



BOW WAVE

Alexandra Yacht Club

www.ayc.on.ca

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Commodore's Report

Greetings to everyone at AYC on the wind down of another fine season — sure the weather presented some difficulties but from what I saw we certainly worked our way around this.

I want to thank everyone for making this year an enjoyable one as Commodore. I had a good idea of the job after five previous years on the board, but still, you never know the shoes until you walk a mile in them. I'm here to tell you that it is, in it's own modest way, a very rewarding experience (as is participating on the board). When everyone on a board is a volunteer and everyone loves the club it makes the meetings and other duties easier. It is very rare that an AYC board cannot all row in the same direction.

There are several issues that the membership should be aware of. I'll launch right in:

1. Vice Commodore Kevin Tapping approached the board at the July meeting with a request and proposal for bringing a 47' sailboat into the club. AYC has not accepted a boat of this size, although we have come within seven or eight feet in the last several years as various senior members have upgraded to larger vessels. Kevin's proposal was well presented and included strong arguments on the overall amount of dock space saved because he and partner Sue Cameron would each sell their 34' boats. Also Kevin included in his proposal an offer to purchase extra Jet Floats, chain and mooring anchors to properly accommodate such a large vessel.

Because of business and vacation schedules the July board meeting was missing four of its members, including Rear Commodore Michael Lagimodiere (note: a quorum was still achieved). The board heard Kevin's full

proposal and discussed it in detail but determined that without the rear commodore, whose responsibility is docks, no decision could be made at that time.

This effectively gave us two months to determine if the docks were capable of housing such a boat, where it would be moored, and what further ramifications there may be. I met with Michael and he immediately rejected the concept of a boat owner paying for or supplying dock upgrades. This would imply ownership and would tie the hands of future dock masters and future boards. The rear commodore had to maintain the ability to move any boat to any appropriate slip. No member owned their mooring. I asked Michael to confer with the two most recent Rear Commodores — Bill McLean and Brian Bezaire — about the dock system's ability to accommodate a boat of this size (and I spoke to both myself). Everyone was in agreement that the docks, with appropriate upgrades would be fine. The dues incurred by a 47' boat would accommodate these upgrades.

At the September meeting (just last week) the board reviewed this situation, discussed it in detail, and (after excusing Kevin) voted in favour of including this new boat in our mooring plan.

My personal opinion is that AYC must include in its future planning the fact that boat ownership is gravitating towards larger vessels. It is a clear trend in our new member requests and also in the activities of existing members, several of whom have moved to larger boats in recent years. The ability to house a 47' sailboat is an important test at this time. The fact that it has come internally from a member in good standing makes exploring this process easier.

This does not mean that there will not be a place for 20-30' boats. They are essential to the livelihood and vibrancy of our club. We simply must also recognize a trend when we see it and act appropriately. When properly handled a situation like this can only benefit AYC.

2. Our balconies are deteriorating. The board requested that senior member Rainer Goeller explore this issue and report back. At our July meeting (what a meeting that was, eh?) Rainer presented an engineer's report recommending that the balconies be reconditioned and resurfaced. The report included the point that there was five years before this situation became critical — but also that fixing the problem in five years would be significantly more costly. The board is examining this material and will report at the AGM on potential next steps.
3. The never ending issue of volunteer hours: for anyone who is shy of an official count of 16 hours as the season comes to an end, there are numerous opportunities for extra hours if you contact the Yard, Dock or House masters. There's lots of work coming up and lots of opportunities. Remember also, work you take on without a director's approval is not applicable to your total. The board must maintain the ability to direct the effort of its members. And, as you know, all such work is well considered, appreciated and properly recorded. Where we all get into difficulty is when a member takes a project on without notify the appropriate director.
4. Congratulations are in order to the AYC's small but vigorous fleet of racers who have distinguished themselves in several of this season's multi-club and open event. It does our club proud to have sailors like Stuart Rice and Matt Filetti recording strong finishes in large fleets. Kudos, guys.

So, on to haul out and the rituals of de-rigging, de-masting, winterizing and covering for the winter. I view these as almost a pagan ritual. In the fall we preserve, cover and protect. Be sure and have your vessel ready for the 24th. See you then, if not before.

