

CLIPPER

MARCH, 1996

*Buy that bottom paint.
Dig out your work boots.
And air out those coveralls,*

'cause
launch

is just around the corner

***April 20-21
and 27-28***



Commodore

Not long to go! Soon the yard will be busy again as we prepare for launch and a new sailing season. As you will see from the other reports in this edition, plans are already well underway for the reopening of the Club. There will be plenty of work for everyone to do as the Spring work parties get underway to complete some of our projects.

You will notice the addition of a 'Protocol' column to the Clipper with this edition. In this column we will describe and explain some of the ways in which the Club functions. Some items to be included are actually covered by our constitution and house rules, and others will be traditions which we observe. The Board feels that this will be an important communication vehicle for new and old members alike, and I invite your comments and suggestions.

For the rest of my report I would like to bring you up to date on some of the external projects which will impact Queen City.

LEASE NEGOTIATIONS

In my last report, I explained the possibility of some action being taken collectively by the Metro area yacht clubs with respect to the large rent increase imposed last Fall by Metro Council.

An exploratory meeting on this subject was held with the Metro Real Estate and Legal departments. The affected Clubs were represented through the Council of Commodores by ABYC legal counsel.

At this meeting, it was indicated that Metro would not look kindly on an appeal process initiated by the Clubs. It was, however, also indicated that Metro would be receptive to consideration of a joint proposal from the Clubs toward the establishment of new lease arrangements to go beyond the 2005 expiry date. This is indeed good news, and I have indicated Queen City's desire to participate in this activity. The subject received

a great deal of discussion at the last meeting of the Council of Commodores, at which time the following motions were adopted: Firstly, to discontinue any collective action against Metro with respect to last year's increase. Secondly, to actively pursue preparation of a comprehensive proposal for lease extensions for early submission to Metro. This includes engagement of a prominent property consulting firm to assist in the research and preparation of the submission.

Clearly, this activity cannot be completed free of charge. The expected costs will be split across the 15 clubs prorated according to the acreage occupied by each club. This is the same formula used by Metro in calculating the rent, and Queen City's portion is actually very small. It should not be expected that these activities will be completed this year, and we should be prepared for expenses going beyond 1996.

Our participation and commitment to the project is critical. The clubs can accomplish jointly what no club can accomplish individually, with respect to both negotiating power and ability to fund the negotiation. Personally, I don't particularly like the idea of having to look for a new club for the 2006 season!

ISLAND AIRPORT FIXED LINK

The proposed project to establish a fixed link between the Island Airport and the mainland seems to have been a topic for endless discussions and voting at City Council. It now appears that the project is a go, and we will have a bridge across the Western gap by the end of 1997.

The purpose of the link is to provide a greatly improved emergency response capability in the event of a serious accident at the airport. Construction of a tunnel was considered as an alternative solution, but discarded due to the excessive cost. An environmental assessment is currently underway prior to the start of construction.

The Western gap is currently 400 ft. wide. The proposed bridge structure will consist of two fixed portions 140 ft. wide, one on either side of the gap, and an opening section 120 ft. wide in the middle. Clearance overhead when the bridge is closed will be approximately 20 ft., and the middle section is expected to be open approximately 65% of the time during the boating season.

Queen City will remain totally neutral with respect to the politics involved. However, we have raised our concerns with respect to boating safety, both during construction and in normal operation. Imagine the chaos when the spectator fleet returns after the fireworks displays. The Toronto Harbour Commission has made it clear that they too are concerned about safety issues, and they will treat the boating community with priority throughout the project.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

The Coast Guard is also feeling the pinch with reduced funding and resources and as a result a large number of navigational aids will be eliminated. The commercial shipping industry was approached as a possible candidate to maintain the aids but declined on the basis that the few ships left in operation on the Great Lakes all use GPS and can find their way without the traditional aids.

