



## Winter Newsletter 2010



Left: Mary Seyffert captured the first major snowfall of the winter during our CYC New Year's Day Levée.

Below: The next day Kerry Keddy snapped a picture very reminiscent of the one in the 2009 Winter Newsletter taken on November 22, 2008. So, this winter we were spared over a month of snow!!



## **A Message from the Commodore**

I hope this Newsletter finds you and your family happy and well. So far the weather has been kind to us who winter over in Chester, but maybe not so for skiers, snowmobilers and snow plowers.

Nevertheless, a storm force easterly coincided with a spring-high tide in early December and eroded some of the gravel away from the eastern sea wall and caused collapse of about 30 pavers. Temporary repairs were made, but more work will need to be done in the spring.

Of course, you are finding this Newsletter as usual in the mail with your annual dues package. I will also send it by email so you may see it in colour and be able to click on the URL and email links. This is part of my personal commitment to making the CYC Executive decision making process, as much as possible, open and transparent. Email is, by far, the quickest, easiest and cheapest way to disseminate information, and we will use it frequently to send reminders of upcoming events, news and decisions we think will be of interest to members. It is a fact that CYC does not have email addresses for many members. So, if you aren't getting emails from the Club, please send one to [cycsteward@eastlink.ca](mailto:cycsteward@eastlink.ca). Rest assured, CYC policy is to keep your email address completely private, even from other members.

2009 was another financially sound year. Race Week helped with the bottom line, and our current membership base of 422 enables the club to conduct its regular activities both on land and water. Capital purchases and major repairs will continue to require fund raising. Large expenditures currently on the table are a new motor and electronics for the John Dimick, a new ramp to the western float system to provide wheelchair access, repairs to the wharf skirting, and changes to the Junior ramp.

I am extremely happy to report that your Executive has hired a contractor to improve acoustics at CYC. This has been a long process, but we are confident the acoustical treatment on the ceiling will be the best solution possible. Peter Terroux, a Halifax architect who specializes in acoustics and has an impressive portfolio of successful projects, designed the acoustical treatment. It will be installed this winter by a Bridgewater company that has much experience in this type of job. This project has been made possible by your donations to the Sandy Spahr Memorial Fund. Bring on Friday night hors d'oeuvres; let's see how it works!

Speaking of Friday night hors d'oeuvres, Dolce tells me that several evenings are still up for grabs. She needs sponsors especially for the months of July and August. Remember the key words are *hors d'oeuvres*, not a *gourmet meal*. Please give it some consideration. Dolce's contact information comes later in this Newsletter.

"Canada's biggest keelboat event and North America's best-kept secret". That's how Sailing World describes Chester Race Week in a flattering four-page spread in their Jan/Feb issue. Sailing World magazine out of the USA is probably the foremost sailboat racing publication for this continent, covering all aspects of racing from Optimist Prams to super-maxis – great, free advertising for Chester Yacht Club! If you do not subscribe to Sailing World, you still may be able to buy this issue at newsstands, or read the article online at [www.sailingworld.com/chester](http://www.sailingworld.com/chester). Kudos to the many CYC volunteers that dedicate their time and energy year after year to putting on a legendary racing venue and to putting CYC on the map. And special thanks to CRW Chair Mary MacInnis who raised the bar for all

who follow her. Mary resigned as Race Week Chair at last fall's AGM, but she stays on as Flag Officer – Sponsorship and will assist Team Chester Race Week 2010.

The Executive has re-established the Long Range Planning Committee which has been effectively dormant since conceptualized in the 2004 amended CYC Constitution. We believe the LRPC should be an integral part of club governance and can have a positive influence on CYC now and into the future. We look forward to working with Committee members Ray Cambria, Drew Ernst, Gerry Giffin, Barb Grigsby (Chair), Martin Karlsen and B Spahr. The Constitution says, among other things, the LRPC is “responsible for medium and long range direction, structure and financial planning; and to bring recommendations to the executive and membership”. The Committee has already begun working, and may be consulting with you.

Finally, the Executive has unanimously agreed CYC needs a Club Manager. I am pleased that Kim Johnson has agreed to accept the added responsibility and authority of this new position, commensurate with what she has, in effect, been assuming recently. Kim has become a mainstay of our Club. As Manager, Kim can provide continuity for our members and for Executives and committees that come and go. Just as important we hope she will be another channel of communication between the Executive and members. Please join me in thanking Kim for her past service and in giving her the support she has earned.

