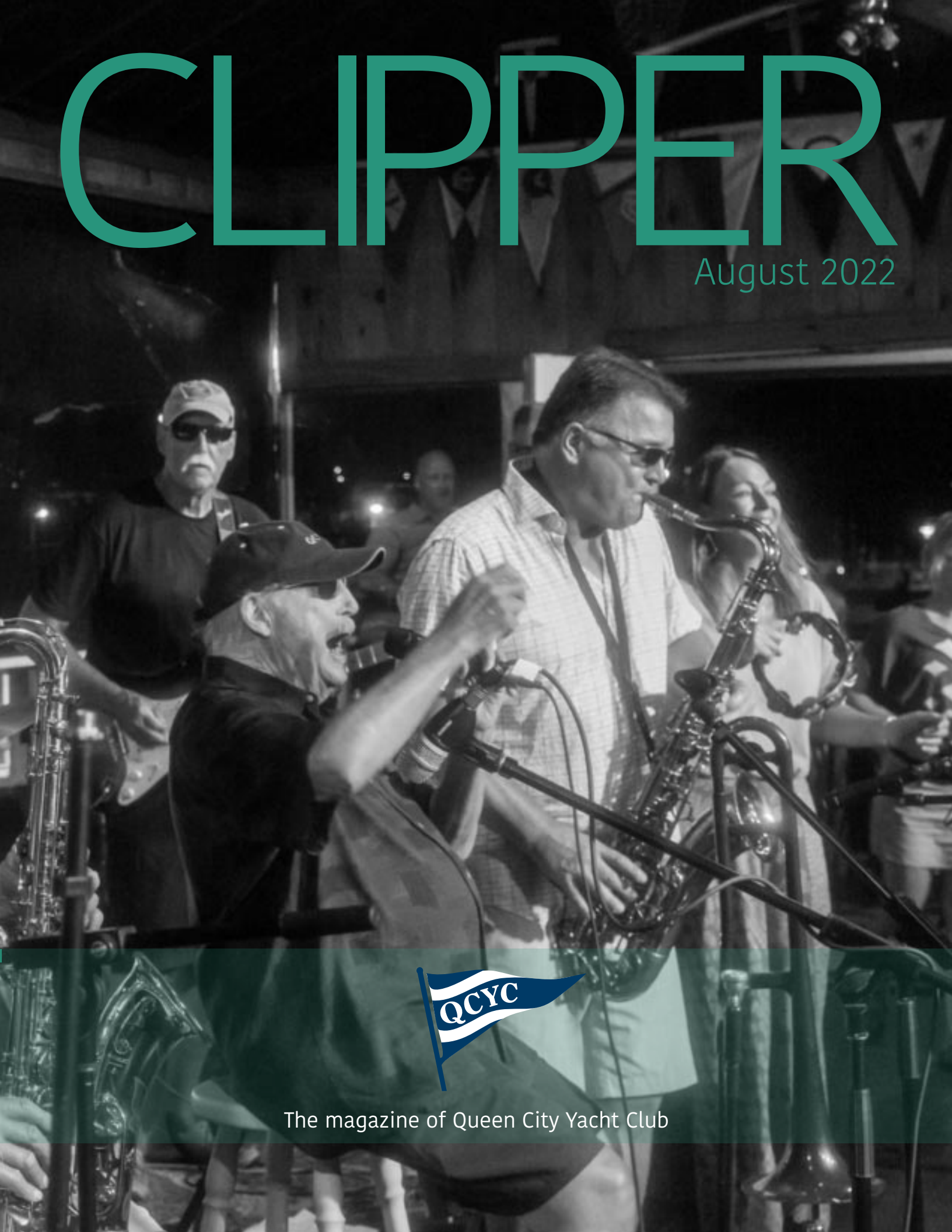
CLIPPER

August 2022



The magazine of Queen City Yacht Club

From the Editor

Valerie Wint vwint51@rogers.com

We continue this great Summer of Endless Fun, and it has tons more to offer.

We have stories and a slew of photos from the cruises to Oakville and Whitby Yacht Clubs. We have a glimpse into the live-aboard life. Blues Night with the Queen City Blues Band was terrific, as was Lobsterfest, with a wonderful band, Mama and Her Bad Decisions. Gretchen Roedde takes us back to 1930's Royal Vancouver YC and a major addition to sailing attributed to her grandfather and great-grandfather. Al Rae Jr. also pays tribute to his father, and we learn of a yacht club in Aspen (Huh?)

Commodore Jeff reminds us of how fortunate we are as a club, and Rear Commodore Bruce gives us a heads-up about upcoming races. Do sign up to race.

PHOTO CREDITS

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BOARD

Commodore	Jeffrey Imai	commodore@qcyc.ca
Vice Commodore	Will Harney	vicecommodore@qcyc.ca
Rear Commodore	Bruce Smith	rearcommodore@qcyc.ca
Fleet Captain	Andy Oakes	fleet@qcyc.ca
Treasurer	Dan Smith	treasurer@qcyc.ca
Secretary	Wanda Forsythe	secretary@qcyc.ca
House	Mark MacRae	house@qcyc.ca
Moorings	Rob Nicholson	moorings@qcyc.ca
Grounds	Rob Hupfield	grounds@qcyc.ca
Membership	Riley Croke	membership@qcyc.ca
Planning	Eric Whan	planning@qcyc.ca
Entertainment	Jennifer Deyell	entertainment@qcyc.ca
Communications	Roger Petersen	communications@qcyc.ca
Learn to Sail	Yves Florack	learntosail@qcyc.ca
Yard	Mike Krasnay	yard@qcyc.ca
Past Commodore	Ron Mazza	pastcommodore@qcyc.ca
Manager	Laura Manganaro	office@qcyc.ca

