



NEW HORIZONS

THE ROYAL HAMILTON YACHT CLUB (ESTABLISHED 1888) INC.



December 2010 / January 2011

Commodore's Report

On behalf of the entire Perry family, let me be one of the first to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

November was a very busy month around the club. Most of our boats were put away, and stored for the winter. The cover for the patio has been rolled up thanks to some great volunteers. We do still have a few Sharks and Stars that are braving the elements, and enjoying sailing still. We also had our election meeting. Congratulations to all the new Bridge and Board members.

Our annual Awards night was fantastic. As usual it sold out. We had the pleasure to recognize all those wonderful members for their achievements during the past year. Some people I talked to did not realize that our awards night is not "just for racers". We honour all those who have made a difference to the RHYC, and is our way of thanking all those people for their tremendous efforts.

December will be full of things to do from the kids Christmas party, to our very special New Years Eve Dinner/ Dance and our annual New Years Day Levee. I look forward to seeing you all over the festive season. Our new VC Social Shelly Bengier has lots of great things planned to keep us occupied during the winter season.

The last few Thursday's "two can dine for \$24.99" were sold out. If you haven't been down to try this, you are missing a great experience. Judging by the response, I think reservations would be advisable.

D'Arcy Wilson has had to leave our bridge due to work commitments, but will remain part of our sail training committee. I would personally like to thank d'Arcy for all his efforts last year. They really were much appreciated. Over the last month or so we have met with a number of members to find a better more effective way of organizing our sailing school. Paul Vayda is helping with this, along with many keen volunteers. See Paul's report further in this edition of Horizons.

Ric and Debbie McQuin have again agreed to handle our club cruising. They have some great ideas to add to the participation, and are looking for volunteers to help them.

As we start a new "financial year" at our club, I can't help but remind every one how important it is to volunteer either on a committee or as an individual. If you can give us an hour, a week or a whole year's commitment we want to hear from you, and need you. It is because of all our wonderful volunteers that we can keep our costs down, and keep us the very best Yacht Club on the Lake.

All my very best wishes for the holiday season.

Russ Perry

Commodore



FROM THE MANAGER AND
STAFF OF RHYC. THANK YOU
FOR YOUR PATRONAGE AND
SUPPORT. WE WISH YOU AND
YOURS A SAFE AND JOYOUS
HOLIDAY SEASON AND
BEST TIDINGS FOR
A WONDERFUL 2010!



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Chuck Sweet, centre, is the proud 2010 recipient of the Long Service Wheel of Distinction award.

Awards Night Recipient's Gratitude

What a night! This year's awards night was, to say the least, a very pleasant surprise, and humbling. I was presented with the Club's Long Service award, known as the Wheel of Distinction, putting me in the company of some of the best people it is my pleasure to know, and for a sport I enjoy; one that years ago, I could only dream of being a part of.

It is all of you that I share this award with, because without you it would not be possible for me to be so involved around my "Happy Place." As I was looking at the past winners of the Wheel of Distinction I could not help but notice that many of them are people that have helped with training me in my sailing, and getting me hooked in helping with the many events that we have hosted over the past several years.

Allow me to point out a few, for without their skills of persuasion I may, on several occasions, have turned away. For example, Colin Jacobs, has the ability to turn the worst and most unexpected event into some comic relief, normally topped off with a rubber duck award (sorry not this year, Colin). Then there's Paul Vayda, and Tony van Schie: What more has to be said about two of the best friends a person can have? We enjoy working together, sometimes in the worst weather one can imagine, but as they say, 'the show must go on.' The people in the background that I have had the pleasure to work with and have been mentors, Jennie and Steve Hill, Shelly Vaughan, Bill Cheek, and Karen and Steve Broe. All of these people and all of you that were present have made the difference. Of course there is my sailing crew, the ones that put up with me throughout the season as we race Harold's pride and joy. I've been a part of his crew (*continued on page 7*)



BARSTOOL DEDICATION

We have just one bar stool that has not been dedicated in memory of a loved one, a yacht or a family. Please contact Belinda in the office to ask about this opportunity to memorialize someone near and dear to you.

New Horizons

is the newsletter of The Royal Hamilton Yacht Club (1888) and is published ten times per year.

The deadline for the February 2011 New Horizons Issue is **January 15**.

Please submit articles to:
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Laura Secord, the laurels and the legend, is the most recent of **Roly Salvat's** shellbacks presentation. As usual it was well researched, interesting and entertaining.

