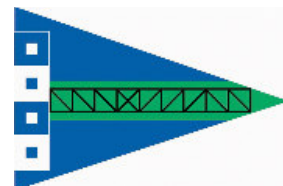


THE BRIDGE



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



SPRING 2010



Parry Sound's Canada Day Fireworks—watch for Squadron Sailpast news!

DRAGON BOAT TIME AGAIN

To many of us, the Dragon Boat Festival has come to symbolize the true start of summer. The 2010 edition of same is scheduled for the weekend of June 12; since this is the eighth year for the Dragon Boats, it is plain that they have become firmly rooted in Parry Sound tradition.

The Dragon Boat Festival is a big operation, requiring many volunteers, a role in which our Squadron has always played a prominent part. The requirements are for steerspersons, crews for safety boats, shoreside assistance for marshalling teams, distribution and retrieval of lifejackets, and being on the dock to make sure the teams get away in a safe and timely fashion.

The “go-to” person for the Dragon Boat Festival is Sue Whitley, whose natural habitat is 342-9584. Thanks in advance for your help. From a personal perspective, the Dragon Boat

Festival is monster fun and, even in my seventh decade, I wouldn't want to miss it.

A MAJOR ARTISTIC LANDMARK

I hope you won't think badly of such a self-serving bulletin, but, from June 5 until August 25, there will be an exhibit of paintings at the West Parry Sound Museum called “Along the Waterfront”. We all love being on the waterfront, so this show should appeal to pretty much all Squadron members. The reason this is a self-serving news item is that the paintings are by, er, me – but don't hold it against them!

The show opens with an informal reception (snacks and cash bar to help the Museum) on Saturday evening, June 5, from 7:00 to 9:00

SOMETHING YOU'D RATHER NOT READ...

...and definitely not something I enjoy writing, but it must be done nonetheless. As you are no doubt aware, our Squadron is *in extremis*, with declining membership and lack of volunteers to assist on the Bridge. Not only that; in our Winter issue, we laid out the problems ("challenges" hardly tells the tale) facing us as an organization, outlined some ideas to revitalize the operation, and invited suggestions and recommendations.

There was not a single response. Nor has there been much significant contribution over the years from the general membership to *The Bridge* in the form of stories, cautionary tales, or any ideas you feel like sharing. Much of the time, I feel as if *The Bridge* was my own personal sandbox that must be kept filled by whatever means, and this is hardly a valid reflection of what is going on in the Squadron.

I am neither going to quit nor jump ship. I believe in the Squadron as a means to make us better and safer boaters, give us resources to upgrade our skills, and to provide a social platform for us to be a cohesive group with a common interest. Additionally, we are, to a degree, a service organization, providing assistance to such events as the Dragon Boat

Festival and Tugfest, *and* being a source of help to other boaters. I have been approached three or four times by other boaters who recognized the CPS house-flag in my rigging and had a question about where to get gas, where there might be a phone, where a good anchorage might be, and that sort of thing. And, a couple of years ago, I was able to avert what could have been a very serious accident just up beyond Byng Inlet, thanks to a combination of my own experience and exposure to the Power Squadron.

Already, the Squadrons in Gravenhurst and Manitoulin Island have folded their tents. Are we, in the finest boating territory anywhere, going to be next? It's up to us, folks, so let's see if we can't close ranks and save our Squadron from oblivion.

What I have just written is my own personal view of the situation and has no official sanction from other members of *The Bridge*; but I am sure they concur in my sentiments.

- S.D.

CANADA DAY

Assuming that we are still functional by Canada Day, we do plan a sailpast, with our boats all lit up. More information to follow!

THE BRIDGE: this is the team serving you for 2010-11.

Email	Officer	Residence or Business Tel
Commander@parrysoundsquadron.ca	Hubert Latzel	(R) (705) 774- 9197
Executive@parrysoundsquadron.ca	P/Cdr David Hardie, <u>AP</u>	(R) (705) 259-0706
Training@parrysoundsquadron.ca	John Mason, JN	(R) (705) 342-1315
Admin@parrysoundsquadron.ca	VACANT	
Secretary@parrysoundsquadron.ca	James Lacombe, P	(R) (705) 769-3899
Treasurer@parrysoundsquadron.ca	Sharon Elton	(R) (705) 378-4973
MarepH@parrysoundsquadron.ca	John Mason, JN	(R) (705) 342-1315
Membership@parrysoundsquadron.ca	VACANT	
Editor@parrysoundsquadron.ca	Steven Duff	(R) (705) 774-9200
PRO@parrysoundsquadron.ca	VACANT	
Supply@parrysoundsquadron.ca	VACANT	
Communications@parrysoundsquadron.ca	P/Cdr Marianne King-Wilson, S	(B) (705) 746-1332
ChiefPortCaptain@parrysoundsquadron.ca	John Shipman, <u>AP</u>	(B) (705) 746-2411
PastCdr@parrysoundsquadron.ca	P/Cdr Estelle Montpellier	(R) (705) 342-5451