Cheers, ♦
Nick Pitt, Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report

Here we are approaching the end of another boating season. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who have volunteered their time and efforts and done more than the minimum 16 hours. Soon we will all be getting our boats winterized and prepared for storage. Please remember that if any member is wanting to store his/her mast on the deck of their boat they must get permission from the board. This is not something new, it is written in our by-laws. I will need to know soon if this is your plan as it will affect the yard lay out. I am working on a new yard layout and trying to fit as many boats as possible. Prior to getting the boat out of the water there will be the ritual of yard clean up. Remember that this is mandatory for all senior members. If you are unable to make yard set up you must notify the board A.S.A.P. that you will be absent or that you will be sending someone else in your place.

There are a couple of member who have decided to step down their senior membership to that of associate. One that I would like to mention is Don Burgess. I don't know how many of you know the work that Don does here at the club. On a daily basis, Don has been here working performing several chores to make this club a whole and more enjoyable for all you. I can honestly say that until you become yard master you may not notice all the little things that he does. His dedication and service will be missed by all of us. I personally would like to thank Don for all his years of service. It has been a privilege serving on the Board as your Vice Commodore! See you at the AGM. ♦

Kevin Tapping, Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore's Report

It's the shortening of the days that signals another season coming to an end. Sad, but grateful for the beautiful September and great sailing it has offered, not to mention the warm, end of summer Lake Ontario for swimming.

There is a plan in place to fix the sea wall. The lumber (15 pcs. 4"x8"x16') has been sourced and ordered. The problem was fastening, as the existing lumber is bolted through to a buried steel angle which would require a fair amount of excavation through our beautiful new patio stones to access. We will weld new threaded rod to the top of that angle after the old lumber is removed saving lots of labor. We will tackle this at the fall clean-up and see if we can get three sections done.

There will be a sign-up sheet posted for a dozen brave souls to do the final dock party the week after the boats have been hauled (October 31) to loosen chains and retrieve all that needs to be. We will also be replacing a section of the M dock which is sinking along portions of its western edge. Coffee will be hot and so will lunch.

As Nick alluded to, we are facing a bit of a crux, in that it will soon be time to seriously consider our mooring expansion options. Past Rear Commodores have explored this in detail and came up with some good solutions. Likely the best would be to add a new dock and slips to the west into the swing mooring area. I will come up with some updated preliminary costing in time for the AGM to prepare everyone for what we will have to do in the future. As it is right now we have 95 moorings (not including swings) and a mandate to have 100 senior members who could all potentially own boats, fortunately they all don't. (Note: Kevin's new boat is not taking up the space of two, rather we are adding more floats to our existing longest mooring M56).

Please do your best to ensure your boat is running for haul out, as it slows things down and if the weather is up, can be dangerous. Save your winterizing routine for the parking lot.

Thank you to all who have helped out this year with ideas, advice and initiative. I would also like to thank Matt Filetti for organizing another great year of racing.

Weather is still beautiful, get out there and enjoy it, ♦

Michael Lagimodiere, Rear Commodore

Treasurer's Report

Here I am writing my last report for our fiscal 2009. It's been a busy summer for me, however, the busyness was not on or near Primetime but rather a building reno project I got involved in.

This year so far has been a good one for AYC with all going smoothly from a financial perspective. The invoicing change-over from Anton to Paul Madaley was seamless, except for the layout of the invoices for printing? Thanks to both.

Membership turnover continues as members' personal situations change. The new member Initiation Fees gives the club "extra" funds to cover smaller capital items. This also has meant there was again no increase in the Membership dues nor in the Mooring/Winter Storage fees.

If my memory serves me well, the only increase in the past eight years or so has been a 5-cents per sq. ft. in the Winter storage in 2002, excluding the lockers changes. The approved funds to buy a replacement tractor remain "unused" and it now appears that nothing will happen in this fiscal year.

The Tax Assessment Appeal remains outstanding. I have been assured that MPAC is working on reviewing the AYC assessment along with many of the other clubs'.

As this is my last report for 2009, I want to again express my appreciation for your confidence in me and the fine cooperation from all of you making the treasurer post rewarding. My next report will be at the Annual General Meeting when I will present the October 31, 2009 financial statements.

I plan on letting my name stand (again) for the Treasurer position for next year. Thank you. ♦

Joe Koole, Treasurer

House Director's Report

It is sad to see the end of the 2009 boating season on the horizon and fast approaching just as the weather seems to be the best it has been all summer.

