



The Rudder

May 2006



Port Hope Yacht Club

www.porthopeyachtclub.com



Preparing for Launch Day - May 13th

The members of the Port Hope Yacht Club are a friendly group, willing to pitch in and show newcomers to the club (like Chris and I) how things are done. However, the generosity of some members is outstanding, well beyond the call of duty. This comment especially applies to Fred Reid, our Harbourmaster, who has spent several weekends down at the club, getting things ready for a successful launch day on May 13.

On April 29th, for example, Fred spent the entire day on the water using the Queen to pull up each mooring for members to personally inspect the condition of the shackles, chains and wires of their individual mooring. While several other members of the club were there to lend a hand at various times of the day, Fred spent the entire day on the water selfishly giving of his time, knowledge and energy. Each mooring was dropped into an "approximate" position, and Fred and his son planned to come back another day and readjust the positioning of each one. Such dedication deserves a huge thank you from all the members.

Launch day starts at 8.00am on Saturday, May 13th. We'll see you there.

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May 2006

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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June 2006

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
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July 2006

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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Schedule of Events

Friday May 19th - Potluck in honour of the great Queen Victoria

Time: 6:00 pm for drinks/appetizers

6:30 pm dinner

May 17th and 24th - Tune up races - gun goes at 6(ish)

Saturday May 27th - Work Party - please come and help to tidy/clean/organize the club and area for Sail Past and the upcoming season. We all need to do our part.

Sunday June 4th - Sail Past See article on the history of Sail Pasts)

Sunday June 11th - Spring Single-Handed Race

Friday June 16th - BBQ - Come and spend the evening prior to the Centennial Cup at the club. See sign up sheet for more information.

Saturday June 17th - Centennial Cup Race - Port Hope to Cobourg

Cobourg is hosting a Lobster Dinner that evening. (See invitation below)

Sat/Sun June 24/25 - Tubby Graham Cruise/Race to Newcastle

Saturday July 1st - Canada Day Potluck

Time: 6:00 pm for drinks/appetizers

6:30 pm dinner

Sunday July 16th - Ken Bates Memorial Single Handed Race and Ladies Skipper Race

BBQ to follow

August - Brockport Weekend (dates to be clarified)

Hello Port Hope Yacht Club!

We are so pleased to invite you to our Lobster Dinner.
June 17th, 6 p.m. Cobourg Yacht Club

Lobsters \$22, Shrimp \$11. You may order/pay through Dean Marine at 905 373 4169

This is a pot luck event so bring a salad or dessert to add to the table. Paper plates and cutlery will be supplied.

We hope that you will all enjoy this event with us!

From the Helm

The sailing season is upon us and we have a full schedule to enjoy!

What a great Spring General Meeting we had. There were very few absentees, great show!

Hopefully, you will receive this issue of "The Rudder" before launch on Saturday, May 13. With the great weather we have had the last week or so, there has been a flurry of boat preparation with some boats all ready for the big splash. The reorganization of the moorings has been progressing on schedule with the co-operation of the membership. Although reported at the Spring meeting that Cameco would no longer help us with the cradle moving, they have reversed their position and WILL be providing us with forklift & driver for the day. Harbour Master Fred says we will be ready to start launch at 8 a.m. so please be on time, have your boat ready i.e. dock lines attached and fenders down, to facilitate a smooth and worry free launch. Make sure that you bring proof of insurance as required by the Constitution and show it to Treasurer Glynnis when you pay for your launch prior to your boat going in. Sherene and Ruby are each making a pot of chilli so after the work is done, enjoy a bowl at a nominal fee.

Also at launch you will receive a package including the 2006 Membership Roster, 2006 Duty Roster, Phone Captain's List, Membership Cards, a Schedule of Events and a copy of the newly printed, up to date, Constitution and Bylaws.

As I am a long time member of the club, many of you will know I am a stickler for tradition and the traditions of our club. Two of the five annual events that I classify as musts are quickly approaching. Sail Past and the Centennial Cup.

On June 4th, please join Donna and I as we usher in the new sailing season with the 44th Annual Port Hope Yacht Club Sail Past. We hope to have the Colour Party of RCSCC Skeena on hand to officially open the ceremonies at 13:00. At approximately 13:15, Pythagoras will leave the dock to anchor just off the harbour entrance followed by the fleet who will rendezvous some distance south as instructed by the Sailing Master. Please invite all members past/present and guests to join you, perhaps even a cadet! A complete list of protocol and order of sail will be distributed on that day. If you are unable to go out on a boat, join us at the club house anyway. The phone committee will be in touch to ask you to bring goodies for the informal luncheon that follows. Although it is not too dressy of an affair, I think it is fun to get caught up in a tradition that is thousands of years old.

