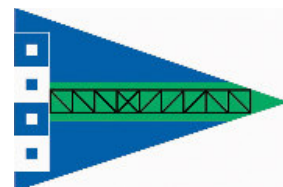


THE BRIDGE



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!



AUTUMN 2009



SUMMER'S END – AGAIN!

One of nature's cruellest perversities is that summer's end on Georgian Bay is the most exquisitely beautiful time of the season and yet a signal that it's almost over. Whenever you're out on the boat, everything somehow becomes distilled; the fractured sunlight on the water (whose angle has changed so much in the last few weeks), the slightly fishy lake smell, the tang of hot varnish in the sunshine, the acute pleasure of doing simple routine things around the water. Soon leaves will start sprinkling decks and cockpits, the sunshine will be displaced by a dank chill, a terrible melancholy will settle over the coastline as boats and docks come ashore for their long winter's nap.

But...there's still fun and interesting stuff to look forward to, so read on.

HAUL-OUT PARTY

Hauling out the boat is hardly a festive matter, but to take some of the sting out of it, the Parry Sound Squadron is having a haul-out party Saturday evening, November 7. This will give us a chance to "raft up", swap stories, and generally hang out. The location is the Shriners' Room, entrance at the steps on Seguin beside LCBO.

Format will be pot-luck, so we'll look forward to sampling food from everybody's galley. Admission is \$10 to cover the rental of the hall; doors open at 1830, for potluck dinner and a special presentation. Cash bar.

TUGFEST, 2011



Tugfest 2011 is scheduled to be held in Parry Sound in either the third or fourth weekend of August, (yet to be determined) and the hosting organization is...us! Anyone who has seen Tugfest will know how much fun it is; there is a certain something about tugs that has mass appeal, as witness the classic kids' book (and movie) *Little Toot* and, in more recent years, the fondly-remembered TV show *Theodore Tugboat*. Sidebar: for *Theodore* junkies young and old, a 65-foot version of *Theodore* gives cruises in Halifax harbour.

Anyway, back to Tugfest. The fleet, both local and "foreign", is a mix of working tugs and tugs that have been renovated into private motor yachts. No two are alike and it's always interesting to see how far owners have taken "yachtification". Some craft are indeed maintained to yacht standards while others display their working heritage with a more utilitarian finish and, in some cases, the scrapes and gouges that are the lot of a tugboat.

The event is enormous, both in scope of numbers of vessels and of events. A highlight is an evening, with tugs dressed overall in coloured lights. In addition, there are tug races, tugs-of-war, and ample opportunities for viewing alongside the Town Dock and, in some cases, visiting aboard.

As it happens, 2011 is also our Squadron's fiftieth anniversary, so the whole operation is especially significant. We will need volunteers, a *lot* of volunteers, to help organize this thing and keep it running smoothly. The bar has been set in Parry Sound, by past Tugfests, regattas and the annual Dragon Boat Festival, so this event has got to be first-class. Because we don't yet have an exact date for Tugfest 2011, this is simply an advance heads-up. We'll forward more details as they come available, both as to dates and specific duties that need filling.

READY, AYE, READY!

Had to throw in a touch of the Royal Navy there. In the immediate future, there are other matters requiring volunteers. First, there are vacancies on the Bridge.

The **Membership officer** keeps in touch with members, helps to ensure all information and dues are up to date, and updates e-mailing and postal information to the Publications Officer (me) as required.

The **Public Relations Officer** is liaison with the community and takes care of media releases, information to the public on coming events, and that sort of thing.

A **Youth officer** introduces the PCOC into the schools. Teachers in the squadron have been very successful helping the schools conduct training and testing, and this should continue.

And an **ATO—assistant training officer**, who handles the BoatPro (PCOC) is a big help, especially now that the deadline is past, and people will realize it over the winter.

In these positions, attendance at monthly meetings is necessary on the third Wednesday evening of the month at 1900 hrs. Please give this the deepest possible thought, as it is a chance to help with operation of the Squadron and generally make something of a difference.

We're not finished. We could use some proctors for the Boating Course to assist with marking homework, teaching the occasional lesson (a great way to keep yourself sharp over the winter), and any other tasks as required. The course is on Monday nights at Parry Sound High School between 1830 and 2130. If you can assist, please contact Lindsay at training@parrysoundsquadron.ca

BOATING COURSE

The Boating Course forms the basis of training for good boatmanship, membership in the Squadron, and qualification (and we mean *proper* qualification for the now-universally-mandatory-with-no-exceptions PCOC). The Boating Course will resume in October, with registration at the High School on Monday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m and classes starting October 19. The fee this year is \$250 for an individual and \$350 per couple. All our readers, of course, have taken boating instruction, but we encourage everyone to spread the word in the interests of making our waterways safer.