COMMUNICATIONS

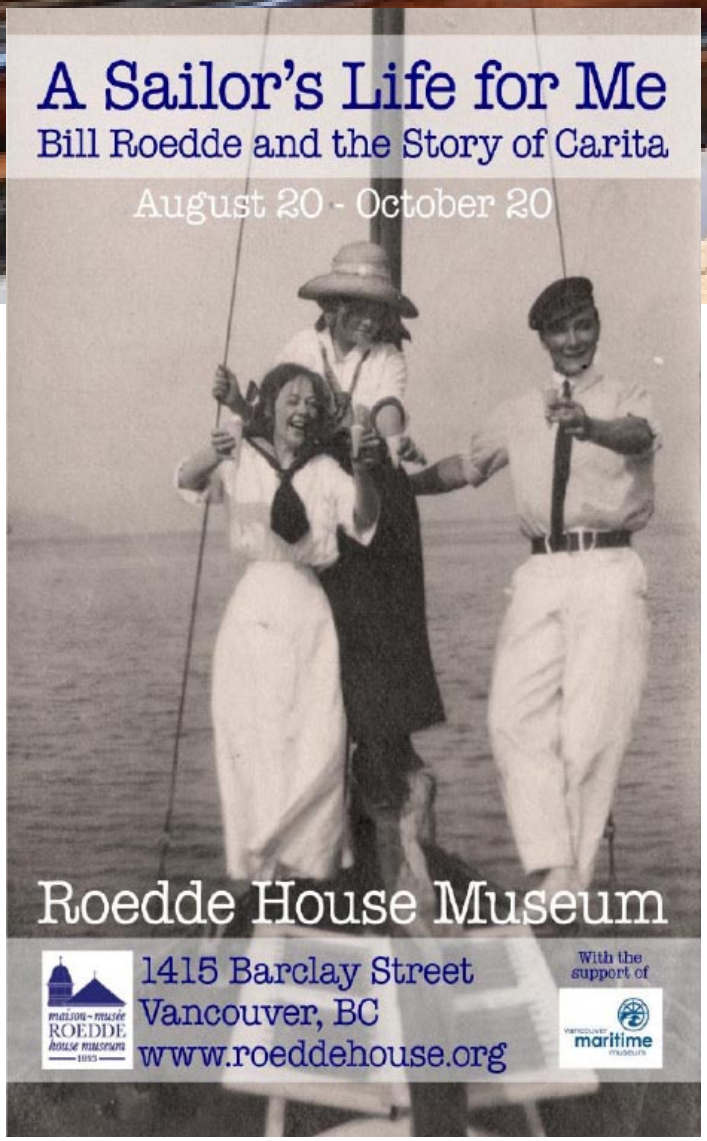
The Clipper is published four times a year. Contributions may be submitted to the publisher via email at communications@qcyc.ca.

While an effort will be made to publish submissions, the publisher reserves the right to edit material for length and suitability.

Clipper Editor & Publisher	Roger Petersen	communications@qcyc.ca
Editor	Valerie Wint	vwint51@rogers.com
Clipper Layout	Glen Newbury	glennewbury@me.com
Quick Clipper Moderators		Jim Neundorf Victor Granic
Webmaster	Arleigh Crawford	webmaster@qcyc.ca
Twitter	Keith Nunn	
Facebook	Lesley Heathcote & Linda Hodgkinson	
Instagram	Kelly Callahan	

A Sailor's Life for Me

Gretchen Roedde



Although I grew up on Toronto Island, I did not go to Junior Club. Nor did I know that sailing was a huge part of my family history. My dad, Bill Roedde, who lives at 16 Oneida Ave. on Algonquin, grew up sailing, and then joined the Navy in WWII. So I have been delighted to discover my own passion for sailing, as an adult, and to learn more about my own family history. My great grandparents' home is a museum in Vancouver, and my great grandfather and grandfather were avid members of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. However, having grown up on Toronto Island, I am more than thrilled to be a member of the QCYC. The people, the fun, the camaraderie, the music, the dancing, the food, the spirit of helping each other – all this makes my life so much more wonderful and it is such a great community in which to be a part.

In 2013 The Roedde House Museum honoured my grandfather in a special exhibit, "A Sailor's Life for Me". The brochure photo is of my grandparents and my Aunt Lorraine. My Dad sailed often with his father, who is not in the picture. Dad went on to join the Navy in WWII, and then stayed in the Merchant Marine before becoming a librarian. My great grandfather Gustav (Sr.) owned the first fibre glass sailboat, and he presented The Roedde Challenge Trophy at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club in 1923, and carried on from 1923-36. In 1937 it was renamed as the Roedde Star Fleet Championship Trophy, and is still awarded for Championship races at the RVYC.

In the 1930s times were tough and few could afford to sail. Several racing events at RVYC were cancelled. It was felt that a small, one-design racing craft was needed – one that could not only be built at low cost, but also used for cruising. This would encourage an increase in events and garner further interest in Yacht Club activities.

My grandfather Bill Roedde, along with other RVYC members and marine architect Tom Halliday, promoted and designed a low-cost racing and cruising vessel. In 1936 hundreds of yachtsmen bought raffle tickets for $5 each in the hopes of winning this boat, which Jack Storey won. As he did not sail, my grandad Bill became his skipper and the eventual owner of the boat, which was called *Carita*, and was the first 'turtle-decked' Spencer Class boat. Five more were built, then Bill Roedde adapted the design to make it more comfortable for cruising. *Carita II* was the first Roedde Class boat. Another of the class is Jack Williamson's *Fantasie II*, moored outside the Vancouver Maritime Museum. This is one of nine Roedde Class sloops built for the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club Racing Fleet in the 1940s and 50s.