Don McAlpine, Commodore

[sudon@eastlink.ca](mailto:sudon@eastlink.ca) or 902-275-3014

### **Vice Commodore's Report**

In the (my new) role of the Vice Commodore, I want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve the Club I have so much enjoyed since I was 12 years old. Arriving from the US that first summer in 1965, I recall my mother encouraging my brother and me to “go make friends at the Yacht Club.” And, so, we did. As it did then, I am sure the Chester Yacht Club will continue to foster bonds between people and provide a great place to sail for many years to come. That depends on all of us. Please join me this Spring/Summer/Fall/Winter 2010 to make the Chester Yacht Club the best club, ever!

Following in the footsteps of Vice Commodore, Don McAlpine, and, before that, Boyd Lee Spahr III is a daunting task, and I can only ask that you bear with me as I strive to measure up. Already, many of you have stepped forward to volunteer in significant positions – thank you! Our Club Steward (now Manager), Kim Johnson and the CYC Executive Committee have given me a great orientation.

Fortunately, the 2009 Fall hurricane season has been mild. We hope for the same fair weather this Winter, but we are prepared, in the event that there are adverse conditions.

As we continue to maintain the Clubhouse and grounds, several projects are planned for this year. This includes:

1. Refinishing the floor
2. Touch up painting for weathered surfaces
3. Resolution of the “sound” issues in the clubhouse (sound deadening)
4. Improvements to the floats including wheelchair accessibility

Social events for 2010 include winter potlucks (last Saturday monthly), a Canada Day BBQ, the pig roast, and the Commodore's Dinner and Dance. As well, there will be social activities planned and hosted by the Bluenose and Classic fleets. Friday night hors d'oeuvres are being handily managed by Dolce Tatlow. And, club merchandise is now being organized by Victoria McGregor, with help from Deborah Dalzell. To help out with sales of club merchandise, please get in touch with Victoria.

Should you have ideas, or wish to volunteer, please contact me. I welcome your suggestions and look forward to meeting you.

I want to thank Dolce and Victoria for taking the lead. Also, many thanks to my fellow executive and staff, particularly Kim Johnson, for all of their great work. This, along with all of your input and support, contributes to the success of our social events and the ongoing sustainability of the Chester Yacht Club.

Mary Seyffert, Vice-Commodore

[maryhamblin@gmail.com](mailto:maryhamblin@gmail.com) or 902-420-1488

## **Rear Commodore's Report**

I trust all our members had a relaxing and joyous Christmas and a nice New Year's celebration.

Here in Chester, after the snow, it is quite pretty. A number of members met at our favorite watering hole "The Rope Loft" for a wonderful New Year's Eve dinner. New Year's Day found a number of members and guests at CYC's Levée. It was well prepared by Kim, well attended and a great beginning to 2010.

It's hard to believe this will be my second Rear Commodore's Report; time surely has gone by quickly. 2009 was a very busy and exciting year at CYC. Much was accomplished - new larger outside race markers, a profitable race week, a successful Women's Keel Boat Learn to Sail program and a new opening regatta time and format to name a few. 2010 will add to these accomplishments with several other positive initiatives for the up-coming season. Let me give you an overview.

### **Women's Learn to Sail Program Continues for 2010**

Our program this year will be the last week of June (21-25 inclusive). The cost this year will be \$125.00 for non-members and \$ 90.00 for CYC members, open to women over 18 years old. Again this year, we will be seeking the help of skippers and boat owners. The program will be limited to 40 participants, so register early and tell your friends. The program will be taught on keel boats 25 feet to 40 feet. A more advanced program will be also available this year. The primary focus is to teach the basics and encourage women to be on the water.

### **Race Management & Racing**

We will raise the bar this year by again having excellent race management, which will include an active protest committee, no downwind starts, and a possible judge at the weather mark. A series of rule seminars are planned, starting in April. Exact dates will be announced shortly. It is strongly advised all racers update their rules knowledge by attending one of these seminars. They will be given free of charge to club members and guests. Our calendar will be similar to last years and will be printed and distributed in the spring.

Also, I am pleased to report that Mark Power has agreed to take on the position of Club Handicapper, following the resignation of Art Backman who handled this sometimes thankless job so well for so many years.

