

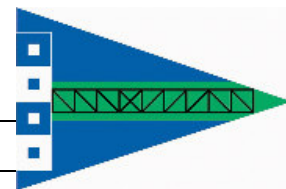
THE BRIDGE



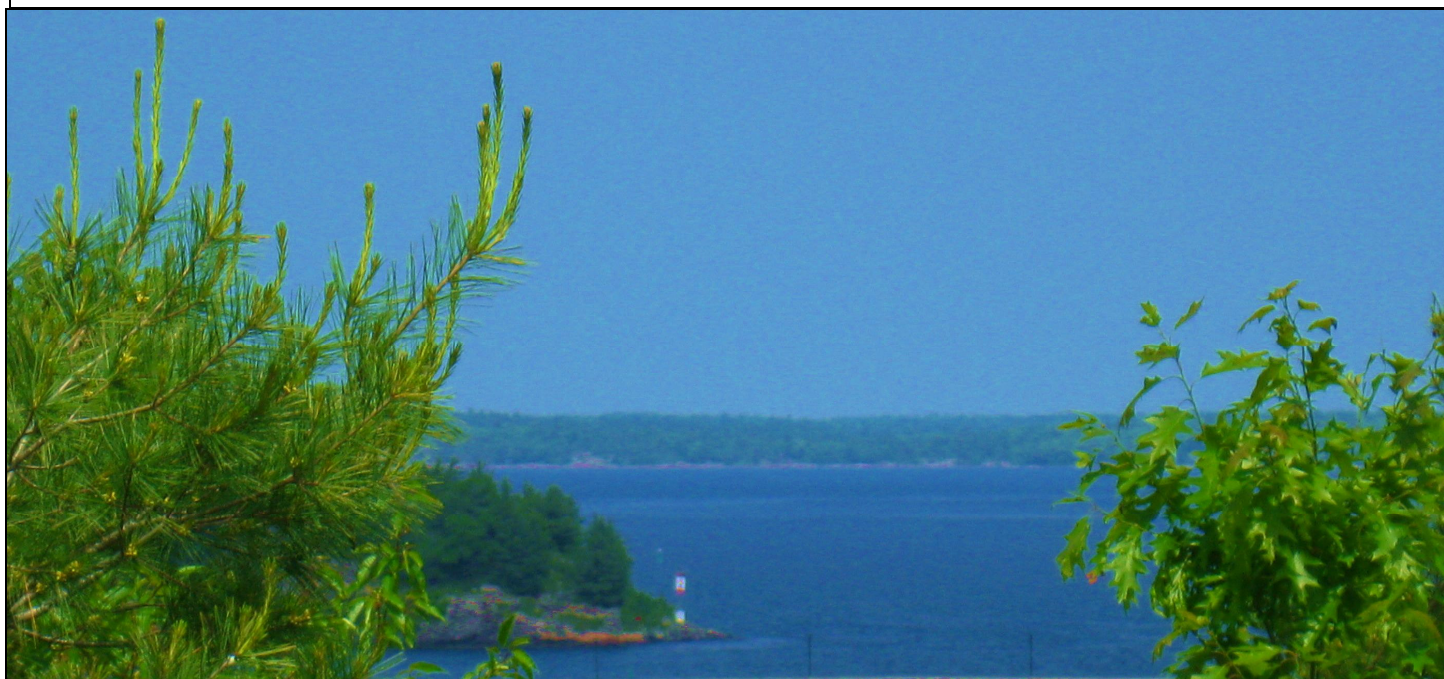
Communication to join, support and connect the members of
PARRY SOUND POWER AND SAIL SQUADRON
a unit of Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons since 1961

Celebrating 50 years in support of safe boating

www.parrysoundsquadron.ca!



Spring 2011



The Sound beckons again

SPRING, 2011

Just as spring itself was tardy this year, so is this issue of *The Bridge*. We know you have been pining for it, but we're back now with all sorts of news and information. Because we are later than we had hoped with this issue, we're combining Spring and certain elements of Summer, so there is material going right through to the end of August. Make certain to put pertinent dates on your trusty kitchen calendar.

DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

The annual Dragon Boat Festival is on Saturday, June 18, an event that, for many, embodies the true opening of the boating season. Help is always needed and, this year, there is a particular need for steerspeople. For anyone who has never

done this (and for those who have), it's monster fun.



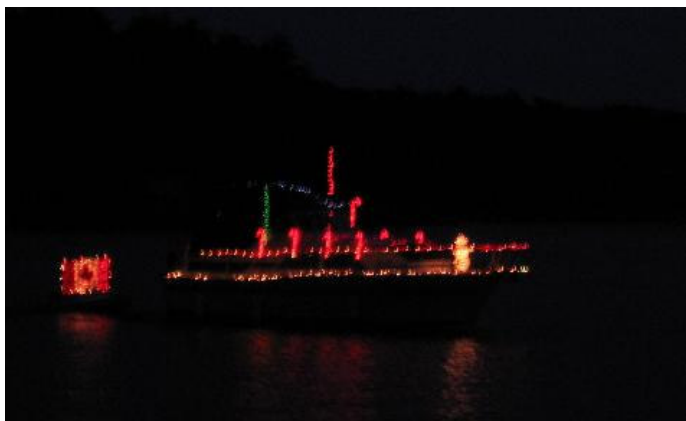
You have in front of you a 36-foot racing machine with 18 paddlers and, when these things take off, it's like being in command of a World War II battle cruiser, H.M.S. *Renown* or something. (We like to think big on these matters!)

Not to sound elitist or anything, but sailors are in particular demand for this, as Dragon boats behave more like sailing vessels than power. But power boaters are also welcome, of course. If you would like to do this (and, from personal experience, it's highly recommended),

Continued

please contact John Mason at 705-342-1315 or training@parrysoundsquadron.ca to arrange dragon boat helm training sessions.

Time is short, so you'll need to act quickly. But you'll be glad you did!



CANADA DAY

Now we have the all-important matter of the Canada Day Sailpast to deal with. This tradition was instituted some years ago, then had a lapse, but is now back again, bigger and finer than ever.

This is the event in which we dress our boats up with Christmas lights or something similar and cruise past the Town Dock just before the fireworks. This year, the sailpast really is on July 1, a conveniently-located Friday.

Everyone in the Squadron and all their friends are invited to participate in whatever craft they have handy, not just big yachts and tugs, but any boat operated safely, right down to an Optimist-class pram dinghy.

We're not kidding – it has been done before.

John Mason was one of the people who put together the first sailpasts in the 80s. Here is his personal invitation!

"It looks to be a warm June. Some adults have been swimming in the Bay already!

"In the past, sailors (for the Sailpast) have met at Salt Point (the one south-west of Rosetta Island) and anchored, gone swimming, had dinner, dressed the boats, and gossiped.

"Then, when the sun has set, they have putted over to Rosetta to meet the others and kick Christmas in July into action. I plan to do just that this year and invite others to join me."

John's boat is the highly-travelled 26-foot sloop *Canadian Mist*.

Anyone who needs a generator for lights can contact John Mason (there he is again) at 705-342-1315 or training@parrysoundsquadron.ca **before June 24.**

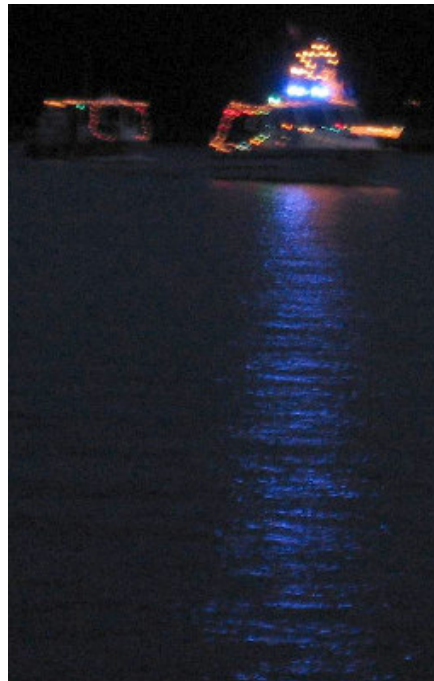
In support of the operation, we have this enthusiastic signal from a member who has participated for 20 years:

"The excitement of being in this show is unparalleled. You are on the water, it's July 1, the Christmas lights are on, you have your music playing, the crowds LOVE the show, they wave and shout; and you know a lot of the people on the Town Dock, so you are waving back, well, you wave anyway, because it is such a marvellous evening and it's Parry Sound in Canada!