One Family's Story

From Land Lubbers to Live Aboard Sailors

Deb Francey

I have been living aboard for the better part of fourteen years. I wouldn't have it any other way.

Andy and I joined QCYC in the winter of 2007 at the Toronto Boat Show. We came over to the club for Ground Hog Day to meet the members and hoped to be approved for membership. For those of you who weren't around for the pre-COVID days, Ground Hog Day at QCYC is a fun winter get together in the snug room filled with food, drink ,and merriment. We take a break from the long bleak winter and catch up with our fellow sailors to reminisce about warmer weather. In true QCYC style, we were welcomed with open arms.

We got married on the front lawn on a warm and windy day in September 2007. A wonderful reception in the great hall followed. By then we were so enchanted with the club that we wanted to spend all of our free time at QC. A year later Andy asked me if I would like to try living aboard. My answer was, "sure, why not?" Why not indeed.

After long hours of extensive research, Andy found the boat for us. It was an Ericson 34 in St. Petersburg, Florida. The day Andy flew down to see it for the first time was the day that I found out I was pregnant with Henry. I called him at the airport and told him it was a good thing that the boat had two bedrooms, because we were going to have a baby.

When I was three months pregnant, I quit my job and we packed almost everything we owned into our Saturn for the long drive south. Our car was so packed that our two dogs, Buddy and Charlie, had to sit on my lap. The air conditioner in the car was broken, so the 24-hour drive to St. Petersburg, three months pregnant with two dogs on my lap, in July, was almost unbearable. The first thing we did upon our arrival in St. Petersburg was to buy an in-hatch air conditioner for our new boat.

We spent July through November that year in Bradenton, Florida at Twin Dolphins Marina. Andy spent his days working away to make our Ericson, *Sassy*, shipshape. I spent my days hiding in the air-conditioned boat watching daytime television and knitting baby clothes. I would venture out as the sun went down for a swim and a walk. It was quite the adventure. I remember my mom telling me that there was no way I would move back aboard after the baby was born.

We drove home to our condo in Toronto in November 2008 in anticipation of Henry's birth. I remember dancing the night away, nine months pregnant, at the Heathcote's epic New Year's Eve party. On January 14, 2009 we had Henry. By April, three months into parenthood, we felt we had a handle on the whole baby thing, and were ready to move back onto our boat.

We made the long drive south again, this time with baby and dogs in tow. We moved back aboard and Andy spent another six weeks preparing to take his family to sea for the sail back to Toronto. He wanted some off-shore experience, so while my Mom and Dad came to stay with Henry and me in a rented condo, Andy and a crew of volunteers from QCYC attempted the Del Sol Al Sol race to Mexico.

The next three and a half months were the most enjoyable and memorable of my life. We had challenges, of course we did. We had equipment failures, we got caught in wild tropical storms, we had to figure out all of the logistics of doing laundry, getting groceries and doing all of the mundane day to day stuff at a new port every night with no car. The biggest challenge, though, is that we were very green sailors. Yes, because of my sea sickness I was the other kind of 'green sailor' half the time too, but what I mean is that we were novices.

Andy had first tried sailing on a Hobey Cat in Florida many years before. When we met, he had an Outlaw 24 on Lake Simcoe. I had never sailed at all before we met. Neither of us had ever had a lesson, and yet there we were with our young family planning to sail down the Gulf Coast of Florida, through the Florida Keys, and all the way back up the Atlantic coast to New York, up the Hudson, through the Erie Canal and across Lake Ontario to Toronto. Maybe we were crazy, but we seized the day and had the best adventure of our lives.

I could write a whole novel about our adventures on that three-month cruise home. In fact, if you would like to read a day-by-day account, you can check out the blog I kept on our travels.
lifeaboardsassyii@blogspot.com

After a year and a half living on *Sassy* II (the name *Sassy* was taken in Canada), we decided that a 34-foot sailboat was not quite big enough for our family. Henry was a toddler by then and we needed more space. Andy dug back into his research. After a few months of research and a visit to Annapolis, Maryland to see a few boats, we put in an offer on *Island Eclipse*, a Gulfstar 44.

We sold our Ericson and packed up for another drive. The second cruise home, from Annapolis, was much shorter, only taking three weeks. This one had a lot of challenges though. We sucked up a garage bag in the Erie Canal and had a colossal engine failure. We

limped her home, but eventually had to replace her engine. Henry was very mobile and curious at a year and a half old, and had to be tethered into the cockpit. He was a chatty toddler and I remember at that time his favorite new words were alcohol and Oswego…a true Sailor in the Making!

We have lived aboard *Island Eclipse* ever since.

Living aboard comes with both challenges and joys. Let's get the challenges out of the way first. If you have ever considered living aboard, you will need to be willing to live with a lot less 'stuff'! Living on a sailboat requires a minimalist mentality. Andy has mastered this (except in the tool department!). Henry and I struggle with it a little more.

I purge my closet at least three or four times a year. If I don't love it, or haven't worn it for a while, it has to go. I am a great thrift store shopper, so new finds come home all the time. I try for a 'one in – one out' rule, but am not always on top of it, so the seasonal purges are important. My biggest challenge is trying to limit myself on shoes, but that's a whole other story.

Raising a baby aboard was easy. I only have the one and have never raised a child in a house, but I didn't find living aboard to be a detriment to parenthood. The cockpit made a perfect play pen. Instead of a highchair we had a child seat that clipped onto our table. We hung a Jolly Jumper from the bimini frame in the cockpit. Henry could climb the companionway before he could walk. All in all, I think life aboard was good for all of us.

As Henry got older, he struggled with purging the toys and clothes he had outgrown. This is probably a challenge for most kids, but when you live on a boat you have to keep on top of it! Every autumn, before we moved over to Pier Four Marina for the winter, we would do a big purge in Henry's room to make room for the influx of Christmas and Birthday presents.

