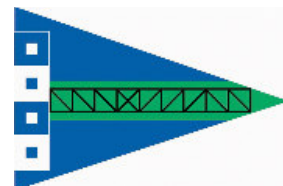


THE BRIDGE



Communication to join, support and connect the members of
PARRY SOUND POWER AND SAIL SQUADRON
a unit of Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons since 1961
www.parrysoundsquadron.ca



SUMMER 2010



CANADA DAY SAILPAST

Join the fun on July 1, to dazzle the Canada Day crowds at the dock. The Squadron has entertained the crowds and enjoyed this evening together for more than 25 years. Fly your flag proudly!

If you need a generator for a light display, the go-to guy is Training Officer John Mason at 342-1315.

Just string some lights, and head out south of Rosetta Island around 2045. Rendezvous out of sight with the other boats until the OPP arrives to lead you "on-stage" at dusk, light up

your Christmas lights, form up in line astern, and enjoy the parade. Chippewa will be part of the sailpast again this year. The crowds will love you, and you'll have a blast.

When you have gone the whole length of the Town Dock, give way to the Island Queen returning, and head out through the channel into the Sound, until you can see the lights of Belvedere Heights windows. The residents will be watching for you!

Just drift out in the Sound to enjoy the fireworks. It's a magical evening, and you have the best seat in the house.

WELCOME, HUBERT!

It is our pleasure to welcome Hubert Latzel as the new Commander of the Parry Sound Squadron. Hubert, a retired physician and a native of Germany, has served on the Bridge as Membership Officer with such distinction that he has moved to the top position in a matter of two years. Seldom has there been such a meteoric rise in our organization.

Hubert (pronounced Hoo-bert) is skipper of the Georgian Steel houseboat/cruiser *Whisky Jack* and lives aboard in the summer months with Hexxa, the ship's dog. Like the rest of us, he is under the spell of Georgian Bay and enjoys leisurely cruising and exploring; in that connection, here is a short reminiscence by Hubert of a tranquil visit to the South Channel, taking advantage of the early start to the boating season in April. The conclusion to this little story speaks volumes, especially in view of recent events in the Gulf of Mexico.

BEING A PART OF NATURE

Contributed by Hubert Latzel

In the final days of April, I was out in my boat *Whisky Jack*, moored in Five-Mile Bay by Charde Island. It was sunny, but very cold, with a sharp wind from the north. But I was nicely sheltered by the rock that separates the little bay from the lake north of it. It was so quiet, nature still asleep, life seeming to hide from that cold wind. No squirrel was complaining at my arrival.

I found a small water snake, maybe 20 cm. long, drifting in the cold water, belly up and drifting towards the open water. I fished her out with a net, thinking she was dead because she didn't move. Holding and warming her in my hands, I felt after a while a faint movement. It took some time, but she eventually came back to life. I released her in a spot on the shore where the sun had warmed up a heap of leaves, sheltered from the wind. And, in a moment, she was gone.

On other rocks, I found some turtles, still muddy from their places of hibernation, moving very slowly and stiffly, or just sitting in the sunshine, inhaling warmth and new life for the season. No wonder they live so much longer than we do. One of the turtles, a big snapper, sat in the sun all day and wasn't bothered when I came slowly by in my dinghy.

In the little lake behind the rock barrier, there

was a beaver family. Two young ones were playing around, chasing each other, diving and popping up. One of the parents was flapping his tail to scare me off. When that didn't work, the other parent came by to do the same. After a while, they stopped; one of them, a very big guy, came closer and closer and finally sat down just in front of me, about eight metres away, and started nibbling at some plants. Because I was not moving or trying to chase and scare the beavers, they just accepted me as part of the landscape. It was such a special feeling, just to melt into the surroundings and be part of them. Luckily, the beaver is a rodent rather than a carnivore; with a carnivore so close by, I might have gotten a bit deeper into nature than I would have liked.

So I had some very peaceful and relaxing days in a more or less untouched area, while the world all around was boiling, noisy, and on the edge of destruction.

Editor's note: We love this stuff. It speaks to all of us and we hope other readers will send us similar recollections. No story is too great or too small here!

THANKS, ESTELLE!