"We are producing a show every time we hold a sailpast, so you consider that you are "on stage" when you can be seen:

"Christmas lights are OFF until you go "on stage" at dusk. Please don't spoil the surprise by turning them on early. Rendezvous south of Rosetta Island at 2100, (9 PM) well out of sight of the Town Dock, until the OPP boat comes to get you. Follow her lead.

"Lights on" as you come "on stage", visible to all the crowds. It is a dramatic, breathtaking moment, as the crowds catch sight of all the boats coming out from behind the island, for the first time dressed overall in their sailpast best!



"The OPP will lead you through the assembled fleet to the north end of the Town Dock and parallel to it, to the cheers of the thousands of

people there to enjoy the show.”



“Then the entire sailpast goes out into the Big Sound, maintaining formation, until the lights of Belvedere Heights come into view. For all the 27 years of the sailpast, the residents have enjoyed the show when we went far enough out to be seen.

“Stay out in the Sound, well away from the channel, to enjoy the fireworks.



“We have a long-standing agreement with the Island Queen and the Festival of the Sound that we will keep out of her way until she is safely docked and discharging her passengers.”

From the Chamber

The Chamber of Commerce, coordinating the events of the day, has been most appreciative of your contribution over all these years.

They confirm the evening’s timing:

*The fireworks will go off at dusk, close to 10pm.
The sun typically sets around 9:15pm and it takes time for it to get dark enough for the fireworks to show well.*

[This is the time for the sailpast show]

Starting the fireworks: depends on a series of events: all boats clear of the firing site and the Island Queen back in the harbour.

Please ask your members to remind their friends that boats must stay clear of the firing site which is located down the trail off the Champagne Street Docks.

All boats must stay back beyond the buoy directly out from the firing site or the fireworks will be stopped.

It has never been an issue with your members but the more boats on the water aware of this, the safer everyone will be.

TUGFEST

What a summer we’re going to have! Our third big event will be TugFest on the weekend of August 26-28, coinciding with the 50th Anniversary of the Parry Sound Squadron.

The Parade of Lights opens the event, on Friday night, August 26; come to the Town Dock at the foot of Bay Street at dusk, and enjoy a festive event with brightly lit tugs parading in the harbour, accompanied by music.

Enjoy the Tugboat Races on Saturday afternoon, starting at 1 PM, running from the Salt Dock area, toward the Town. The tugs “All Dressed” in their bunting (signal flags strung from end to end) will race and show their best. All along the shoreline Rotary and The Algonquin Regiment Fitness trail, from Salt Dock Road to Sail Parry Sound, you can see the races. Some grandstand seating provided.

Later in the day, go aboard tugs ranging in size from 6’ to 130’, and see how their owners have fitted them out, as working boats or luxury accommodation. Welcome signs will be posted on the Town Dock beside participating tugs.

Tugfest members are tugboat owners who share a passion and pride in their vessels while promoting respect on the waterways.

Over 50 years more than 1000 boaters including tug owners, have taken safe Boating and advanced piloting courses through this Squadron.

As the Squadron, we are heavily involved in the logistics and organisation of the event and we are going to need **a lot of help**. As soon as we have more details, we’ll send them out in our Summer issue.

Our hope is to avoid what we call the 10/90 Syndrome, meaning that 10% of the people do 90% of the work, so we respectfully request that anyone not off cruising or having other commitments at that time be available to help out. We’ll let you know what needs to be done and whom to contact as the time draws closer.



AREN'T YOU GRATEFUL FOR GEORGIAN BAY?

After a month or two in Charlottetown harbour—a good demonstration of why we are happy to sail in pure water.



THE BRIDGE: this is the team serving you for 2011-2012. If you need information, have a question or need help with something related to the Squadron, feel free to contact the appropriate person to help you. And if you have a story for this newsletter, please contact editor@parrysoundsquadron.ca

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