Another challenge living aboard is that we have to go to the clubhouse (or the Marina in winter) to shower and do the laundry. My friends in houses marvel at me paddling my kayak across the lagoon to the clubhouse balancing a basket of laundry on my lap. Honestly, I take all of this in stride. Any challenges of living aboard are more than offset by the joys.

Each year we take a two-week cruise east for our vacation. Sailing is usually a very peaceful, joyful way to travel. There is a great convenience in taking your home with you on vacation. I never forget to pack anything!

I have never been a great decorator, so living aboard suits me perfectly. We occasionally purchase new bedding or towels, but that is about the only décor changes we make. Our teak interior is timeless.

The big question everyone asks when you live aboard is 'what about the winter, aren't you cold?!?' The simple answer is no, we are not cold. Our boat is insulated and we run electric oil radiators, ceramic heaters and a propane cabin heater. We keep our boat at a toasty 23 Celsius. When we visit people in houses, we take our sweaters and slippers, because nowhere is as warm as our cozy little home.

The joys of living aboard are many, especially at QCYC. We wake up every day on the water. We have visits from ducks, swans, geese, and the occasional beaver. We sit in our cockpit and gaze out on the water and the beautiful view of the Toronto skyline, listening to the birds sing and the gentle sound of the wind. I love kayaking and paddle boarding through the lagoon. Surrounded by the wildlife and trees, you would never know you were a ten-minute ferry ride from the biggest city in the country!

What Is a Club Cruise Anyways?

Troy Surrett

This is my first full season with my keelboat, *Spirit Warrior*, a Tanzer 22. Literally the smallest keelboat at the club, the Tanzer 22 is a shockingly capable racer-cruiser. It will go 6 knots in a stiff breeze, 3.5 in a soft one, and 1.5 in "none." You may have to go on deck in order to stand up, but the cockpit is more generous than you'll find on many 30 footers. So, despite her tiny accommodations, I have made the truly irrational decision to cruise this boat and I have had an awesome time on the 2 club cruises I've been on so far. So, if you're new to cruising and you're wondering what these club cruises are all about, this article is for you.

When the club cruise to Whitby was proposed, I decided to sign up. I've been cruising on a C&C 30 out of Kingston, and a Beneteau Oceanis 48 and a Lagoon catamaran in the BVI's and these are extremely independent adventures. You're on your own for those. I had some trepidation about doing that in such a tiny boat, so I figured safety in numbers for her first forays under my command would be beneficial. Just to prove that nothing goes to plan in life, we were a mere 3 boats going to Whitby. But no matter, we had excellent weather and though we found ourselves hunting for wind, we did make it before dark with a minimum of motoring. We kept each other company on the radio just for fun. So, I'm

in Whitby, we've made it. Now what happens?

Well, as Steve Hills once told me, "The thing about this club is, if it's not a work party and there's an e-mail about it, IT'S A PARTY!" And so it is for club cruising, too. The idea is that we descend *en masse* upon some poor yacht club and party our faces off like we own the place! That's what it is! Their cruisers are in our slips doing the same thing at QCYC. I have it on good authority that the WYC members had a wicked party at QCYC. Keith had more wine and beer for us at Whitby than you could shake a pretzel at. Immense restraint was required to permit the next day's sail home.

Just like a night at the bar, or a backyard barbecue with your buddies or a kid's birthday party or a frat house keg-rager, every party has a format. The way we roll is like this:

- QCYC sends beer and wine with the lead boat
- we share appetizers and socialize on their picnic tables
- grill yourself something substantial on their barbecues
- party some more
- clean up after yourself
- pass out on your boat
- sail home the next day

To wit, you should bring something to share and something to grill for yourself, but you don't have to worry too much about drinks. Just bring a cup to save Mother Earth. You're on your own for breakfast, but you may find a group table at the nearest brunch spot full of your fellow club members. You'll see on the sign-up form that there's a checkbox for staying an extra night. What that really means is that you're going to sail out the night before, i.e., Friday, and just already be there on Saturday as the rest of us schmucks who had to work show up. You do have to wait for the lead boat to arrive with the booze, though, so if you take that option do provision accordingly.

Likewise, if you are endowed with the budget to provide the booze, maybe consider leaving a little early. Maybe try to sail a little faster than normal. A few weeks after the Whitby cruise, I decided to go on the cruise to OYS and SOMEONE was late. I'm just saying, Riley: we were all waiting for your arrival. Or perhaps more accurately: the sangria's arrival. I do admit, I may have had something to do with that: the Wednesday before when Riley asked me when we should leave and if folks were sailing together, I told him, "no, we just leave on our own recognizance and get there when we get there. " That's true, but not when you're bringing the wine! I didn't put 2 and 2 together on that one. No matter because it was some great sangria! Everyone loved it. We loved it so much, that we killed it. My crew may have had more than he ought to have had, but that's ok. I let him nap underway on Sunday.

There was cake and Mark MacRae performed a great song with guitar accompaniment in honour of Paul Horne's birthday. We caroused and caroled, petted everyone's dogs and carried on until the sun went down and a little more, too. Now, we are adults, and these are yacht clubs. So as much as we are there to party, and you should party: don't make a mess. Many of the clubs we choose to go to are also self-help clubs so it's not really anyone's job to clean up after us. That's YOUR JOB. You do it. You clean up. I left first in the morning, and that picnic area was just as spotless as if we'd never been there.

Having had a great time, on the Sunday of the OYS cruise my fellow club members turned back to QCYC. I, having taken time off for a cancelled Lake Ontario 300 campaign, pushed off early in the morning to find

a glassy lake, followed an hour later by a sweet downwind run under spinnaker to Hamilton at 3.5 knots. When I got there, RHYC was full up, but the dockmaster saw my burgee, gave me the door code, and pointed to a spot on the wall where I could stay. Grateful, but not happy with how the breeze was pushing me against the wall and the squeaking of the fenders, I called up Macassa Bay Yacht Club and yeah, they had space for me! I motored over there at full throttle and got the warmest welcome I could hope for.

