



NEW HORIZONS

THE ROYAL HAMILTON YACHT CLUB (ESTABLISHED 1888) INC.



February 2011

Commodore's Report

What a beautiful December we had! Just enough snow to give us a White Christmas, and we had lots going on at the RHYC. Our Thursday "2 can dine for \$25.99" has been extremely well received, and sold out most Thursdays when we hold this. Please give the club a Call if you want to join in the fun.

We spent a lot of time finalizing the budgets and getting our plans in place for the New Year. The Mobility Cup, under the co-chair of Laurel Thompson, is coming together very well. The Rotary Clubs have taken on the title sponsor role along with our friends from Fox 40 Marine. We have had interest from competitors from as far away as New Zealand, and the Netherlands. I am sure this will be the BEST Mobility Cup ever staged. Thanks also to Past Commodore Don Green, who not only has agreed to be the Honorary Chair, but is also an active participant in the planning and organizing of this spectacular event. Don't miss the event which will be held at the RHYC from August 29 to September 2, 2011. We are still in need of lots of volunteers. If you can help please contact me, Laurel or Colin Jacobs and we will be pleased to have you join us.

Our New Years Eve dinner and dance was a sell-out and as usual was an absolutely fabulous event. I would also like to offer my special thanks to Shelley and her crew from the social committee as well as our wonderful staff for looking after us so well. Our youngest son Taylor was asked to join the band and do a couple of guitar leads solo's....I think he knocked the socks off those in attendance, but maybe I am a little bit bias! I was also pleased to see many of you at our traditional New Years Day Levee to personally wish each and every one of you all the very best for 2011. V.C. Social Shelly Bengner has lots of great things planned for the coming year. Please make sure to read our "Horizons" to get all the latest information.

I am very pleased to announce that Paul Vayda will be taking on the role (again) of VC Sail Training. Working with our hiring committee we have started our interviewing process for our sailing school coaches. Our re-organization has created a lot of volunteer interest, and we look forward to an outstanding year for our up-coming students. We still are looking for more volunteers to help in this area. If you can give us a few hours a month, please contact Paul and let your name be known.

With winter upon us, our pool and yachting activities are in hibernation, but your V.C.'s Chris and George have been busy putting together plans for a fabulous 2011. VC Colin Jacobs with much help from his group of volunteers have everything tucked away for the winter. Colin has also taken on the responsibility along with the expertise of Ron and Steve for the maintenance of all our club boats. This is also help along by Tony van Schie and Larry Scott whose help and dedication is truly appreciated.

(continued on page 4)



CRYC Commodore presenting Iain his 3rd Place trophy and medal

RHYC's Iain Wilson Comes Home with a Bronze Medal!

This year again, the Wilson family (actually D'Arcy and Iain this year) traded the white, cold climate of Ancaster, Ontario for the palm trees and cold (ugh?) climate of Miami! From December 27 to 30, 2010 the Orange Bowl Youth Regatta was held at the Coral Reef Yacht Club and US Sailing Training Centre East located in suburb of Coconut Grove on the beautiful shores of Biscayne Bay.

Every year at around the same time, this, the world's 2nd largest youth regatta, is held. Entrants from 25 countries, 33 of the US states and over 700 young sailors were involved. It truly is an international youth regatta seeing very aggressive competition in Opti's, 420's, Laser 4.7's, Laser Radial and Laser Full rig classes. This was Iain's third and final year competing at this regatta, 'aging out' at 18. He was also the lone Canadian in the fleet competing for the Laser Full rig division. *(continued on page 4)*

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Social Notes February 2011

Happy New Year Everyone!

This year's resolution is for us all to spend more time having fun at the Club! We have lots of upcoming events to keep you entertained. Mark your calendars and commit to enjoying yourself.

On Sunday, January 30, from 2 to 6 pm we will be having an open mic & jam session. Anyone who wishes to play music, sing or just cheer is welcome to attend and bring an instrument. Our very own talents of Steve Micallef and Taylor Perry will be hosting.

Sunday, February 6 @ 5 pm, join us for Superbowl XLV live from Cowboy Stadium in Texas! Beer Specials and cowboy food. Buffet is \$20 (unless you purchase the 3 for \$50 entertainment package which will also include the St. Patty's Day Party, March 18 and the Crew Party, Feb 26).

On Saturday, February 12, there will be a special romantic menu, \$39.99 a couple and will include a glass of champagne, a rose and a little romantic music to dance to.

Call your Crew!!! On Saturday, February 26 @ 7pm, bring out your crew, friends and family to a Crew "Race" Night. Come race, play, eat and drink while rekindling old relationships or building new ones for the season ahead. Buffet is \$20 (also qualifies for the 3 for \$50 deal).

On Sunday, March 6, we want all the ladies to join us. Whether a seasoned Captain or beginner. WOW – Women On Water - is a wonderful way to spend the day. Bring a friend! See details in the poster in this issue of Horizons or at the Club. Please reserve in advance as we need proper counts for goodie bags, CD, and hand-outs.

And of course, Friday, March 18 will be the St. Pattys Day Party. John Janisse will once again entertain us. Don't miss the great festivities.

The Commodore's Bash is planned for April 9 with entertainment by the Fifth Avenue Trio.

An exciting night of tropical foods and silent auction is being planned by the pool renovation committee for May 14 to fundraise for pool upgrades.

And of course, there will be brunches for both Easter and Mother's day.

Special thanks go to Kathy Hagan and Peggy Dunmore for all their hard work putting up and taking down Christmas and New Year decorations. To Mark, Steve and all the rest of you too! It is the volunteers like you that make the RHYC an enjoyable place for us all!