PCOC

I recently encountered some American friends, who, by virtue of owning cottages on the Bay as well as Canadian-registered boats, needed the PCOC and were about to write the test. One friend had U.S. Coast Guard certification and another had served time as an officer in the U.S. Navy. So, as you can see, they had pretty respectable credentials. BUT they still needed the PCOC.

So they reviewed and studied and then went for the test. What a joke! The test was open-book – and to add to the folly, there was all sorts of coaching. This was NOT conducted by the Squadron, by the way. We follow Transport Canada rules.

There's no way around *knowing* what you're doing. Can you imagine, for example, approaching a cardinal buoy, sailing alone in a Force 6 wind, lashed with gusts of spray, and trying to look up in a rain-soaked book what the thing means? It would be funny if it weren't so serious. But that doesn't seem to matter to certain "providers".

There is also a tale of a Squadron member encountering someone who was amazed that "even his little boat" was covered by the PCOC requirement, not to mention his children. To laugh or to cry – that is the question.

SAYING THANKS

In the past, many of our members took boating courses or taught them in the winter, reserving the summer months for real boating. This past summer, with the deadline for the boater card, several members spent a Saturday at Canadian Tire, offering a challenge PCOC test to those who still needed a card.

The Squadron thanks the following: Gary Bauer, Lindsay Chafe, Sharon and John Elton, Bob Griffiths, David Mallette, John Mason, Horst Mattern, Cam and Carolien Murch, Robert Osborn, and John Stothers. Each gave up what could have been a fine Saturday for sailing. Thanks again.

66 tests were administered and passed, an average of eleven per Saturday. We have that many new members, with the hope that some will continue with Parry Sound Power and Sail and upgrade their boating skills even more.

In addition, a big thank-you goes to our local

Canadian Tire store, who provided the venue, the tent, table and chairs, AND the textbook *Boating*, cheaper than we could buy it ourselves.

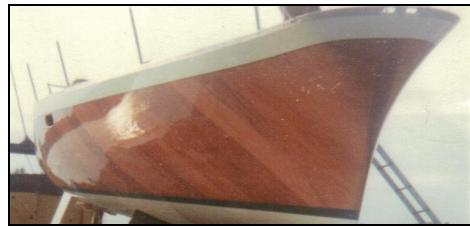
An editorial side-bar: Canadian Tire has a lot of reasonably-priced boat stuff, so you don't have to go broke in the pursuit of happiness.

submitted by John Mason

A SPARKLING EVENT

Our friends at Sail Parry Sound hosted a sparkling social event on Friday, September 25, in honour of Victor and Hazel Carpenter.

Now retired, the Carpenters were responsible for arguably the most breath-taking wooden boats ever built by anyone anywhere.



Their output included a yacht for Gordon Lightfoot as well as an assortment of other yachts and power cruisers, most of which were designed by Victor himself. The standard of workmanship on a Carpenter vessel is almost off the clock.

Another Carpenter enterprise was restoration of classic boats. One notable example was *Ogima*, a 1938 triple-cockpit Seabird, which had been severely damaged in a grounding back in the seventies and then languished in a shed for nearly a quarter-century. By the time Vic and Hazel got through with her, *Ogima* looked as if she were fresh out of the factory.

When not in the building shed, Vic and Hazel were out on the water in their own (Carpenter-built) yacht *Passing Wind*, (continued)



and campaigned successfully in such long-distance races as the Detroit to Mackinac.

The purpose of the gathering was to honour Mr and Mrs Carpenter – but we were all honoured by their presence.

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS FOR OUR CALENDAR

The time has come to begin serious work on our calendar, as referenced in the Summer issue of *The Bridge*. We need pictures, either photographs or photographs of drawings or paintings (by you) and anything related to Georgian Bay boating.

Please forward your submission in jpeg format to Marianne King-Wilson, e-mail address info@parrysoundsquadron.ca We'd like to have everything rounded up by Thanksgiving, so, as the TV egg ad said, 'get cracking'.

THE BRIDGE: this is the team serving you for 2009-10.

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