They did everything for me! They let me freeze my ice packs in their bar freezer. I had the wrong pigtail and they opened an electrical cabinet just to get me power. One member shouted as he walked by, "now there's a guy from a great club!" and someone else said to me, "QCYC is so great, I can never get a slip there! It's so full!" Later that night, some folks were having some drinks under a gazebo. They caught me walking back from taking out the trash, slowly shuffling while looking at my phone and they raucously demanded I come over there and hang out with them! On hearing I was from QCYC, we were immediately friends. That was it! All notions of chores were gone, and I was chatting with them until dusk. I still can't tell you which one was Debbie and which one was Deborah, but I know that they're both my friends now. I got a tour of a boat, and I was offered beers and smokes almost like we're not in an unprecedented inflationary period. I even got offered a free spinnaker but it was too tall for my mast. Can you believe it? A whole spinnaker! Next time I go to Hamilton, I'm calling MBYC first!

Our club has an amazing reputation, and everywhere I've been people recognize the name "QCYC" as something good and friendly and respectable. This is a place people want to come to. Please don't tarnish that. We want them to invite us back next year so we can keep on partying!

So, if you're new to cruising, I hope I've convinced you to get your boat off the dock and give this a go. If you check out the club calendar (https://qcyc.ca/calendar/) you will see that there are two more chances for you to go on a club cruise this season. There's one on August 27 to Bluffer's Park

Yacht Club and another on September 17 to Cathedral Bluffs Yacht Club. These are both in the same place – Scarborough Bluffs. You might think, "so what? It's just Scarborough. Why would I sail to Scarborough?" But I'm telling you: it's NOT just Scarborough. Scarborough from the water is a totally different thing. And you're not going to have your car: it's living on your boat. It's passing the glorious monument to Art Deco public works – the R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant and seeing the beautiful cathedral-like bluffs from the water, which you simply cannot appreciate from the land. If I can make it, I'm going to do both.

Just listen to the CBYC website: "CBYC enjoys its own paradise island... With the Cathedral Bluffs sheltering us from the hustle and bustle of the city above, you'll feel like you left the city far behind." Sure, you could stay on your boat at QCYC, but you can't hear the Gardiner from below the bluffs! It's an easy sail, and besides: you'll miss the party if you don't come.

I was at CBYC at Thanksgiving last season. I was their last reciprocal visitor for the season. They have a nice restaurant, and their rear commodore personally gave me a warm welcome. CBYC is our people: they're a non-profit, self-help club. I can't personally speak for BPYC, but I'm sure our cruising coordinators have done an amazing job selecting our destinations and at the very least, you won't have to listen to the bass from the Enterprise 3000.

If you'e wondering what this club cruise business is all about, just go. Sign up, make an appetizer, and get your boat there! I promise you're gonna have a good time.

Yard Sale, Lob

sters & Mama!

LAKE ONTARIO
SHORT HANDED
RACING SERIES
2018

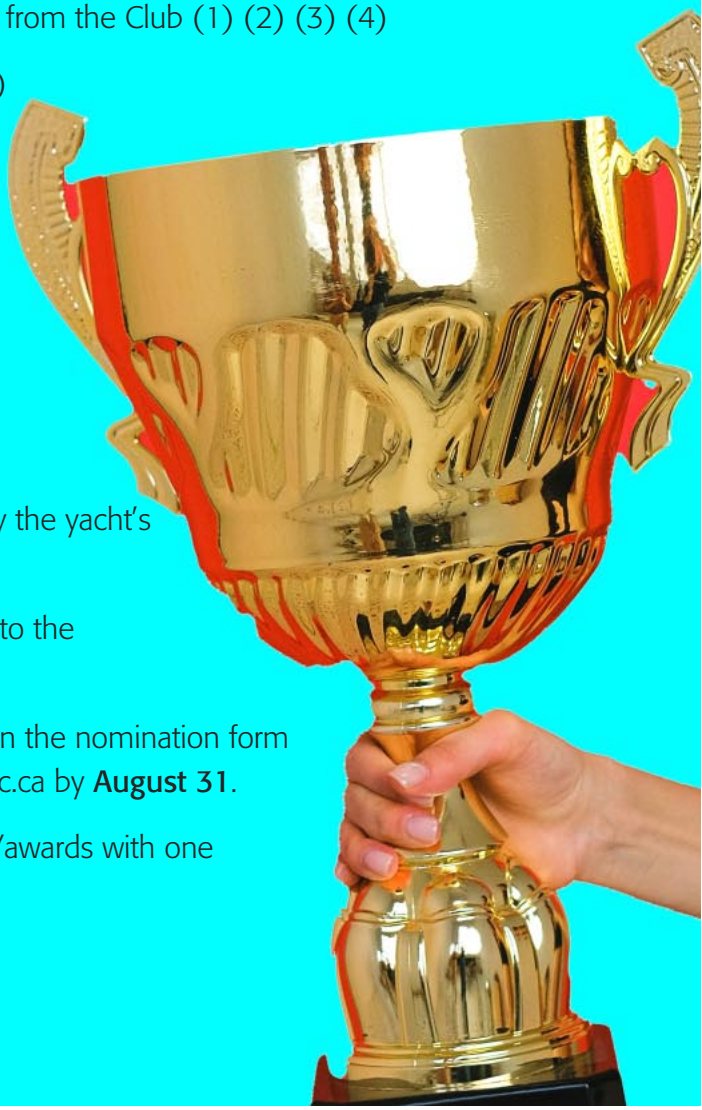
Call for Nominations for Awards

In addition to the awards for racing, several awards are presented for outstanding achievement. These include:

