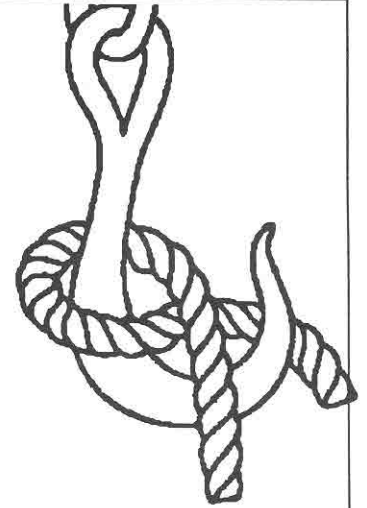


CLIPPER

OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 1993

Hauls



OCTOBER 16–17, 23–24

COMMODORE

I am saddened to announce that Helen Coull, our manager since 1990, has advised us of her intention to retire at the end of this year. Helen is a truly remarkable person, and she has done an exceptional job at Queen City. As Commodore this year I have been able to see first hand just how demanding the manager's job is, and how well she performs these duties. Those of you who have noticed the seemingly neverending line of people at any given time that are demanding Helen's attention, and those of you that have noticed Helen turning off the lights and locking up very late at night, have an idea of only a small portion of the types of things that Helen normally does. In addition, she is responsible for coordinating and supervising all of our Club's day to day operational functions and many of our administrative requirements. Helen certainly has earned our respect for her efforts,

and she deserves all of our thanks. She has told me that her retirement plans include winters in Florida and summers with family and friends in Canada and Scotland. I know that all of you share my hope that Queen City will form a part of Helen's annual travels, not just next year but for many years to come. Everybody is asked to come to the Potluck Dinner on October 16th for a special tribute to Helen.

Since our last *Clipper* was published a number of great days have come and gone. Marlyn Macdonald did an exceptional job organizing and promoting the Women Skippers Race. There was a significant turnout, over 20 boats, great weather and lots of fun.

Pig Roast was very well attended and very successful. Someone made the observation to me about one week before Pig Roast that Barry Hardy probably has more documentation and planning details for this event than Queen City has for any other single

activity. The results of his efforts are certainly visible. Thanks Barry. Thanks also go to Wendy Hitchins for organizing the regalia sale over the Pig Roast weekend. A significant amount of the remaining inventories were cleared out.

The Cheaters Race had some positive and some less than positive results. It is probably positive that the relatively small turnout may indicate that Queen City doesn't have many cheaters. Less positive is the fact that the small number of cheaters that we have are very accomplished, including Klaus Noack and crew who set both mine and Mark Allen's boat adrift, without us in them.

Most will have noticed that the side decking around the clubhouse has been removed. During a survey of the clubhouse this past winter we found indications of considerable movement in the southwest corner of the clubhouse (ladies washroom and lobby). No assessments of the cause of this sit-

REAR COMMODORE

uation could be made until recently because of this year's high water. We have, however, observed continued movement through this summer in this area. On September 12th we cut open about five inspection points in the walkway around the club and visually examined what we could see. One problem that we encountered is that the sand has crept upward near, and in some places, touching the floor of the clubhouse. This situation restricts the required ventilation of the club's floor, and, if left as it is, would promote rot to spread through the floor foundations. Based on this inspection the decision was made to remove the walkway, which was scheduled to be replaced in any event, to promote better ventilation and facilitate further inspections. Dave Kent and Ron Mazza have agreed to head up a team of members to complete the inspections and develop recommendations to tackle any problems that are uncovered. Most of you know that Dave has considerable experience in the construction industry, and Ron is the vice president of a structural engineering firm. Any repairs that have to be made are best made during the fall and winter when the water is low, the ground is firm and club activity is low. Accordingly, we plan to complete our assessments quickly. It is not surprising that our low Island location, the age of our grand old clubhouse and its wood construction make necessary some periodic attention. Many Island homes and RCYC, for example, have had to undertake some preventative and restorative measures. As soon as we can, we will report further to all members on these matters.

With the change in Queen City's financial year end to September 30th and moving our Annual General Meeting up to mid-November, this will likely be our last published *Clipper* before the Annual General Meeting. As such, I would like to highlight some of Queen City's more important challenges and accomplishments during 1993. Your current Board of Directors started out

this year with three priorities. These priorities were: 1) our finances, including expense control, budget planning and balancing, 2) improving the quality and level of service from our restaurant and bar operation, and 3) restoring our membership to maximum levels. Our objective to balance the budget will likely be achieved. Numerous, but relatively low cost, improvements have been made around the club. Our clubhouse has looked great all season! Project planning was initiated and continues. Our goal is to develop operational and maintenance plans that will help sustain our Club into the future within the capabilities of our members. The assessment of the clubhouse foundations that is presently underway is an important part of this long-range planning approach.

A great deal of attention has been paid to our restaurant and bar operation. This effort has produced the results that the Board was hoping for, both financially and from a service perspective. Our membership drive is in full swing and is producing the results we expected.

The other notable activity this year concerned Bill 61, the Island Trust Act that has now been passed. This topic has been reported upon numerous times. I think we are all happy that Queen City's position on the Islands has been assured by both the government and the Island community for many, many years to come.

It has been an extreme pleasure for me to work with many of you and your Board of Directors during this year. Everyone on this year's Board have all worked very hard in their respective areas of responsibility and together on the difficult decisions that we have had to face. I have said before that the value of our Club is the sum of the contribution of its members. This has seldom been so pleasantly obvious as it has during this year.