### **Official Opening Regatta**

The tentative dates for our opening regatta are June 27 & 28, Saturday and Sunday. This year, it will be hosted by Lunenburg Yacht Club. Please try to have your boat ready. I will be passing along more information as time goes on.

### **Route Halifax St. Pierre Ocean Race**

This fast, 380 mile race will begin in Halifax Harbour July 10 from the stern of HMCS Sackville, along with a full naval gun crew. Rumor has it a CYC boat "Clover" owned by Neil Finnigan will be participating. Last year, CYC's team "Ceilidh" and "Dawn Treader" won the Founders Cup. Maybe Neil will form a team (if they go) to have the Founders Cup won again by CYC.

### **Lunenburg Yacht Club Race Week in a Day**

As Rear Commodore, I again encourage our CYC sailors to participate. Last year there were more entries from CYC than LYC. Let's try to increase our numbers. I know "Flip Flop & Fly" and Ceilidh" will be t here. Word has it that "Mighty Mo", "Little One", "Harpoon" and "Head Games" may show up. Hope the rumor is true. Let's win back the Mahone Bay Challenge Cup.

### **Classic Fleet**

The thriving and growing fleets of Bluenose, IOD and larger classics are testimony that Mahone Bay brings perfect sailing conditions, the climate is just what these boats love and the bevy of talented shipwrights and support make it easy to own and maintain a classic in Chester.

Last year a brand new wood IOD was launched, the first in many years, and the Maritime Museum in Halifax made significant progress towards returning the historic Chester C, Whim, to the water. Mistral was also returned to sailing condition in 2008 and sailed in 2009. We sincerely hope that she'll be seen with the rest of the Chester Classics soon! The Seneca project continues with tuning of the sailplan and rig.

The Classic fleet has been getting good word of mouth press with owners of historic classics contacting us to find homes in Chester for their boats, some owned by the same family for generations. They are specifically looking for homes for these fabulous historic yachts: 22 Sq Meter, 2 Alden Q boats, a P which is sister ship to Hayseed and restoration of the historic Obie Hamm Q Atalanta. They're also keen to find folks interested in bringing back the remaining Chester C's including Ohop at Butch Heisler's. (contributed by Topher Wurts)

### **Bluenose Fleet**

The Bluenose Fleet is planning an active season in 2010. Class races will be held on Tuesdays and Sundays in July and August, in addition to Club racing with a class start on Thursday night. The Bluenose Class Association realizes that in order to have a strong and credible fleet, skill and knowledge is of the utmost importance. Last year we offered on and off the water classes in sailing and also sponsored a rules clinic that was open to all CYC fleets. Again, the Fleet will be holding a number of clinics that are excellent learning opportunities with top sailors. This past July, 31 bluenose skippers and over 55 junior sailors embarked on the first Annual Isabel's Cup in memory of Isabel Warren. This year, we hope to follow suit with another spectacular evening where old and new (boats and sailors) blend together in a great way. In addition to racing, there will be social events where Bluenose sailors will get the chance to build relationships "off the water". The Class is eager to get back on the water after last year's hurricane shortened season that forced cancellation of the annual Maritime Bluenose Championship.

May this season be the Club's and the respective fleets' very best year yet!

(contributed by Sandy Morash and Henry Demone)

### **Special Mention**

No yacht club can be successful without a successful Junior Program. Chester is no exception. With that in mind, I personally and publicly would like to thank and congratulate Paul Avery and his group for making this possible. They have, and will continue to upgrade our fleet with new boats, hire the best instructors and raise great sailors.

The recent NSYA annual meeting was more proof our program works. Congratulations to Max Flinn, our world class Opti sailor. Max was presented the NSYA merit award for excellence and dedication to the sport in 2009. Congratulations to Joss Warren and Jacob Chaplin-Saunders. Joss and Jacob were presented the Nova Scotia Youth Sailor Award. Joss and Jacob represented Canada at the 2009 World Youth Sailing Championships in Brazil in the 420 Class. These young men would rather sail than eat. Competitive, world-class sailing costs a lot, in time, dedication, and money. The latter is always in high demand and short supply. If you feel you would like to help, call Cedric Guthrie. There is a way your contribution can be a tax deduction.

I have enjoyed being your Rear Commodore for the 2009 season. I have enjoyed and look forward to continuing to be part of the management team at CYC for 2010. I look forward to working with Andreas Josenhans, Jay Hooper and Ray Cambria, our race officers for Race Week.