For the benefit of chocolate lovers Roly gave a brief history of the Laura Secord chocolate company before getting to the main story.

Laura's legend:

In 1813 U.S. soldiers were billeted at her home in Queenston. Laura overheard their plans to attack British forces headquartered at the DeCew house 30 kilometers away. The next morning she walked to St Davids to warn the British of the U.S. plan, thus contributing to the U.S. defeat.

Around 1890 the women's suffragette movement adopted Laura as their heroine. In Laura they had a strong decisive woman whose independence and courage, while still being a wife and the mother of seven children, which appealed to the women of the time. She was an intrepid ready-made heroine.

But was she? Roly Salva's research found that in the summer of 1813 the Niagara Peninsula was inundated with torrential rains; the terrain was - to put it mildly - impenetrable; and there is no mention of Laura Secord or indeed any early warning in the British commander's official report. The U.S. forces had been ambushed and defeated by Caughnawaga Indian irregulars before the Americans reached the British headquarters. The only British involvement was to accept their surrender. Laura petitioned the government to recognize her contribution in 1837 and it was accepted in 1841. Why Laura waited almost 30 years to make the claim adds to the questions.

As always Roly's presentation was colourful and defended with plenty of research; this was no flat history lesson. Here and there the facts were interspersed with humour. We were treated to a master storyteller who had a great love of history, myth and legend.

Did he de-bunk the legend? To some yes. To others no. We still like to hold on to our Canadian heroes. Roly gracefully left us with the knowledge that with history the door is always open. We never know where or when, in some attic, a file or lost letter between the pages of an old family book will bring new insight into the legend.

For our next meeting, **Don Robertson** from Sears Travel made arrangements with Encore Cruises to give us a presentation about "New Ships and Exciting Itineraries."

Don introduced Lora Hamre from Encore, which handles many shipping lines, to give the presentation. Lora described an astonishing variety of cruises that can suit any taste. Cruise activities on very large luxury ships can even include surfing, rock climbing and ice skating, along with the more usual diversions. The ships are a small city with up to 5400 passengers and 3000 staff.

The "Oasis of The Sea" features a park area in the middle of the ship complete with grass and gardens along with boardwalks, promenades, art galleries, shops, and more. Entertainment includes Broadway and Icecapade shows.

Other types of cruises provide personal service such as spa treatment, butlers, and 24 hour room service. Smaller ships can dock in ports not accessible to large vessels. *(continued on page 4)*

Sail Training Report

Those of you who have a long memory here may remember that I was once the VC Sail Training and that I wrote a monthly column talking about our wonderful school, our gifted young sailors, and all the amazing programs that we offered to members, their families and the community at large. During my tenure we went from about 60 students to about 300!

Because of the resignation of our current VC, our Commodore has asked me to step in on a temporary basis and help out until we find a suitable candidate. VC Sail Powerboat and Training is a really important position, with a budget of almost \$200,000 and a staff of nearly a dozen in the summer.

To ease this huge workload of one person, we have decided to try to break down the job into six sub-committees, with Fleet captains at the helm of each one. These sub-committees are:

- Youth Training – Fleet Captain Bonnie McAuley
- High Performance Training – Fleet Captain Rolf Essig
- Adult Training - Fleet Captain Dave Vollans
- Able Sail – Fleet Captain Jenny McEwan-Hill
- Youth Regattas – Fleet Captain Chuck Sweet
- Marketing - TBA

Each of these FCs will put together their sub-committees, and get on the job - planning a new season of great boating, racing and fun. The Commodore's idea is for volunteers to be able to specialize on that aspect of the program that they are interested in the most.

From my view, I think that there is a lot of enthusiasm this year to restart our proud racing tradition, to keep the VC job manageable, and to continue our leadership in the sail training world. Ontario Sailing has designated RHYC as a Development Center so we have the full support of our Provincial Association.

The brochure is being printed, summer hiring is beginning, and our booth at the boat show is only two months away!

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of any of the sub-committees, please let Russ or me know.

Past Commodore (and not the VC) Paul Vayda

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Shellbacks *(continued from page 3)*

Some of the smaller cruises are all inclusive, including drinks and gratuities. Some provide learning opportunities such as languages, creating a web page, photography, and yoga, just to name a few. The variety is mindboggling.

Chairman Bill Cheek commented at the end of the presentation that his mother used to go on a cruise for a rest, but nowadays you may need a rest after the cruise.