Wayne Smith

Well, it's been a good summer! Lots of good sailing - lots of good racing. QCYC had its first cruise for many years. Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club reciprocated with their cruise in August and about 20 boats from QCYC spent a very pleasant weekend in that delightful town. Chad Hall did much of the organizing, and I gather, from reports received from my usually reliable source, that everyone had a good time. That is, everyone except the Officer of the Day at QCYC who not only had 20 boats from N-O-T-L but another 20 from Oakville who arrived the same weekend. QCYC - the destination of choice!

Marlyn Macdonald this year organized the best Ladies', make that "Womens", Skippers Race ever in the living memory of Queen City Yacht Club! With over 20 boats participating she also managed to organize a perfect day with great winds and many donated prizes for the winners and participants. Again, from my usually reliable sources, I gather everyone had lots of fun both during the race and at the Pot Luck Barbeque afterward. Keep an eye open for the collector item T-shirts sold to commemorate this historic event. Let's do it again next year, Marlyn.

QCYC this year hosted the annual Gold Cup Regatta for the Lake Ontario North Shore Shark Fleet. With Allan Rae Regatta Chairman and Tom Tomblin Race Committee Chairman a very smoothly-run, well-organized event took place. Norrie Macdonald was liaison with the Shark Fleet and designer of the T-shirts. Race Committee consisted of Graham Dougall, Sandy Hodgson, David Craddock and Laurence Concannon. This is the second time QCYC has hosted this event in three years, and many favorable comments about the Club were overheard in the fleet.

If you read this before Saturday, October 2nd, you still have time to get your tick-

ets to the Annual Presentation Dinner. If not, too bad if you missed it. If you were there I'm sure you had a great time. This is likely my last written word to you as Rear Commodore for a while. I've had two very enjoyable years wearing my funny hat, but I've decided to put it aside for now. Thank you all for making the job so enjoyable, especially Graham and Kay on the Race Committee and my fellow Board members. It's a wonderful way to expand my knowledge of the Club and contact with more of its members.

Ron Mazza

TREASURER

A great sailing season is now drawing to an end, and once again it's time to think about getting ready to close off the books on another year. The change in year-end to September 30th will mean that financial statements will be available for a mid-November General Meeting. I am also looking forward to having a more simplified statement to present to you.

The Board approved new rates of \$1.10 per sq. ft. for winter storage and \$46.50 per beam ft. for 1994 moorings which are consistent with the increases in other fees approved in the spring. Locker rental rates have been left unchanged for 1994. These rates have been incorporated in the Fall billing, which Senior members should have received by now. The payment alternatives offered have been designed to make life a little easier, and I look forward to this type of plan being extended to the Spring bill next year.

A careful watch has been kept on expenses again this year, and we have been fortunate to be able to operate without any major surprises. The membership drive is bearing fruit, departmental operations have been operating for the most part within the budget established at the beginning of the season, and indications are that we will

have a favorable end-of-year position. I am hopeful that this will take a step in restoring a healthier overall position, but remind you that the Club's cash position is by no means luxurious. The office break-in resulted in a financial loss of approximately \$2500, which was made up of cash stolen (a good deal of which had been raised for the Junior Club) and the expense of having to buy a new safe, since a fairly thorough job was done of wrecking the old one. I suppose we should consider ourselves lucky that damage was minimal, although I personally have difficulty understanding the mentality of those who assume they have the right to someone else's property. Unfortunately, to date the police have not been able to report any progress in finding those responsible. The break-in served to remind us that we live in an environment which unfortunately dictates the need for improved security. This has been reviewed by the Management Committee, which approved the installation of an alarm system for the clubhouse. The system is already operational, and includes alarm capability for fire as well as break-in. It will be monitored by a security company who will alert the appropriate authorities as needed. The cost of this installation will be offset by reductions in insurance premiums, which will pay for the system in approximately two years.

The accounts receivable situation has been maintained under control throughout the season, and I would like to thank the vast majority of members who pay their bills on time and maintain their accounts in a current state. The charging of late payment fees has prompted many to pay up, but the problem never quite seems to go away completely, leaving an on-going and time-consuming task of debt collecting. Several Board and Management Committee meetings this year have included discussion of this problem, and the availability of Club privileges to members who, for financial or other reasons, are not considered to be in

good standing. The Board has therefore approved the posting of the names of members considered not to be in good standing. It is felt that this step is necessary out of fairness to all members, and the posting of any name will only be done following a review of that member's situation by the Board.

David Hall

MEMBERSHIP

This being the last *Clipper* before the AGM, I would like to recap the membership activities of this year. First, a few stats. To date (September 17th/93), we have 25 new members: 13 Senior members, 10 Associate members, 2 Dinghy members.

Some notes about the new Senior members: 6 joined since we reduced the Initiation fee to \$1500. 4 joined as Associates and subsequently bought a boat. 7 were referred by current members. The number of Seniors is now up to 127. However, we will lose a few to attrition before next summer.

Here is a summary of the advertising and promotion done in 1993:

1. Advertising - Queen City has traditionally a good response to our Gam ads, so we increased our coverage to 5 issues instead of 3 as in previous years. We also put a small ad in Boat for Sale and in the LORC program.
2. Brokers Incentive - we offered \$200 to 10 brokers in the Toronto area for any client who joined QCYC as a direct result of his or her recommendation. Although the response to the idea from the brokers was generally very positive, we did not get any new members as a result of this incentive.
3. Media - Ken Rodmell wrote an article about QCYC which was printed in GAM. We also wrote an article for the Toronto Island Newsletter. Any positive coverage we get in the media (be it print, radio or TV) is invaluable to us.
4. Visiting Boats Information - Nancy and Wayne Smith put together envelopes containing information about the Club which is