Your House Director has been absent most of the summer as Mary and I transported the boat up to Georgian Bay and spent our days exploring some of the thousands of anchorages to be found there. We launched at Penetanguishene and travelled up the east shore of Georgian Bay with stops in Sans Souci, Parry Sound, Britt, The Bustards, Killarney and Little Current. We met Bob Blake, who happened to be in Penetanguishene when we were, and he sends a "hello" to everyone at AYC.

Boating is very different on Georgian Bay as there are so many places to anchor – most very sheltered and often secluded. There are many very pretty spots but the best and the closest to civilization are also very popular with numerous vessels at anchor especially on weekends. We parked the boat in Britt to take a short break for several days in early August. After a brief time in Toronto, we headed north to pick up "Kai Nui" in Britt as so many anchorages in the North Channel awaited our visit.

During a total of 47 days we were on the water, we tied up only 6 nights – all the rest of the time we were "on the hook". It has been a most delightful experience – so much so that I have decided to winter the boat in Penetanguishene in order to continue the journey next summer. We need to spend more time cruising the North Channel.

I encourage all members of AYC who haven't visited Lake Huron, to find an opportunity to spend some time

cruising Georgian Bay – particularly along the north shore between the French River area to west of Spragge. The beautiful scenery is reminiscent of the 1000 islands area of Lake Ontario but without the cottages, homes and boat traffic. Many anchorages are very peaceful indeed.

I extend a very special “thank you” to Don Burgess who has helped me on an ongoing basis with the many tasks that crop up with regard to the clubhouse during these two years as House Director. Also, many thanks to Ben Koldyk for keeping an eye on the club house while we were away this summer. ♦

Paul Kirby, House Director

Social Director’s Report

It was great to see everyone that came out for the summer party in August. The weather was fantastic, the beer and sangria were refreshing, the roti was zesty and the Cuban Band was groovy. I am sure a good time was had by all who attended judging by the pictures I have seen surfacing lately. Our next and last big event of the season will be "Hogtoberfest" on September 26. Doug Smith will dazzle your taste buds with his masterful roast pig and fresh corn on the cob. We are fortunate to have a very cool Jazz and blues quartet entertaining us from 4pm to 8pm with more dancing to follow.

To sign up for this event there are envelopes in the lobby of the clubhouse. I would like to have a count by September 21st to know how much food to order. Enjoy the rest of September this weather has been unbelievable, hopefully we will see each other on the 26th. ♦

Dan Peel, Social Director

Membership Director’s Report

As another boating season is quickly drawing to the end, we have been blessed with great fall weather to cap the season off. As the leaves will start to fall, so will a few members and we will be opening the fold for some new members into our quaint little club.

Don Burgess has resigned but is staying on as an Associate member. He has long been a solid member of the club and his energy and wisdom will be missed. Ian Kuter is also resigning and staying aboard as an Associate.

Hopefully I have new foredeck crew next year.

Jack Reid has sold his boat and looking for something new. Hopefully our new members will contribute as much as these three have over the years.

I must say that after over twenty five yrs of boating in Toronto, I finally joined a yacht club 2 years ago, and have really enjoyed new home here and I want to thank everyone for making the transition easy and enjoyable. Two years ago, after twenty five plus yrs of boating in Toronto, I finally joined a yacht club. I want to thank everyone for making the transition easy and enjoyable. I am enjoying my new home here. ♦

Stuart Rice, Membership Director

Secretary Director’s Report

Greetings fellow members. I hope the summer has gone well even though it was a little late coming. Our reciprocal agreements with the clubs around the lake have been well used this year, by our members and conversely, we have had many guests back at AYC. Being able to go anywhere around the lake and having a place where you are welcome is in my opinion, a great privilege. I know that we personally have always been well received. And, it’s free! What a great way to get a different prospective and get to meet fellow boaters I hope most of our members have taken advantage of this wonderful opportunity and will continue to do so in the future.

I do have a small issue in relation to the Reciprocal situation and that is, someone has removed the Binder containing all the Reciprocal Agreement letters from the various clubs. These letters explain their rules, facilities etc and are a must for those planning to visit a neighboring club Therefore it would be much appreciated if whoever has possession of said document, please return it ASAP

In the mean time, I hope you will take advantage of what is left of the season and we will see you all at the Hogtoberfest later this month ♦

Ben Koldyk, Secretary Director

Communication Director Report

AYC Membership

I have to make this short I have run out of space. Check Out the NEW AYC Web Site thanks to Bruce Buttimore and plan to attend Dan’s Hogtoberfest, Cheers ♦

George Jenkins Communications Director