Coming Speakers include –

Dec. 16 – Christmas Luncheon and Christmas music with
Jack Packer and Ryan Scott.

Jan . 6 – CLUB CLOSED

Jan. 20 – Bob Williamson "Gathering Places - Then & Now"

Feb. 3 – Robin McKee, Hamilton Historical Board,
"Disasters and Diseases"

December & January Hours

We are closed Friday, December 24th
to Tuesday, December 28th. We re-open
Wednesday, Dec 29th to the 1st of January
(Levee) then close for renovations until
Thursday, Jan 20th



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Thanks, Harold Higginbottom. Phone # 905 5284678

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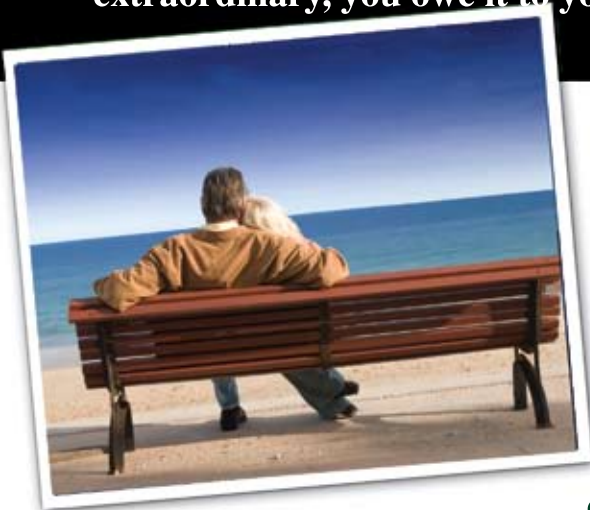
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Message from the President

It's that time of year when our beloved boats are under cover, safely put away for the winter season. It's the time of year that all boaters remember fondly the summer that has just passed. The summer of 2010 will be remembered kindly due to the great weather and activity around the Club. The racing nights were warm and windy, the regattas, the cruises, the use of the pool, and social events all added to the summer of 2010 memories.

It's also time of year when sailors take stock and think about what lies ahead for the next boating season. Is 2011 the year we buy new sails or finally take that extended cruise we've always talked about? The Board and Bridge use the fall and winter to reflect on what's going well at the Club and what needs to be changed. RHYC is a community of boaters, who's collective interests make this club a great place to pursue our passion. RHYC communities enjoy the Hamilton waterfront and club in many unique ways by being part of the racing community, the cruising community, the sail and power training community or the social community, just to name a few. The member volunteers and staff are bringing a renewed energy to the waterfront as we build on the past achievements of the RHYC. I would like to thank everyone who freely volunteers their time to make our communities better.

As we reflect on what lies ahead for our club; securing a favourable long term lease with our waterfront partners is critical to the future of RHYC. The Hamilton harbour is simply one of the best (if not the best) harbours on Lake Ontario. Hamiltonians are fortunate to be blessed with this natural beauty. We will continue to invest in our club and natural environment with the assurance that the lease issue will be settled to all interested parties satisfaction in the near future.

I would like to thank Ron Philp and his staff for all their hard work in 2010. Ron is completing his first year at the RHYC as our General Manager. I know it has been an interesting transition year for Ron. We appreciate the expertise and commitment he contributes to our club.

I wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season.

Mark Easden

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Director at Large Paul Draper and his wife Brenda

Brief Bio for Paul Draper

After I made my first boat in the basement at age 12, I did some crewing at RHYC on a off from 1966 to 1968. While this was excellent experience, I then did a number of OSA "training units" in the mid 70's and was active with the CPS from 1986 to 1991. Following that, I became involved with crewing again at RHYC in 1979 and joined RHYC as a resident member in 1980. In 1981 I became a club debenture holder while living in the US. In the meantime we owned several keel boats that were berthed at the RHYC. Then starting in 1987, we took a leave of absence from RHYC and eventually started sailing in the Caribbean where we have the luxury of owning a sailboat there and currently still do. By 2007/2008 we returned to RHYC bringing with us our Moody 42 from Annapolis MD. I am a self employed businessman in the steel industry in Hamilton and Ontario involved in the capital side of the business in a technical role and look forward to being a member of the Board of Directors.



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Awards Night Recipient's Gratitude *(continued from page 2)*

for almost 20 years, and it has always been a blast.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the sacrifices my family has given. They know that when I go out and do something at the Club they're coming along for the ride. In one way or another they are all helping with most events, and for that I must publically thank them.

