



The Navigator

www.chatslakeboatclub.com

Spring 2015

Commodore's Comments...

Dear Boaters and Sailors,

First of all, I would like to thank the membership for the privilege of serving as your Commodore for the next 2 years. Your vote of confidence is very much appreciated!

I would further like to thank the members who have also come forward to serve on the Executive. Brian Boese (VC Docks), Rob Newell (continuing as VC Grounds), Peter Newsom (VC Sail), Nick Shepherd (Treasurer) and Angie Shepherd (continuing as Secretary).

We also very much appreciate Gary Lesway staying on as Rear Commodore. Your collective expertise and commitment will only serve to add to the success of the Club and, of course, make my job that much easier.

On behalf of the membership and current Executive, I would also like to thank outgoing members of the past Executive (Gary Lesway, Lyn Arsenault) for their tireless, dedicated and most valuable efforts in making the Club run so smoothly.

As has been mentioned in the past, the club is a vibrant, functioning organization only because of the volunteers who contribute to its success.

To that end, we continue to encourage members at large to step up and volunteer their talents

and time to any of the Committees (Social, Grounds, Docks) to help with ongoing tasks and/or special events planned.

As we turn our attentions ahead to the 2015 season, your Executive is looking at a number of other possible activities to further enhance the vibrancy and utility of the wonderful grounds and facility we know as the Chats lake Community Boat Club.

A few of these include possibly more Regattas, completing finger dock upgrades, installing some new anchor chains on floating docks, some inside Clubhouse upgrades/painting, youth sailing mentoring, community seniors cruise night, movie nights, "open mic" fun entertainment nights, etc. Any ideas/suggestions you may have would be most welcome!

You are reminded again of the March 31, 2015 deadline for getting fees in and securing your intentions for use of dock space as well as dry docking requirements. We look forward to seeing everyone at the wine and cheese party on the first Saturday in May as we re-connect with one another and welcome any new members.

Pat Hallett
Commodore

This past year saw many notable achievements including:

- ◆ no lost floating docks (LOL)
- ◆ substantial repairs/upgrades to the Finger docks
- ◆ initiating an informal Wednesday evening sail-in & another successful sailing Regatta
- ◆ four motion detector lights installed
- ◆ major cleaning and clearing of the grounds
- ◆ May, July 1 and October gatherings and dinner
- ◆ a strong closing balance on our 2014 financial position
- ◆ and finalizing a new *Docking Space Policy and Procedures* to name just a few!

Commodore Pat Hallett

2015

Dates to Remember

May 2

Wine & Cheese
6:00 pm at the
boat club

May 30 or June 6

Docks In
(Date to be
confirmed)

July 1 Canada Day

Pot Luck &
Fireworks

August

Sailing Regatta

(Date to be
decided)

October

Floating Docks
Out
(Date to be
decided)

October 17

12:00 pm AGM &
Pot Luck

Notes and news....

Here we are again on the cusp of Spring, dreaming of days on the river and hoping the thaw will be kind this season.

- ◆ We've had a few early registrations this year, but still await the majority of renewals. **Do remember that your application form and payment must be in by no later than March 31.** We appreciate your timely response which makes it possible to pay our bills and keep the membership lists up to date. There is a late payment penalty for tardy responses.
- ◆ A reminder that we have limited space for keeping trailers; therefore the club does **not** offer long term boat storage, only summer dry docking for boats that are put in and out of the water each time they are used during the season. We can arrange for some assistance if it is needed when moving boats.
- ◆ The entry codes for the clubhouse and the launch ramp chain will be changed once again this year. Please do not share this information with anyone

other than the family members you register. Last season we experienced some unauthorized use of the launch ramp which is unfair to paying members and potentially damaging to the ramp.

- ◆ Please note that stored boats and/or trailers may be moved periodically in order to cut overgrown grasses and keep the grounds looking neat and tidy.
- ◆ Be sure to visit our newly re-vamped website **www.chatslakeboatclub.com** for all the latest news, contacts, club history forms and photos.
- ◆ This newsletter and the 2015 membership form in PDF version are posted on our website. **Please be sure to use the website version of the 2015 form and not outdated versions which sometimes appear through other web searches.** The form may be downloaded, printed and mailed along with your cheque.

Angie Shepherd,
Secretary

Chats Lake Community Boat Club Officers - 2015

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On the property....

First of all I'd like to welcome back all returning and new members for another boating season.