Saturday, June 17th is the annual Centennial Cup Race with Cobourg Yacht Club. As the name implies, it was an event started in 1967 to celebrate Canada's 100th birthday and to bring together in friendship and some friendly competition the members of the 2 clubs. As I remember those early events, Port Hope had the big boats and Cobourg was mainly a dinghy club. The trophy seemed to forever grace our mantelpiece. Times have changed! What hasn't changed especially in my heart is not so much the "race" but the time spent on the water with a huge flotilla all trying to get to the finish line before all the sandwiches were gone in the clubhouse. Racers or not, most boats participated for the sake of participating, not for the glory of that old, battered trophy. Although it is Port Hope's turn to host the event, we have been asked to allow Cobourg to take it again this year as the day falls on their lobster dinner night. We have graciously been invited to join them for the dinner, which I am told will be more than just lobster, details to follow. My hope is that in honour of our club's 45th Anniversary in 2007, we will be able to host an event on Centennial Cup day that will mark the start of a whole year of celebrations.

Please remember that as a working club, we all must do our part. Our bylaws state "It is the Duty of all members to assist with the care and maintenance of the Club House and Grounds." Let's not leave all the mundane chores to the few. I was reminded by long time member Bob Locke, just prior to the Spring Meeting as he pointed to the framed document Obligations of Membership at the entrance to the galley. He said "You know Bob, all anyone needs to do to know about what being a member of the Port Hope Yacht Club is, is written there. It's our heart and soul." You are right Bob, it's our heart and soul!

See you all at sail past!

Bob McCaw

Social Report Spring/Summer 2006

With the good weather finally upon us, the memories of the cool grey days of winter seem to fade quickly. Except, of course, the memories of the cosy atmosphere, wafting aromas of great food and the lively banter at the club for our special Saint Day tributes in January and February. The Wednesday night GAMs in March provided the opportunity for interesting discussions relating to various topics. A special thank you goes out to two visitors who contributed to the evenings. Andrea, a representative from the Port Hope Fire Department, was on hand to share updated information about fire safety in the house and boat and relevant information about fire extinguishers. Also, Cathy McKeen was back at the club to share in our Ladies Night GAM. This evening was very successful and covered a variety of topics including sailing terms, points of sail, how to trim a sail, getting started and, most importantly, what to do if? type questions. Our next ladies session is to take place on the water for more practical, hands-on experience.

Rick and Betty enjoyed their night out at Kawartha Downs and managed to win enough money to pay for their evening of fun. Well done!

Several members have been over to the Cobourg site to see the Spirit of Canada, the world class racing boat. Group visits are offered by appointment or they have regularly scheduled open houses. Check the website for more information if you are interested or let Jan know if you would like to arrange a group tour.



Participants in Fire Safety discussion



Introduction to the Sail Past Ceremony

The Sail Past ceremony dates back to the earliest beginnings of Naval traditions.

In fact, one of the earliest references to Sail Past is in the famous Greek poem, The Iliad.

"After two years of preparation, the Greek fleet, of more than 1,000 ships and an army of 100,000 men, assembled at the port of Aulis, in north-eastern Greece, for a Sail Past of Troy." It is believed that from this ceremony came the famous saying: Helen of Troy had the face that launched 1,000 ships.

Sail past is a ceremony of inspecting a fleet of ships and showing respect to the Commander in charge. Throughout history, this ceremony has included Royalty, Heads of State, and Admirals all inspecting fleets or entire Navies. Every year, the practice and history of Sail Past is performed by thousands of yacht clubs around the world.

Traditions of Sail Past:

Sail Past ceremonies are about showing respect. Ships show respect by raising or lowering its country flag, which flies at the stern or back of the boat. This flag is also referred to as an ensign. The lowering of the ensign is a courtesy or sign of respect.

Long ago, when Tall ships were common sailing vessels, they would indicate they were no threat to whomever they were approaching, by letting their topsails fly loosely. With their topsails loose, it would be very difficult to manoeuvre and therefore made the ship vulnerable and of no threat. As well, these ships could also fire all their cannons at once. Again, this was to show they were no threat as it would take a long time to reload all their cannons.



2004 Commodore Orn Haraldsson reviews the sail past

Port Hope Yacht Club

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This 1909 postcard, supplied by Port Hope postcard collector Sean Murphy, shows Hayward Street and the location of the present day Port Hope Yacht club. A word frame building stands near the site of the PHYC clubhouse, and there is a sailboat tied up on the north wall.

Next year will be the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Port Hope Yacht Club. In honour of that milestone, some members (including the Commodore) have suggested developing a book on the history of the club. If you are interested in helping on this project, or have stories, photos or other materials to contribute to a club history, please let me know. You can reach me by e-mail at gwoodill@gmail.com, or by phoning me in Port Hope at 905-885-6402. If there is enough interest and materials, we will proceed to form a club history group to develop the book.

Gary Woodill

