

# CLIPPER

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 1993

# PIG ROAST SEPT. 4



## COMMODORE

This great summer weather just keeps rolling on. We have had some great sailing days and events, not the least of which was our Regatta on July 17th. It was a great day and several members did exceedingly well. Notably, Klaus Noack on *Time Passage* placed 1st and 3rd in his division, and Mark Allen on *Watermark* placed 1st in both his races.

The Rubber Ducky Race on July 24th was an event! The Board of Directors in the 'Red (shirt) team' placed second last, ahead of only the new members team. The only redeeming aspect of this performance was that we did manage more pit stops than any other team. Our July 31st Cruise to Niagara on the Lake was a tremendous success. My guess is that about 25 yachts participated, along with a few drive-in cruisers. It was a great sailing day, but, as Barry Hitchins observed, everyone seemed to have different

wind conditions on the trip to Niagara. Thanks goes to Chad Hall for her organization of this event.

August 4th saw Tom King's Lobsterfest well attended. Everyone was smiling, except the 200 or so lobsters on the grill. Many more activities are ahead of us, not the least of which is Pig Roast on the Labour day weekend.

Steven Murphy and his crew are doing exceedingly well in the restaurant and bar since taking over on July 1st. With virtually one week's notice they came in with fully trained staff, full inventories and lots of enthusiasm. They have never looked back. Food quality and service are second to none. Some technical glitches with our equipment have caused periodic problems, but we will address these over time. Some of us have hosted banquets at the club since Steve took over, and they have been tremendously successful. I hosted a small group of about thirty

one afternoon for a Western theme lunch. Not only were we all impressed by the food, but the room was decorated with bales of hay, pitchforks, etc., and the staff was all in western-style clothes. The club, our staff and Steve will make every member feel proud to host an event at Queen City.

Most important on the Club's business side is the Board of Director's decision to reduce our initiation level for new members from \$2800 to \$1500. The objective of this incentive initiation rate is to rebuild our Senior membership by 20 to replace the Senior boating members who have slipped away from the Club over the last few years. Clearly, we cannot afford to carry empty moorings. Tight controls on operations and finances cannot offset the lost operating revenue from a declined membership. Your Board (as well as the boards of many other Clubs) has recognized that the boating community has changed, the economy has

changed, and clearly we must be more competitive. The time to act is now. We need to reach people with a complete membership package, including a competitive rate, before they make commitments for next year. Mary Partridge is now launching a Fall membership drive to attract new members. Her program includes many of the great ideas that she has reported on previously, plus a few more, and now, a competitive initiation rate. In the first two weeks of our program we gained three new Senior members. Not bad! One thought I want to leave everyone with on this topic is the need to be involved in the membership drive. I believe our best way to attract new members is by connecting with people we already know. Existing crew, associates and friends may be keen to join while this incentive initiation is in place.

Bill 61, the Island Land Trust, received third reading recently and will be put into law. Queen City's situation is secured by the commitments we have received both from the Toronto Island Residents' Association and the provincial government. This is the position that we sought, and I think all are satisfied. A celebration of the passing of the bill was held on Ward's Island on August 1st. Queen City was pleased to participate by providing transportation to visiting officials and guests. Included in the speeches was a warm thank-you to the island residents' friendly neighbour, Queen City Yacht Club. The Toronto Islands, with its mix of public parks, recreational facilities and its vibrant residential community is truly unique. I know that all of you feel proud to be an important part of it.

Most of you have read recent newspaper reports of Howard Moscoe, a Metro councillor, complaining about lease rates for Metro area yacht clubs. He and a few others are suggesting that taxpayers are buoying the yacht clubs and are supporting these playgrounds for the rich. Obviously the phrases 'self-help' and 'non-profit' mean

something different to these people. I doubt whether they have seen the facilities that we have provided, or are aware of the finance and personal work we all contribute to maintain these facilities. Nor have the jobs that we provide, the recreational enjoyment, the community support, the tourism \$'s and developmental \$'s that we contribute towards been considered. Notwithstanding the publicity, the bottom line is that there is no immediate issue concerning our lease. The rate that we pay is set until 1995, and the lease itself continues until 2005. We are, however, concerned that there is considerable misunderstanding about what yacht clubs really are and what we provide. Queen City recently hosted a meeting of the area yacht club commodores and this topic was addressed. It was decided that all clubs would try to pool pertinent information, so that we would have a common understanding of our community. One suggestion was also made to jointly acquire a communications company to help make our message better understood. I wasn't particularly fond of this alternative, but we all undertook to confer with our members to obtain views on this course of action or other ideas that may be helpful. Accordingly, I ask each of you to consider this topic and give me your views.

Finally, it is an unfortunate way to end my report, but a few recent regrettable incidents have caused enough concern to some of our staff and members that I undertake to comment on them. The two areas of concern are both adequately covered by our Club rules which, among other things, require proper conduct by members and a restriction against reprimanding employees. Behaviour which offends or upsets members or staff destroys the partnership that we have with our Club. Yes, the partnership. We depend equally on each other's contribution and the dedicated service of our employees. We all have an equal right to enjoy Queen City. Any complaints that any of us

may have from time to time are to be referred to a flag officer or committee chairman. This Board has proven that issues will be addressed in the proper manner. I thank everyone for keeping the foregoing in mind.

Wayne Smith

## ENTERTAINMENT

I can hardly believe it's August already; what a fantastic summer we've had so far. The next thing you know we'll be complaining about the shallow water while we get out of the lagoon.

Sure hope you enjoyed the Rabid Queens on New Members' Night; thanks to all who played and worked so hard to pull it off.