This year's items on the grounds agenda to be completed will be:

- ◆ Grounds clean up - as soon as the weather permits.
- ◆ The installation of a new water post near the floating docks as well as an extension of the water line to a new water post beside the ramp. This will allow members to easily access a water source for cleaning their boats.

- ◆ Repainting of the ceiling in the main area of the clubhouse as well as repairing or replacing ceiling light fixtures.

Members who have any safety or security concerns are encouraged to bring them to my attention as soon as possible.

I'm looking forward to the beginning of the new season and to seeing everyone.

Rob Newell V.C. Grounds

And down at the docks....

Thanks to the wonderful talents and efforts of Mike, Rob and Tyler Roach and their volunteer team, most of the repairs/upgrades needed on the Finger docks were completed this past summer. Special thanks to Mike et al for a great job!!

A few more repairs will be completed this summer as well as a longer ramp section for the floating docks. Also planned are inspection and replacement of some of the anchor chains for the floating docks.

Members are reminded to get their fees for membership, mooring and dry docking in to the Treasurer by the March 31, 2015 deadline and alert the Vice Commodore, Docks of any changes to their requirements.

Members who need to make use of the crane service for 'boats-in' should also advise both the Dock master and Ray Wardle (mrwardle@sympatico.ca

tel # 613-224-7308).

The Annual sailing Regatta took place on August 23 with 4 participants (Peter Newsom, Mike Roach, Mark Robson and Nick Shepherd). The winner with the fastest boat was Peter Newsom (and Garry Brake crew) in the 24 ft Bluenose, with Mike Roach and his crew (Rob & Tyler) coming in second place. Congratulations and thanks to all!



The volunteer dock repair crew spent a weekend upgrading and repairing finger docks so that they are as good as new.

Our new enthusiastic member Peter Newsom has also organized an informal sailing evening for each Wednesday which also was well attended.

Stay tuned for more gatherings and events this season.

Looking forward to seeing everyone down at the Club or out on the water!

Brian Boese V.C. Docks

Fun events for new sailors, 'old tars' and more...

Welcome to another great season of sailing and boating on the Ottawa River!

Last summer we began a weekly Wednesday evening sailing program which provided a chance for us to get out on the river as a group. We plan to keep it going this season, perhaps with the addition of defining a race course to hone our skills and establish handicaps. As well, we are looking at adding a couple more races to complement our annual August regatta.

One of the challenges of racing in our club has been the diversity of hull types and sizes in our fleet. To that end we hope to introduce a handicap system to even things up, as well as looking at a variety of race formats. These could include a chase style starts, where boats begin the race according to handicap with the objective of having a dash for the finish line. This should make for more exciting finishes and less nerve wracking starts.

Of course establishing fair handicaps is the challenge, and to this end I look to our more experienced sailors to help in this. There are a number of ways of approaching this, including **Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF)**, or perhaps a golf style system based on accumulated average times. The various systems have their advantages and disadvantages and nothing has been decided yet. I invite interested parties to contact me with any suggestions they might have.

Additionally, I would ask that those wishing to participate in races this year to please send me the details of their boat, such as make, model and length. This will aid in establishing competitive groupings.



Bluenose and crew looking for a breeze on their way to winning the 2014 Regatta

Last year we had new members and sailboats join our club, some of us fairly new to the sport, (myself included). We also have some very experienced sailors, and if we could get these folks out sailing together I'm sure that it would be fun and beneficial to all involved. Wednesday evenings would be a great time to make this happen.

Just because you don't have a sailboat doesn't mean you can't be involved. We hope to establish connections between those who would like to crew and those who could use

additional crew on their boats. Also, our races could benefit from having committee boats at the start/finish line, and course markers. Those with power boats who would like to be involved will be most welcome.

In addition to expanding our sailing program, we would like to find ways to use and enjoy our club facilities a little more. Ideas such as card playing, and 'open mic' nights have been suggested. I invite members to bring forward any ideas they might have. We have a great facility in a lovely location. It seems a shame not to make more use of it.

I would also like to mention that while our core membership is based in powerboats and sailboats, there are other popular forms of boating that could benefit from membership in our club. It would be great to see kayakers, rowers, and more dinghy sailors enjoying our facilities.

Please invite those you know who are involved in these areas to take a look at what we have to offer. The more the merrier!

Let's have a great season, I look forward to seeing you out on the water this year!

Feel free to contact me with your thoughts and suggestions!

Peter Newsom, VC, Sail
email: sailing@newsom.ca