In closing, I want to thank our many volunteers who help with racing at our club. Without their contributions events like Opti Jam and Chester Race Week would not be possible.

I would also like to thank our sponsors. Without their help our events would not be the financial success they are. I ask you all to show your thanks by giving our sponsors an opportunity to do some business with you when you are making your purchasing decisions.

Randy Stevens, Rear Commodore

[jdrstevens@eastlink.ca](mailto:jdrstevens@eastlink.ca) or 902-273-2327

## **Club Manager's Report**

The New Year's Day Levée was a great success with 45 members & guests attending with a lot of fun and catching up. The snowstorm kept members from trying out a Polar Bear Swim – maybe next year!

I have been meeting over the winter months with the Executive on a monthly basis, busy making plans for a great season next summer. The clubhouse has a cozy feel in these cold months; try to come to our winter potlucks at the end of January, February, March & April.

Remember that your guests are always welcome, but in order for the Club to comply with Nova Scotia's Liquor Laws we have to ensure that 'guests' are only signed in 3 times per year. Please encourage your family members, partners, spouse, or crew to get a CYC membership.

Cheers!

Kim Johnson, Club Manager

[cycsteward@eastlink.ca](mailto:cycsteward@eastlink.ca) or Club (May - Nov) 902-275-3747

## **Junior Sailing**

My, how the summer has flown. I can't help but reflect on all that has been done this past summer and all that is left to do. The time and energy required to co-ordinate the Junior Sailing program was far greater than I anticipated and would not have been possible without the assistance of our Head Instructor, Ross Romney and our Junior Liaison, Lisa LaFrance.

We ran 4 sessions throughout the summer, providing instruction to over 150 youth. We continue to use the Optimist Dinghy, Mirror & Club 420. Last year we had 6 instructors who provided instruction in White Sail I, II, III and Bronze and Silver with a race component.

Plans for next year include hiring a seventh instructor so that we can double up staff in each program session. This will permit more opportunities for attending regattas without negatively impacting regular programming. We plan to host two (2) junior award ceremonies; the first after Session 2 in July and the second at the conclusion of Session 4. This will provide an opportunity for these young sailors to be recognized for their achievements throughout the summer. Written sessional evaluations will be provided at the conclusion of each session.

This winter we intend to expand our Optimist Fleet to 17 with the addition of 4 new boats. Our stated goal is to maintain a club fleet of 20 Optimists with 10 420's. With our expanded fleet we may consider a storage rack system to better utilize the limited space we have.

New for this year will be a dedicated space in Optis for PRO Kids during each session. This was made possible through the financial support of the Municipality of Chester. In keeping with goals of NSYA, we are trying to get as many youth as possible exposed to sailing. In addition we have received funding from the Lunenburg County Community Health Board to install a bicycle rack at the club.

The boat storage policy will remain in effect. A seasonal fee of \$75 will be charged to ALL dinghies not registered and involved with current junior programming. Permission to store said dinghy is at the sole discretion of CYC.

The Junior ramp is an ongoing issue. Consideration is being given to replacing the ramp with a floating dock system. This would address boat launch & recovery of our dinghies and provide easier access for those individuals with mobility issues. An application for Provincial funding is being pursued, however any financial assistance dedicated to this measure would be greatly appreciated. The annual Junior Sailing Fund Raiser is scheduled for July 30.

Session dates are as follows:

Session 1      28 June to 09 July  
Session 2      12 July to 23 July  
Session 3      26 July to 06 August  
Session 4      16 August to 27 August

Opti Jam      04 August to 05 August

Please refer to the Junior Website for registration information and deadlines.  
Feel free to contact me anytime regarding the Junior Program

Paul Avery, Flag Officer – Learn to Sail

[pjavery@eastlink.ca](mailto:pjavery@eastlink.ca) or 275-4793

## **Race Week 2010, August 11, 12, 13 and 14**

Following the resignation of Mary MacInnis as Raceweek Chair, your executive decided to take a more involved management roll in Race Week this year, and not appoint a Chairperson. The Rear Commodore will be responsible for the water activities, the Vice Commodore and Club Manager will be responsible for the land activities and the Commodore will oversee the process. Team CRW 2010 is committed to building on the successful model developed through Mary MacInnis' leadership during the last few years that has made CRW a first-class, professionally run, internationally recognized, keel boat racing event. Some fundamental elements of the model are a professional Principal Race Officer, a coordinated three race course format, professional/expert judges, a dedicated website, improved registration procedures, Canadian and United States press coverage, professional photography, and well planned onshore food and entertainment events.