Thanks to the award presenter, Paul Vayda, a past winner of this award, and perhaps one of the best friends one could have. The words you spoke brought the past 15 years of my life. I have always referred to the RHYC, as my second home, you all have made me and my family welcome, and because of that, this is my HAPPY PLACE! Let the good times continue and the friendships remain strong. And remember to always welcome the new members and visitors as you did with me.

Fair Winds and Calm Seas,
Chuck Sweet



Bill Cheek, senior Race Officer, making a presentation to Shelly Vaughan during the annual Awards Night. Shelly was thanked and honoured for all her years of service and dedication to the Club and the Race Committee. The award, though well-deserved, was bittersweet as it was also to recognize the fact that she will be moving in the New Year, thus ending her invaluable club involvement.

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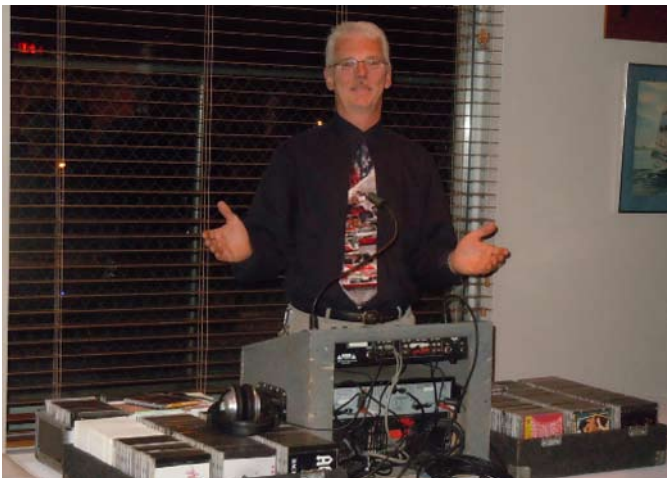


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Steven Micallef

Meet Steven Micallef

Steven has been boating since he was 3 weeks old (May 1962). The maiden voyage was down the Humber river in his Dad's 14' plywood runabout. At 5 years of age he piloted his Dad's 25' Chris Craft up the Holland River, across Lake Simcoe and navigated the Narrows between Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching. As an adult, Steve lived on his 38' Hatteras all year round between 1991 and 2001. During all this time Steve has been servicing, piloting and creating a data base for clients and contacts in the boating industry. Steve has also been into electronics from the early 1980's, Assistant Manager of the Kipling/Queen-sway Radio shack doing electronic/PA, dance floor and back-ground systems installations for clubs & restaurants. Steve's been a professional Disc Jockey for the past 27 years DJ-ing 1,000's of parties & events. Lastly his part time night gig was the floor manager for the Rickijo's restaurant chain between 1985 to 1990. Ask Steve if he's tired? Steve is very pleased to be working with the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club! It is a great career change and enjoys working with the great staff and the wonderful members at the RHYC. He looks forward to many years to come promoting the Club, helping in financial growth and making the clubhouse, docks & grounds a safer & more beautiful place for the membership & guests.



Most Improved Intermediate Sailor for 2010, Sarah Nelson, is swarmed by paparazzi at the Annual Awards Banquet as she accepts her unexpected award.

From The Office

The December holiday season is shaping up to be a busy one! We have received bookings for a variety of private corporate functions during the month of December and we are hoping that we beat last year's sales.

We have had a good response to the Thursday two-for-one dinners and we will continue this in the New Year. Members like the rotational menu on offer as well as the exceptional value for money. Our busiest night had over 60 people join us! We strongly recommend making reservations so you will not be disappointed.

The Board has approved the removal of the 20% discount for members as of December 1st. Sales to non-members were minimal and the discount caused confusion at the table, the bar and also in the office. The new winter menu reflects not only new choices, but also the same low pricing!

We are continuing the weekly lunch specials from Wednesdays to Fridays for only \$7.50. These specials rotate every day and are a great deal.

The club closes as of January 1st after the New Years Levee for several weeks, reopening Thursday the 20th of January. During this time the club will do undergo minor renovations to both the bar and kitchen. All the work will be done by in-house staff.

The club will continue to be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays till April. The office will be open for business Monday thru Friday.

New Years Eve is almost sold out with over 70 members signed-up to date. It's sure to be another sell-out event. The cost is \$50 inclusive and will prove to be a great time at the RHYC.

We wish everyone all the best for this upcoming holiday season and a very happy New Year!

Ron Philp
General Manager

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