Parkinson Trophy	Outstanding achievement in open competition (1)
Sportsmanship Trophy	Member exhibiting the most sportsmanlike conduct (1) (2)
QCYC 16-foot Skiff Cup	Most valuable keelboat crew (1) (2)
NYC 16-foot Skiff Cup	Most improved sailor (1) (2)
Jack Albertson Trophy	Outstanding service to the Club (1) (2)
Bobby Norton Plaque	Community service through yachting (1) (2)
Valhalla Trophy	Awarded annually to the yacht with the best cruising log (1) (2) (3) (4)
Georgina World Cup	Awarded annually to the yacht, which has entered the greatest number of individual ports outside a 25 nautical mile radius from the Club (1) (2) (3) (4)

QCYC Regatta 1904 Special Class - Best Photograph (1) (2) (5)

QCYC Regatta 1905 Special Class - Best Photograph Showing QCYC Spirit (1) (2) (5)



1. Only awarded to members of the Club
2. Members of the Board of Directors are not eligible
3. The yacht involved must be a member of the Club's squadron
4. A nomination for the cruising trophies must be accompanied by the yacht's logbook along with the Nomination Form
5. Best picture awards will be awarded to photographs submitted to the Communications Committee for publication during the season

NOTE: Nominations for Senior Club awards must be submitted on the nomination form to the office Attn.: Awards Committee or by email to awards@qcyc.ca by **August 31**.

Please submit nominations using the form at www.qcyc.ca/social/awards with one form per nomination.

All trophies must be returned to the office now.

Always Keep a Weather Eye

Al Rae Jr.

My Dad, Al Rae Sr., was one of the most respected Skippers on Toronto Harbour and around Lake Ontario. He and his crew of stalwarts sailed his Tumlaren, *Valhalla* out of Queen City, to the front of the fleet more often than not, for more than twenty-five years and was my mentor from my early days at the helm.

He had two plaques on the bulkhead of his sleek sloop.

The first: "Oh Lord thy Sea is So Great and my Boat is So Small"

The second: "Marriages Performed by the Skipper of this Vessel are Good for the Duration of the Voyage Only"

The first was, and still is, one of my guiding mantras as it emphasizes the scale and scope of the environment beyond your immediate surroundings and the importance of being aware of your position in them while out and about on the water.

Dad always told me to keep a keen weather eye when racing…or even if I was just out for a day sail. He knew that the awesome power of nature can catch you unaware and, if you are unprepared, she will swat you down. But if you bend with and accommodate her as best you can, she may just let you return safely to your berth.

An instance:

In the late-60s I was in Humber Bay racing my International 14' dinghy and approaching the finish of a three round triangular course off Boulevard Club. The weather had been fine, with a decent westerly breeze and a sunny sky.

As we rounded the bottom pin for the beat to the finish we were in 5th or 6th place.

About a third of the way up the beat I looked ahead to the west and saw a low, ugly, green front quickly moving our way.

I said to my crew "Drop the main and furl the jib!"

He looked at me and said, "But Al…we're nearly finished."

"Drop the main and furl the jib!" I repeated, with a little more emphasis, and he did so…while muttering to himself.

Five minutes later, after the line squall had blown through, we hoisted the main, unfurled the jib and, picking our way through the flotsam and jetsam of our capsized competitors, we crossed the finish line and won the race.

My crew looked at me and said, "I guess you knew what you were doing after all."

I looked at him and just said, "Thank my Dad!"

And…Oh Yes…I never did test the text of the second plaque!

Open Mic Night

August 20

Bring your incredible singing voice, your super talent on an instrument, read your awesome poetry or prose, or tell us a story. Maybe even try out your stand-up routine on your good QC buddies.

Watch the Quick Clipper and the QC-Gybe for more info, but in the meantime, practice, practice, practice!

QCYC Womens Open

Calling all Women

Skippers and Sailors

Saturday August 13, 2022
Skipper's Meeting: 1030 hrs
First Warning Signal: 1155 hrs
Après Sail, Awards, Food & Drink: 16:00 hrs

The QCYC Womens Open offers an opportunity for women of all abilities to skipper a boat in a Point-to-Point Race.
Afterwards, there is a social with food and drink and plenty of awards for all.

Please contact: amanda.karahanas@gmail.com

Registration information forthcoming!

$35/boat (includes skipper's package with gifts)

Cruise to OYS

Andrew Good &
Gwenn Rayner

Club cruises are back and on July 16 & 17 we had 16 boats head out to Oakville Yacht Squadron with 19 boats arriving from OYS. It was a great opportunity to get out for a sail and visit with each other. We all got together for appetizers and drinks, and it was a combination of sailors having fun and a chance to celebrate Paul Horne's 65th birthday. The attire, where possible, was Hawaiian themed. The glasses however were something else…

I would encourage you to join one of our upcoming cruises whether you are new to cruising or experienced. You can sail together, if that is more comfortable, then get to know each with a Saturday get together

YACHT
SQUADRON
HAPPY

Whitby Yacht Club reciprocal cruise

Keith Aldridge

July 1- July 3, 2022

It's not often to be greeted by a rousing cheer when you arrive at a get-together! That's indeed what happened when the QCYC cruisers were met by WYC members at their Canada Day celebrations around their new BBQ installation. It took us a while to realize that we were being welcomed by former QCYC members who are now happily enjoying membership at WYC.

That's Amanda and Steve (above) who still sail *Nirvana* in the foreground and back to the left are Nancy and Terry Hofkirchner on *Mi Vida Loco*.

Judging by the almost tangible ambiance we sensed at WYC, it's not surprising this club is full and now has a waiting list for new members.