Of significance to QCYC is the planned discontinuance of the lighthouse at the end of Leslie Street. This light is of considerable assistance to sailors approaching Toronto and its absence will certainly present us with a safety hazard. The Club has registered its concern with the Coast Guard. If you would like to do the same, send your letters to:

The Supervisor of Aids Operations
Canadian Coast Guard
PO Box 100
401 King Street West
Prescott, Ontario K0E 1T0

DAVID HALL
COMMODORE

Vice Commodore

As I write this report the fireboat is breaking up the ice in the harbour. The skating on the lagoons and for the more adventurous on the harbour has come to an end. However these events bring us that much closer to the sailing season and to the opening of the club and launch.

LOCKER BLOCKS & WORK PARTIES

The new Board has already been busy establishing the lists of projects that require attention this season. Work parties are being planned now for the month of April. In April we have the usual yard cleanup and we are also planning activities to start working on the locker blocks. The intent is to walk around with a group of members and come up with a list of repairs that are required i.e. the disintegrating steps. We will order the paint and the materials and then it will be up to the locker blocks to pick a locker block person in charge and organize your work party. As this was attempted last year and some locker blocks never got started we are hoping for your cooperation this year to get the stuff done in the April/May time frames so that the Board doesn't have to discuss it at every meeting all summer. If you want to volunteer for the walk about or be in charge of your locker block call me and we'll work out the details. This is a temporary function for me until the new Grounds Chairman is found. New members are encouraged to participate.

RESTAURANT & BAR

Tom King and I will be meeting with Stephen Murphy who runs our restaurant and bar. The intent is to establish the hours and Discuss the events of last year and hopefully you'll see some improvements in the staffing for breakfast on the weekends etc. We will make every attempt to make sure that the kitchen and bar area run smoothly. Please call us with any concerns or problems that you may encounter this

season. The only way we can do anything about it is to respond quickly. On the other hand we would also like to hear from you if you were delighted with a meal or the service.

REGALIA

One of my other tasks is to order regalia for the club. I would like to have your input. Last year we kept our costs down and ordered good quality 100% cotton T's, sweatshirts, polo shirts and hats. I did not mark up the price that much over the wholesale cost. My intent was to make sure that they were affordable and that if more people wore the shirts the QCYC name was being advertised by our membership. Please think about what you would like to see this year - bags? towels? jackets? Your input is important. Please contact me before the middle of April as I will be purchasing stock for the beginning of May.

Harry Howard will be back with us as Club Manager. He will start to open the club around April 2, 1996. The Snug Bar has been open all winter.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

My role as Vice Commodore is to head up the management committee, assist with policy decisions, calm the waters, help with financial decisions, and interface with your elected Board of Directors. I report back to the Board on everything that the Management Committee has discussed. The Management Committee meets every second Tuesday of the month. If you have any items you would like discussed or brought to the attention of the Board call me and we'll add it to the agenda on your behalf.

Looking forward to seeing you all in April. If we haven't met please come and introduce yourself. I would very much like to meet you.

MOIRA COULL
VICE COMMODORE

Rear Commodore

The Skippers' Meeting on Wednesday, May 8th at 19:30 is extremely important.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Rules changes such as Code Flag "R" for individual recalls
- Fleet splits and scoring
- Starting sequence changes

The annual Yachtsmen's Spring Thaw Luncheon is set for Friday, April 19th. The cost is \$39.95 with the proceeds going to the Toronto Brigantine Sail Training Programme. From last year's personal experience, I can attest to the excellent prizes. In fact, after last year's luncheon and this year's Shellbacks Dinner, it might not be safe for me to buy raffle tickets. Unless, of course, there is a third Bruce Kemp picture available. So hope to see you on April 19th.

GRAHAM DOUGALL
REAR COMMODORE

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Yachtsmen's Spring Thaw Luncheon
Friday, April 19

Skippers Meeting
Wednesday, May 8

First Wednesday Night Race
Wednesday, May 15

Sailpast
Saturday, May 18

Blake Van Winkle
Saturday, May 25

**LO Star Fleet Eliminations
at Queen City**

Saturday & Sunday, June 1 & 2



