships were offered.

### **GRYC and Technology**

Membership management and Board communication also evolved somewhat in 2010. The online service WebAsyst was installed on the GRYC server and is being tested to: assist with the management of member information; for file storage and sharing; and for setting up photo galleries to share memories amongst members. We hope to roll this out and give individual members access in 2011.

In addition to the established GRYC online calendar, the free services offered by Google were taken advantage of more extensively in 2010. Each Board member was set up with a Google account which gives access to Gmail, Google Calendars and Google Docs. This facilitated document collaboration and posting information. The volunteer lists that were online this summer are an example of how these were used. Having separate accounts will also help with the transition of Board members as they can pass on their Gmail account which will give easy access to previous correspondence and information. With most new things there is a period of adjustment. After trying some of the available features over the course of the past season, some of these tools may be used more extensively with future Boards.

### **GRYC Historical Committee**

At the 2009 AGM, it was agreed to establish a GRYC Historical Committee. Since then, the Historical Committee, led by Chris Holloway, has set up shop in the Crows' Nest and has been busy sorting through boxes of old documents and documenting elements of Club history through regular articles in the GRYC Newsletter. The mandate and activities of this committee continues to evolve and we look forward to continued progress reports in the coming season.

### **GRYC Blue Book**

The guide to membership at the GRYC which has been referred to as the "Blue Book" in the past has grown out of date and needs updating. Originally intended as a task for 2010, this project has been postponed for the next season and we hope roll out an updated version as the 2011 season gets underway.

*Neil Rask*  
*Secretary*

# **Fleet Captains' Report**

## **Activities**

As far as activities are concerned, the big boat races were well attended this summer and we were, for the most part, blessed by the wind and sun gods all summer.

Despite the good weather, the overall member turnout for the dinghy races continues to be low. The exceptions to this trend were the 2 Summer Series races in which the Sunday race is part of the Bronze youth sailing program. Summer Series 1, held on Canada Day, was an exciting high-wind race that tested the skills of many of the Bronze sailors. To boost participation in dinghy racing, a different dinghy racing schedule is being considered for next year. Dinghy events other than racing also need to be considered in order to encourage and support dinghy sailors (i.e., sail and picnic day to Wakefield). The Fleet Captains are open to ideas and suggestions from the membership.

The 2010 Annual Regatta was enjoyed by those who were there, but the numbers were quite down from years past. A perceived lack of wind may have discouraged the expected turnout of boats from other clubs. Sailors and families who come from away for our regatta are always full of praise for our little jewel of a club. This is due to the beautiful setting and our friendly volunteer members. Our volunteers at these events are second to none.

A vote of thanks is in order for all the volunteers and especially the key event organizers, Shona Moss-Lovshin (point duty coordinator) and Todd Evans (crash boat coordinator) for making the races possible. Hanging out at the lighthouse on a Sunday for a few hours, doing point duty, in the sun on the beautiful Gatineau River is a tough job but somebody has to do it! Likewise for all the crash boat operators who actually get to go out on the water and chase sailboats around.

Many thanks, much appreciated by skippers and crews.

A new event was added this year and that was the first annual GRYC and Larrimac Gold Club Sail and Slice. Jos Woods was instrumental in organizing the event; golfers and sailors alike enjoyed a very full, entertaining day at a very affordable cost.

## **The Fleet**

This year the club acquired a new Marine Cradle trailer. This trailer is designed for the 420 dinghies but many types of dinghies can be carried like lasers and even canoes. The trailer is a club asset and can be used to deliver up to four boats to various regattas around the region. Other uses are still being planned such as bringing boats upriver to Wakefield for a demonstration of sail during Wakefest.

Midway through the summer, due to the declining reliability of our old coach (crash) boats another coach boat was purchased and went into service almost immediately to support the Silver Sail and our young sailors at the CORK regatta in Kingston. This boat is a lightly used Legend, 17 foot aluminum boat with a Merc 25 hp motor and trailer. With all equipment like-new and licensed for the road, this boat / trailer combo should serve the members reliably for many years to come.

At the end of the season an older 470 dinghy was donated to the fleet by Ted & Elaine Bigelow. This boat is an Olympic class racing boat which should provide some excitement and good experience for young, up and coming sailors and seasoned skippers alike. It is not a boat designed for beginners, however, and its designer introduced the smaller 420 as a stepping-stone to the 470. Sailors who are comfortable with the 420 will find the 470 to be more technical and exciting to sail.