As our boats arrived at WYC on Canada Day, we were greeted by their club manager Christy Wolfe, who had continued to remain in contact with us after we left QCYC on Friday morning. Our trip to WYC on *Elan* was enhanced by the company of Nomes Khalid-Khan who had asked to be crew for us on the trip to Whitby. Nomes has raced at QCYC on several boats but wanted to experience cruising as he plans to charter in the Mediterranean in the near future. Martin and Ann on *Jeanette* as well as Troy and Andrew on *Spirit Warrior* both sailed the entire trip.

As the intrepid sailors arrived at different times, we had previously decided to have a group meet up for BBQ on the following evening. Dinner at the WYC restaurant was organized like the service in an English pub. We simply gave our orders for food and drink at

the bar, took a stand-mounted number for the table. Our food and drinks were then delivered to our table by their staff.

Friday night was spectacular, though not for the local Canada geese that were totally panicked by fireworks! WYC started their show on our starboard side first, spooking a large flock leaving the shore and streaking to our stern. Almost immediately, the town fireworks to our port side exploded sending a second

contingent of geese down the lagoon in the opposite direction. The two groups met head on behind *Elan*. After some squawking they all headed back to WYC. We had a spectacular sunset that evening.

Saturday was a great day for walks along the lovely beaches and lakeside trails near WYC.

While Martin and Ann went for a sail, Troy and Andrew decided to clean *Spirit Warrior*.

As we were a small group, we held the traditional Saturday night meet up on *Elan*. It was a great opportunity to enjoy getting to know each other, a different and delightful experience from being in a large group.

Later we enjoyed a traditional BBQ at their grand, purpose built set of Bbqs and preparation area directly next to their restaurant. While *Elan* and *Jeanette* cooked traditional salmon and chicken, *Spirit Warrior* grilled moose steak, brought from Newfoundland by Captain Troy following his recent trip home.

Sunday morning we became aware of the departure of our intrepid sailors on Spirit Warrior at about 5:15 am and Jeanette about a half hour later. Late the previous evening, we had heard about their planned early start, but thought it was 'night talk'. Clearly they meant it! *Elan* cast off many hours later.

Weather on the return trip was idyllic. At least for a while anyhow. We had wind from the north so the sea was flat and we were on a beam reach. But later the wind died and we were once again in motor-sailing mode. We did finally catch up with Jeanette and *Spirit Warrior* who had continued to sail. Most impressive was the joyfully produced spinnaker by *Spirit Warrior*.

Mile High Yacht Club

Article courtesy of Will Grant of the Aspen Daily News. Photos courtesy of the Aspen Yacht Club. It has been edited for space.

Is it possible to sail at the same altitude you ski? If you live in Colorado the answer is yes. Will Grant of the Aspen Daily News had a chance to visit the Aspen Yacht Club on the Ruedi Reservoir, 2.3 kilometres up in the Colorado Rockies.

Aspen is known for lots of snow, and for its skiing. It's definitely not known for its sailing. However, the Aspen Yacht Club is not a joke. It did start as a joke, and people often think it's a joke, but it's not. It's an actual yacht club, complete with yachts, docks, skippers, logbooks and membership fees.

But that doesn't mean it's your typical yacht club, and it certainly qualifies as one of the world's most unusual yacht clubs.

"We have no electricity, no running water, no communications, no sanitation," said Bob Potillo, commodore of the Aspen Yacht Club, referring to the small clubhouse with its couple of simple tables and maps on the wall. "It's kind of a backwoods yacht club. And we like it that way."

Recently the yacht club hosted its annual regatta and celebrated the 40th anniversary of the race. The yacht club was founded a year or so before the first regatta and each year hosts sailors from as far away as Texas and Arizona who come to race on Ruedi Reservoir. 48 boats raced this year, which is nearly 40 percent more than the 35 boats that raced last year.

The races began Saturday morning and a skippers' meeting was the first order of business. After that, it was just another day of racing at the Aspen Yacht Club: Clear blue skies, mild temperatures, changing winds to keep the sailors busy, and plenty of mayhem on deck and in the water.

John Macdonald, who was born in Christchurch, New Zealand, was run out of Australia when he was 26 and has been sailing all his life, is a member of the yacht club. He feels that the combination of the people and the place make the Aspen Yacht Club unique.

"We're in a bloody nice spot here," he said. "And we've got a good bunch of sailors out here."

John Bruegger became a member of the yacht club in 1974 and agrees with Macdonald.

"The camaraderie is a big part of the club," Bruegger said. "I take my family out there, and we spend several weekends a year on the lake. We sleep on the boat, looking up at the stars."

The yacht club members are a cohesive group and, for the most part, only half-serious about yachting, Bruegger said. Each year the club gives out the Toilet Seat Award to whichever member is guilty of the most absurd or absent-minded mishap. Last year, the award went to a member who lost his trailer in the lake.

"For whatever reason, when he was backing down the ramp, the trailer came unhooked and rolled into the lake," Bruegger said. "I think someone with scuba gear eventually went down and hooked a rope to it so they could drag it out. That kind of stuff's always happening."

History of the yacht club:

Commodore Potillo said the character of the yacht club has remained consistent over the years and has always been light-hearted. When Fritz Benedict founded the club, it was a joke.

"Before 1968, about the time Ruedi Reservoir dam was being finished, they had an Aspen Yacht Club, but it was a spoof," Potillo said. "It was really a response to the Aspen State Teachers College."

Aspen during the 1960s, with its dormitories and raucous parties, resembled a college campus without a college. So, the Aspen State Teachers College was formed and the problem of no college was solved. Formation of the Aspen Yacht Club satisfied a similar need: Aspenites living luxuriously couldn't suffer summer weekends without yachting.