We will work towards improving our prize presentation, and having the race results posted quickly. Food service and entertainment is now being booked. Last year's race officers and our principal race officer will be returning. More detailed information will be forthcoming, and suggestions are always welcome. We look forward to an exciting, rewarding and fun filled Race Week.

## **Moorings**

The mooring policy established in 2009 will continue. Former holders of seasonal moorings will be invoiced with this newsletter. The fee remains the same at \$300 plus HST of \$39. Membership fees, mooring fees and the signed rental agreement must be received by CYC no later than May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 or the mooring will be assigned to the next on the waiting list and the delinquent member will be placed on the bottom of the list should they still desire a mooring.

If you do not get the paperwork with this package, or if you would like to get on the waiting list, please contact Warren Barkhouse at [barkhouse.finlay@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:barkhouse.finlay@ns.sympatico.ca). The fee for keeping a dinghy at the wharf for those who don't rent moorings, or for storing a dinghy on the grounds remains at \$75.

## **Crane**

The fee for 2010 must be raised to \$ 75.00 per season from its current \$ 50.00. The maximum weight is 4000 lbs. The crane is for the use of CYC members only (with the exception of Race Week participants). You must pay your 2010 fees, as well as previous year's fees, before May 31<sup>st</sup>. If not, your use of the crane will not be permitted.

Please understand if you have a contractor launch and/or haul your boat, i.e. Windward Yacht Services, etc., the crane and mooring fees are **not** included. It is a separate charge.

You can send your 2010 crane cheques to:

Chester Crane  
C/o Tom Mulrooney  
P.O. Box 355  
Chester, NS B0J 1J0

## **Friday Nite Bites**

It's that time of year again to start thinking about the upcoming season at the CYC. Traditionally, Friday night hors d'oeuvres have been extremely well attended. A BIG THANK YOU to all of you whom have contributed or sponsored a Friday night in the past. Here is hoping that this season's Friday nights will continue on an even keel. In order to ensure the ongoing success, there are different ways to contribute – host it yourself or co-host with friends. It's an occasion for members to gather, catch up and have a nibble. As it starts at 6pm, it allows time for people to make dinner plans. Scheduling for the 2010 season has already started; I look forward to your getting involved. You can either email the Club directly and Kim will forward your request to me, or contact me directly using the email or phone number below.

Thank you for your support  
Cheers to a SUPER 2010 season.

[djtatlow@eastlink.ca](mailto:djtatlow@eastlink.ca) or 902-275-1444

Dolce Tatlow

### **Attention Shoppers!**

Your merchandising committee wants your help. Are you interested in something new? Would you like to see something done in the past repeated? Please forward any suggestions you might have to me and we'll be happy to look into it.

Victoria McGregor

[Victoria.mcgregor@gmail.com](mailto:Victoria.mcgregor@gmail.com)

### **Time for CYC Winter Potlucks, Again!**

Please join in the fun and come to the winter potlucks at the Chester Yacht Club. Simply bring some food, and yourself – prepared for an evening of sailing tales & fireside chats.

Mark the last Saturday of the upcoming three months on your calendar!

Time: 6:00PM

Dates: February 27<sup>th</sup>  
March 27<sup>th</sup>  
April 24<sup>th</sup>

See you there!

### **Calendar**

We are preparing the Club Calendar. If you are interested in renting the club for a function; meeting, wedding etc. please contact Mary Seyffert at [maryhamblin@gmail.com](mailto:maryhamblin@gmail.com) or the CYC Manager at [cycsteward@eastlink.ca](mailto:cycsteward@eastlink.ca). July and August are pretty full with club activities although there may be an open date, but May, June, September and October are usually less busy and the Executive will always consider rentals for the off season for suitable events. If you are interested in advertising in this year's calendar, please contact Don McAlpine at [sudon@eastlink.ca](mailto:sudon@eastlink.ca).

### **Your Membership Card**

Don't forget to keep your plastic Membership card as they are no longer renewed each year. Get your new 2010 sticker from Kim at the bar when you are at the club this summer.