Another coach boat trailer was purchased to replace the one that went missing after a trip to the fruit bowl regatta in Hudson Quebec two summers ago. This means we no longer have to get 10 or 12 volunteers together at bridge up and down to manhandle one of the heavy coach boats up onto the dock in front of the tool shed. This will also save wear and tear on the dock.

All acquisitions were made within the proposed 2010 budget so that's the good news. The bad news is that the Prams are getting pretty tired. They are 50 years old so that is not surprising. A fleet renewal plan must be established to ensure that the GRYC is able to continue offering a Learn to Sail program for members and local residents alike. Our current treasurer, Peter Goodman is carefully watching Board expenditures, and we are sure we can put together a viable plan for renewing the fleet. We would be remiss if we did not express a special thanks to John Russell, our Deputy Manager and Bosun who did yeoman service keeping our ageing fleet on and not under the water.

*Patti Goodman & Marc Ranger*  
*Fleet Captains*

## Rear Commodore's Report

The social season began late February with the second annual GRYC-Ski-Snowshoe-Walk-Crawl-in to Keogan Lodge in the Gatineau Park. The hearty crew easily hauled in all the goodies (no pun intended Patti and Peter) and a good time was had by all. This is a good opportunity to meet club members dressed – look for it next year!

The summer season kick-off for many, is Bridge Down, and thanks to all the helpful hands the old kitchen was brought back to life for another season. Thanks to the Pomeroy's, coffee and hot chocolate was available even for the early risers. The usual regulars and as well as some new faces were welcomed later on for lunch preparation and clean up.

The Commodore's Sailpast followed in the beginning in June. This had to be the coldest and most miserable cold day ever except for those who came out for the fun. It turns out that everyone that came out and participated had a good time in spite of the weather. A lesson to be learned by anyone that missed it – it's always a good time at the club when everyone gets together!

The Ice Breaker Barbeque is always a fun event and everyone should always remember to attend and cordially greet the new members. What an enthusiastic crew we've taken on this year. I can't wait to see the new crew year.

Club Nights started on June 30th. This year we added one more day for a total of eight nights ending on August 25th. This event, started by Bob Lee many years ago, has become the Club's most well attended activity. Many thanks to Mary and Paul Johannsen for anchoring the crews who make these enjoyable evenings happen.

What happened to Sail-O-Rama? We were setting up for a warm-up to the club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. Well, we'll just have to ramp it up next year. Muriel How and Janey Crook organized the super event that was a great hit with everyone who came. We've got only one more year to get things together for the GRYC'S BIG "FIVE-O" (50<sup>th</sup>). Is anyone willing to pitch in to help them with the big event?

We hosted the annual GRYC Invitational Regatta again this year. Numbers were down from previous years, but again, no one was disappointed with our hospitality and everyone had a great time.

We introduced a new event this year. The Sail and Slice was held on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Although the winds were not cooperative, we were able to introduce some Larrimac golfers to the GRYC and the Gatineau River in the morning. In the afternoon, the GRYC sailors experienced the Larrimac Golf Club in a friendly nine-hole round of "best ball"

golf with the Larrimac members and on to the classic Larrimac Golf Club steak barbeque. Fun prizes were awarded courtesy of Josh Moon and Perley-Robertson, Hill and MacDougall, LLP. A big thank you to Pierre Mondor, Manager of the Larrimac Golf Club, in helping us put this together. Thanks also to the GRYC boat owners and skippers whose hospitality made this event possible.

The official social calendar is capped off by the Annual Awards Party. This was called the Banquet in the past but my ingenious predecessor, Casey Cerson, introduce us to a more practical format of an awards night consisting of hors d'oeuvres and blues music. Again, this evening proved that - you just can't have a bad night at the GRYC! This year's event was not as well attended and we can only attribute this to a late change in scheduling. I propose to fix the date early so that everyone can mark their calendar.

The unofficial end of the season is Bridge Up. Again, this involved all the usual suspects and we were even able to welcome some new members as we were prepared to satisfy the hungry crew of members who tucked the club away for the winter. A special thanks to Paul Fydenchuck for getting the coffee and hot chocolate ready for the early risers.

During clean-up, the storm clouds of change finally opened up. The 30+ year old kitchen had attained the end of its useful life. The Social Committee had been growling about its unsanitary condition for quite a while. In addition to that, Mary Johanssen got jolted by two electric shocks while preparing the soup on the stove. Preparing and serving food from a facility that was unsafe and could not be adequately cleaned had become unacceptable. The decision was made to replace the floor so that it could be properly cleaned. To do this effectively, the cupboards and countertops had to be removed. Attempts were made to save the existing but that proved to be impossible.