Benedict established the yacht club on his ranch on Ruedi Reservoir, and the club occupies the same property today. It maintains an access easement with the current owners of the property and has a special-use permit with the U.S. Forest Service to use the reservoir. The club sits in Benedict Bay.

The yacht club today, however, is a little different than it was in its early years. For one thing, the boats are bigger.

"Early on, it was primarily small boats," Potillo said, "but that's cold water in Ruedi and people got tired of turning over. So now there are a lot more bigger boats, like 22-footers, that tend not to tip over."

The cold water makes swimming in Ruedi attractive on only the warmest days, and the unpredictable mountain winds can make sailing difficult. Gusty winds often blow without warning, requiring sailors to be attentive at all times, Potillo said.

"You always have to be looking for the change in the water," he said. "The wind can really come piping up and cause some trouble."

The Nautical Mind
Marine Booksellers & Chart Agents

Commodore

Jeff Imai commodore@qcyc.ca

It is the end of July, and the Summer of Endless Fun is in full swing.

We have had entertaining movie nights, with popcorn and special themed beverages; an incredible performance by The Queen City Blues Band; and the always delicious Lobsterfest, with oyster bar. Thanks to Entertainment Chair, Jennifer Deyell, and her team for putting on these events.

We have had two cruise in/outs. One to Whitby Yacht Club and one to Oakville Yacht Squadron. It was great to see 'new to cruising' members join in and enjoy these weekends. Thanks to the cruise organizers for the great job. There is still time to sign up for the last two cruises of the summer.

Series 1 of the Wednesday night racing is now in the books. The race courses have been expertly set up by the guest Principal Race Officers (PRO) with the support of an experienced race committee. Each week a race skipper or other special guest acts as the PRO. When there is wind, good courses make for competitive racing.

Star day was a big hit. Several Star-curious sailors showed up to go for a ride in a Star. Good winds enabled fun sails around the harbour. So much fun that two Stars were purchased, adding to the number of Stars for Wednesday night racing.

It is gratifying, after a few difficult years, to know that members are able to enjoy their boats and their club in this Summer of Endless Fun.

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Rear Commodore

Bruce Smith rearcommodore@qcyc.ca

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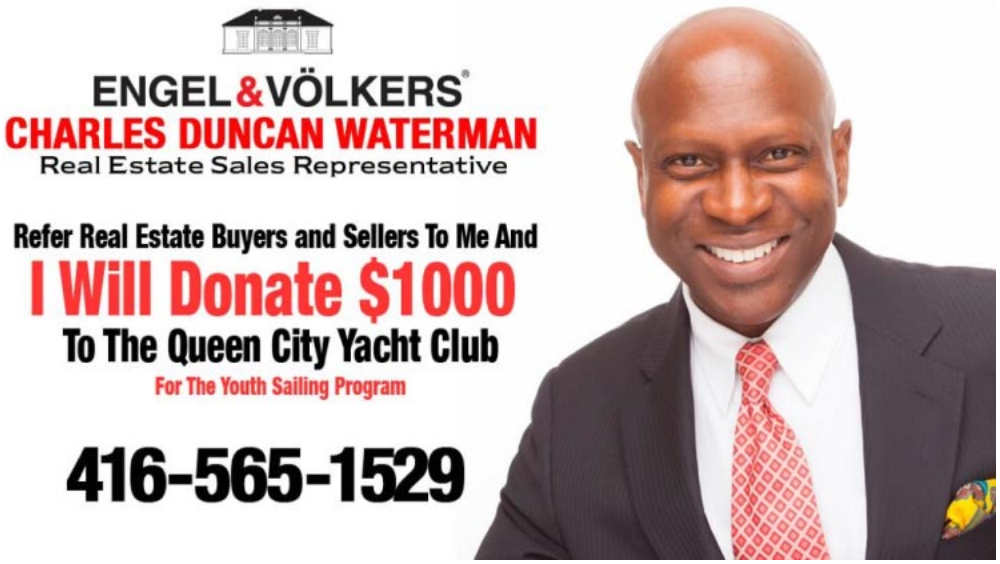
Whether you have been day sailing, racing, or cruising, we have had an amazing summer of sailing, with more to come.

The Whitby and Oakville overnight cruises were a first for several members. The experience gained, and helpful hints shared, will help build their confidence in venturing further and for extended periods of time. There are two more destinations coming up, Bluffers Park Yacht Club and Cathedral Bluffs Yacht Club. The 12-nautical-mile sail offers some interesting sights including the Beaches, the RC Harris Water Treatment Plant (it really is something to look at!) and the Scarborough Bluffs.

The Women's Open Regatta (WOR) on August 14, is one of QCYC's premier on-the-water events. For the first time it will abide by the original intent as we welcome skippers and boats from other clubs. Also unique this year will be a class for Able Sail Toronto, a program our Committee Chair, Amanda Karahanas, has helped drive forward. Make sure you register and race!

The AHMEN series fires up again on August 7, and then every few weeks until October. Its middle-distance courses are perfect for new racers, short-handed crews, and seasoned veterans. This series is popular for good reason. It is the chance to race without the drama of short 1-nautical-mile legs and busy mark roundings. Check it out.

Finally, the Queen City Open Regatta takes place on September 10. Amongst the multiple prizes donated by our sponsors is a week's accommodation for two in Barbados! Just enter the regatta, complete the race, and attend the evening's festivities, to ensure your place in the big draw. The Open attracts boats from other clubs and if the weather is consistent with previous years, makes for an exciting day on the water.

Elsewhere in this edition is our Call for Nominations of QCYC's awards. Recognizing those who stand apart in a variety of different ways is key to our culture and I encourage you to participate. The Awards Dinner is also the last major social event of the season so mark your calendars.

It's been a great year with more to come. Now head out and sail!