As we welcome Hubert as our new Commander, it is also fitting to thank Past Commander Estelle Montpellier for all her hard work over the last two years. The job itself is pretty demanding and requires an unusually high degree of commitment. Monthly meetings are convened and chaired, events organized, and contact kept with District and National headquarters. The latter requires a certain amount of travel and consequent commitment of time.

Try all of this on top of studying for (and attaining) a bachelor's degree in history and partnering with husband Harald in running Carling Bay Marina and you will have some idea of what Estelle's life has been like the last couple of years. Now Estelle is able to focus on her work at the marina full-time without the pre-occupations of running the Squadron and going to school at the same time. Bravo, Estelle! Well done, and thanks from all of us.

BOATPRO TESTS

We will not be running BoatPro tests at Canadian Tire this summer. But for members, friends, or relatives that do not yet have a PCOC, the Parry Sound Power and Sail Squadron will offer tests on an individual basis by appointment. For further information, please contact John Mason at 342-1315 or training@parrysoundsquadron.ca.

WIND VELOCITY

Estimating wind speed is always difficult. Inevitably, it seems stronger than it really is and when you think you have survived a gale and it turns out just to have been a strong breeze, it's a bit dispiriting. However, this tale in Scotland's *Aberdeen Evening Express* leaves no doubt: *"At the height of the gale, the harbourmaster radioed the Coast Guard and asked them for a reading on the wind speed. The Coast Guard replied that they were sorry, but their wind gauge was out of order. However, if it was any help, the wind had just blown their Land Rover off a cliff."*

WATCH FOR OUR ADVERTISING THIS SUMMER

The Squadron is taking a different approach in newspaper advertising in the On the Water edition.

You, as a member of CPS, have had to pass a real exam to prove you were proficient in safe boating. We decided it was time to accentuate the difference.

In fact, one of our members has had some fun with a testing outfit that is set up at local venues.

When approached by the youth offering the test—his pitch was: "are you guys on the water this year?" She replied, "Yes, and I don't need your card, I've got the REAL one—from Power Squadron."

In the rain the other day, the employees of the same organization were searching for garbage bags to keep dry. Another member was heard to say that REAL boaters would be prepared for foul weather.

**Have you found
the limitations of a boating exam
that a child could pass?**

**The safe Boating Course, taught by
local volunteers for half a century,
gives you the knowledge you need.**

*Your family will be safe on the water.
Your insurer will reduce your premium.*

*Watch for course advertisements in the autumn
or email to be added to our waiting list
for the REAL Boating Course.*




Parry Sound Power and Sail Squadron
Volunteers Teaching Safe Boating since 1961
Email: info@parrysoundsquadron.ca

A DISCONCERTING MOMENT

This last May, your friendly scribe/editor took an eleven-day voyage on a ship up the coast of Norway, from Bergen to Kirkenes, just short of the Russian border. As our ship steamed out of Bergen harbour, I saw a red marker coming up on the starboard side. Red right returning? Oops! I smelled a heavy-duty grounding coming up. But then a switch tripped in my subconscious and I recalled a presentation by Past Commander Terry Johnson, in which he encountered exactly the same situation in New Zealand. The American continent is the only jurisdiction in which red-right-returning applies. Moral of the story: come to Squadron events and you'll learn something useful.

I will be presenting a travelogue on this trip at the Parry Sound Library next February 17. These will be still pictures. But I also have about three hours of video that call for some sort of Squadron event. We'll keep in touch.

Ad from Artists Round the Sound:



Canadian Power & Sail Squadron

The Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons are Canada's largest national association of boating enthusiasts, providing training in recreational boating by volunteer personnel. CPS programs enhance general seamanship, with courses in basic boating, maritime radio, pilotage and navigation, GPS, both traditional and electronic charting, weather knowledge, boat care and maintenance, and much else besides. Members are kept up-to-date by quarterly newsletter as well as enjoying the social company of others who simply "like to mess about in boats". For further information, contact commander@parrysoundsquadron.ca or Steven Duff, Publications Officer at 705-774-9200

THE BRIDGE: this is the team serving you for 2010-11. If you'd like information about any of the vacancies, please ask anyone on the Bridge. You'd be very welcome to help out.

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