We will now be installing a new floor, counters and cupboards that can be kept cleaner and will improve the workspace. This work should be completed before Bridge Down in 2011 and will greatly improve the sanitary conditions of our food preparation area.

A special vote of appreciation is extended to all the club members who made the social activities possible! It takes over 250 volunteer positions on the job board to make this happen. I personally thank each and every one of you who pitched in this year. A special mention to our Manager Nick Anning and Deputy Manager John Russell, for standing by and picking up the pieces that fall between the cracks.

*Jos Woods*  
*Rear Commodore*

# Facilities Director's Report

## Overall

It was a fairly uneventful year in the facilities department this year. There were no major repairs or acquisitions necessary for 2010. We did carry out the following work this summer as well as maintain existing docks and buildings.

## Septic

The septic system was inspected by a septic system engineer and found to be operational and safe with no leakage. It was recommended that the tank be pumped out and a new system be installed in the near future. It was also recommended that a water meter be installed and data recorded so real water usage could be determined. The tank was pumped out this spring and a meter was installed and data collected. We have started putting a plan in place so system replacement can be completed for 2012.

## Trees

With the help of John Pomeroy several dead and dangerous large trees were cut down and removed this spring. Some pruning was carried out and branches moved for disposal.

## Gate

The entrance gate was repaired and made more secure.

## Pram shed

The pram shed roof was re-shingled and made right.

## Kitchen

The kitchen will undergo a renovation this fall and next spring 2011. A new floor and lower cabinets and counters will be installed. The old floor has been removed and lower cabinets taken out.

## Docks

Several new and safer gang planks were built for the island docks. One finger dock was demolished to be replaced in the spring if need be. An old and dangerous dry dock area was also demolished.

## Deck hand rail

A hand rail was installed on the stairway leading off the back deck bringing it up to code.

At this time I would like to thank all the members who donated their time and effort to accomplish these tasks.

*Warren Place*  
*Facilities Director*

## Communications Director's Report

This year communications efforts involved 35 newsletters for weekly activities or event specific announcements. In order to try a more bilingual format as suggested at the 2009 AGM, Michel Moubarak helped translate, en français, the weekly events calendar for the newsletter. The newsletter also featured the Commodore's Corner, with a weekly summary of sailing activities by our Commodore, Geoff Erskine. New this year, complements of Chris Holloway, tales from the GRYC Archives was introduced into the newsletter. The idea was raised by Chris at the last AGM and was appreciated by many. Overall, communications was coordinated by John Crook in his second year in this role on the GRYC Board, while the web site was maintained very effectively by Erik Rask who has been doing a fine job as a volunteer in this role for several years.

*John Crook*  
*Communications Director*

# **Sailing School & Youth Program's Report**

## **Registration**

The camp was close to capacity but the traditionally full sessions, 1 & 2, were not full this year. The trend of an increasing proportion of non-members continued in 2010 passing the 50% mark. Looking at Club demographics, this trend will continue next year as well.

## **Program Delivery**

The one week "Intro to Sailing" sessions in White Sail I introduced last year allowed us to approach capacity in 2010. There continues to be a demand for 2 week Bronze Sail sessions and this was again offered in 2010 and should continue to be offered in 2011.

For year to year Sailing School improvement, mechanisms need to be put in place to pass on program improvements, as staff turns over. For a third year running, time was set aside for instructor prep and a daily debrief. The Program Manager was again actively involved in debriefs.

The formalization of "Junior Instructor" training continued with an interview/debrief process as well as a journaling component requirement for the LIT positions.

In 2010, instructors also taught the weekend Learn to Sail Program. Private lessons continued to be an option for both campers who missed their sailing level, and members looking for one-on-one instruction.

GRYC returned to the Fruit Bowl at the Hudson Yacht Club for a 3rd year. Full parental involvement again was key to its success.

## ***Silver Sail Returned to the GRYC***

Based on demand and with parental support, Silver Sail course was offered for the first time in many years at the GRYC in 2010. This is a work in progress and because of our small size and sporadic demand, it will likely be run intermittently in the future.

## ***Integration of Juniors Racers & Staff into Club events***

The Bronze Sunday racing, Fruit Bowl participation & the Silver program all encouraged youth participation at GRYC races.

## **Program Manager Position**

For the 3rd year running, this position has improved the running of the Junior Program. We received continued positive parental feedback about the camp in 2010.

## **The Sailing School Fleet**

There continues to be an Instructor demand for more 420s and a replacement for the Prams. The Board Fleet Renewal initiative has started the ball rolling on this issue.

*Hamish McIntosh, Youth Program Director*