Country Night was a huge success—I think that's a do-it-again next year event. Special thanks to all those who helped at the A.B. Y.C. volleyball day.

Everyone seemed to have a good time at the Regatta; the 'Fax' were great!

They tell me 'unplugged' night was fun thanks to Norrie, Marlyn and Johnny 'COOL'. I don't remember much; I was having a bad hair day!

Rubber Ducky Day was a hit as usual, and John and Moira did such a good job I think they should organize it next year.

Don't forget the Junior Club Banquet on the afternoon of Sunday, August 29th.

I hope for your sake you didn't miss all the fun of the Women Skippers Race. The band, incidentally is a gift from Albert Botha (Bondi); these guys are from 'The Average White Band'.

Stay tuned for news on some coming events. I'll do another calendar and leave copies in the club.

Shark Golds and 50's/60's Night on Saturday, September 11th, and Awards Night on Saturday, October 2nd.P.S.

PIG ROAST: The party starts Friday night and continues on. Rumour has it there is a 24 hour dance marathon on Friday night!

Friday, September 3rd through the weekend-

- Pig Roast, Saturday Night
- Corn and weenie roast Friday night.

*Bruce Beyer*

## MEMBERSHIP

It is the end of July and already I've had the great pleasure of welcoming 23 new members into our Club: 9 Senior, 12 Associate, and 2 Dinghy. If the number of phone calls regarding membership that I've had in recent weeks is any indication, I believe this number will be even higher by year's end. Many members are responsible for this success, both those who referred a new member and those who have worked on the promotional activities. As well, the Board of Director's reduction of the QCYC initiation fee to \$1500 (from \$2800) has already paid off—two new members joined in the week following that decision.

In short, I believe we are now well positioned to increase our Senior membership from 120 to 130 or more next year and ultimately to 140–150. Our promotion campaign which I have described in previous *Clippers* is designed to deal with our first and biggest problem—that we're the best kept secret on Lake Ontario—and reducing our initiation fee deals with our second problem: the increased competition from marinas and other clubs.

Two more people have joined the membership committee. Most of you know Sari Bercovitch who just returned, with Peter Broeker, from a two-year trip to Venezuela on their boat *Willows Wind*. Sari has agreed to try to get some positive stories about Queen City in the media, be it print, TV or radio. (By the way, did you see Ken Rodmell's terrific article about QCYC in the *July Gam?*) And Gail Smith has taken on the role of Associate and Dinghy member Representative. She will ensure that new Associate and Dinghy members are intro-

duced to the Club in a friendly and informative way and that the special issues and concerns of existing Associate and Dinghy members have an appropriate forum.

ACCEPTED FOR SENIOR MEMBERSHIP:

Paul Noack, Andre McConnachie and Marci Crist, Robert Bruce and Elizabeth Lawler

ACCEPTED FOR DINGHY MEMBERSHIP:

Warren Lee

ACCEPTED FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:

Mark Gifford, Frank Meyer, Susan Roy, Graham Mudge, Joyce Rogers, Don Darroch

PROPOSED FOR SENIOR MEMBERSHIP:

Pete and Elaine Stevenson, Bill Mascall And Debra Clark, Lawrence Reiber

PROPOSED FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:

Jim Yates, Don Bell, Marie Schweitzer

PROPOSED FOR DINGHY MEMBERSHIP:

Gary Walker

*Mary Partridge*

## GROUNDS

Most of us will agree that results speak louder than words, and that there isn't much point in reporting on the able efforts of our grounds staff when the results of their efforts are obvious and the basis for numerous compliments from visitors to our club. What is not obvious, however, are the many hours of time and talent expended by various members on our behalf, and I'd like to extend grateful thanks on behalf of us all to those volunteers, who are, in no particular order: Robert Harris (Windigo), who replaced all the cavestroughing of the clubhouse, providing all the materials as well as his labour, free of charge. Jill Turk, who did a splendid job of repainting all the club's

signage, most obviously the signs on both gates. These signs, by the way, are Geoff Turner originals. Paul Boudreau (Thistle), who joined our maintenance men Raoul and Pedro to rebuild our dinghy dock which had been wrecked by high water ice. To those of you who haven't been over at the club recently, I should mention that Raoul and Pedro are new staff members this season who, along with Ron, are keeping the grounds ship-shape. Raoul's latest project was replacing the rotten steps to the lockers. Marlyn Macdonald (Meltemi), who made a valiant attempt to master our rock garden.

One of the special features which enhance the club grounds, are, of course, the numerous floral displays. These are nurtured and maintained by Dianne and Bill Eckersley (Gone With The Wind II), and Helen Watson (Catch The Sun). The wind and the sun—how appropriate!

High water and heavy spring rains made groundskeeping and maintenance especially difficult this season, but the property is gradually looking the way we'd all like it to, thanks to the able efforts of those members and friends who pitched in with our staff to go the extra distance. To those of you whom I may have neglected to mention, my apologies. You can show you don't harbour any hard feelings by buying me a beer.

To our House Chairman Klaus Noack I'd like to report that the dusty deck dilemma is being investigated. The deck in question, for those of you unfamiliar with it, is varnished mahogany, and belongs to the elegant yacht model on the west wall of the main staircase. Being on the right as you descend from the Great Hall, the model's deck is at eye level on the second or third step down, and if the light is just right, and the deck is laden (bedecked?) with dust, then that dust is horribly visible to the naked eye. One suggestion offered to prevent an accumulation of dust occurring in the first place, was to turn the model upside down.