Shelley Bengner

VC Social



Saturday February 12 bring your sweetheart out to RHYC for a Special 2 Can Dine for \$39.99 Dinner !!! Will include a flower, a glass of champagne and the romantic music of pianist Jeff Daniels.

Please reserve early to avoid disappointment.

New Horizons

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

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

Please submit articles to: info@sonyadelaatphotography.com.

For advertising and inquiries, contact Ron Philp
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Last November's Shellback talk was nearly cancelled because presenter Richard Colins was unable to attend at the last minute. Fortunately, Past Commodore Bill Cheek generously agreed to step in. His topic was a short history of sailing on the Great Lakes, though his talk covered much more than the title indicated.

Yachts sailed the Great Lakes for many years before the Royal Canadian Yacht Club was established in Toronto in 1854. In 1887, the Hamilton Yacht Club was formed, and was granted the "Royal" designation in 1891. The bulk of the Past Commodore's talk covered the triumphs and the trials of the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club (RHYC).

In 1888, a group of interested sailors led by Aemilius Jarvis Junior held the first meeting of the newly formed club and agreed to build a clubhouse at the foot of James Street. The ornate Victorian style clubhouse was built in 1892 adjacent to the Burlington canal on land leased from the federal government. The RHYC grew and prospered until in 1915 when the beautiful clubhouse tragically burnt down. Members were then required to use the former clubhouse located at the foot of James Street. Early in 1938 a new clubhouse was built on land leased from the Hamilton Harbor Commissioners, now the Hamilton Port Authority, at the foot of MacNab Street for twenty-five thousand dollars.

As a result of growing membership, plans were drawn up in 1979 for a new larger clubhouse, the cost of which was estimated at about \$600,000. The pile-driving had already started when a cascade of misfortune hit. The largest issue being a dispute with the builder on the footprint of the clubhouse, halting construction for a time.

Then the decades-long practice of selling a share to a new member who was then required to return the share to the club upon the member's resignation became the subject of a troubling lawsuit. Ultimately, the RHYC was required to expend hundreds of thousands of dollars to defend. Eventually this problem was resolved and the Club decided to proceed with the construction, the cost of which had now ballooned to around \$1,000,000.

The interest rate on the loan for the construction of the new clubhouse had escalated to 23 per cent, which was steadily increasing the size of the loan from the Bank of Montreal. Add to that the escalating legal fees. The Club by now owed the Bank approximately three million dollars. As a result of these issues and unforeseen extra fees many members quit. In 1983, the Club declared bankruptcy and was closed.

Subsequently a hundred loyal members contributed \$3000 each to purchase debentures, few of which have yet been repaid, to release the banks claim on the loan thus enabling the RHYC to be re-constituted.

In early December the topic was the Lake Ontario 300. The Lake Ontario 300 is a nautical mile race held each summer. The race

started in 1990 as a double-handed race. It now has many categories for fully-crewed boats, double-handed, non-flying sails, and more. This year 198 boats entered. Two were from Hamilton: Sassafrass, with skipper Colin Brown; and Windrift, with skipper Rodger Metcalfe. The race course started at Port Credit Yacht Club going to Gibraltar Point and on to Scotch Bonnet or Main Duck Island returning to the Niagara Light and then finishing back at PCYC.

Joan McCormack crewed on Windrift and gave her view of the race as a first time overnight competitor. Joan talked about the safety features, the man-overboard drill, and the equipment necessary before starting the race.

They had nice weather to start, but was then followed by a storm with heavy winds and hail. Many spinnakers were damaged and a number of boats had to withdraw from the race with broken gear.

After rounding Scotch Bonnet, 25-knot winds took them to the New York shore followed by a period of two hours with no winds.

Getting closer to the Niagara light there were storm warnings all around. At this point they were double-reefed with a storm jib. It was a very scary night and they found that after the extensive time with no sleep they were starting to hallucinate. With no winds in the morning there was a little time for a happy-hour.

Sassafrass went through much of the same weather but had a larger crew that included a chef, making the race all that more comfortable.

Fifty + hours later, both boats were back safely at PCYC. Pictures taken by the crews of both boats illustrated many of the good times of the race.

Coming speakers include –

- January 20 Bob Williamson, "Gathering Places: Then and Now"
- February 3 Robin McKee, "Disasters and Diseases"
- February 17 Steffen Suggett, "AdLib, from Hamilton to the Bahamas"
- March 3 Richard Herrington, "The Armchair Sailor"

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RHYC's Iain Wilson Comes Home with a Bronze Medal! *(continued from page 1)*

Having last been in his boat during the first week of August at the Canadian Youth National Championships in Ottawa, Iain stepped into a boat for a first training day on the 26th of December. With one day to train in the coldest weather on record for Miami with the morning air temperature starting at 0oC, Iain then had another training session in the warmer afternoon, but still came off the water very cold!

The first day of competition saw good strong cool winds at 15 to 18 knots out of the NW which played to Iain's strengths, resulting in a very good racing day finishing in 5th place. The next day, the strong NW winds veered to the East diminishing through the early morning and then to the SE where they just died! By the end of the second day, Iain was in 4th place maintaining his competitive position despite racing in light winds.

The third day of racing saw no races getting off because of a lack of any suitable racing wind. The wind came back slightly out of the SE on the last day enough to get one race off. The end result, out of 4 days of racing, only 5 races run, no drops, Iain finished in a 3-way tie for 2nd place, ending up in 3rd overall! It was a great finish for him to end his "Youth" career! Well done! Bravo Zulu!

FOR SALE

C&C 25 "Blue Mist" 1974

Purchase for \$8,950 (open to negotiation) or use in 2011 and pay slip fees. Damage deposit would be required. Contact Harold at patriciah1@cogeco.ca for details."

Thanks, Harold Higginbottom. Phone # 905 5284678



The new bar is warm and inviting on a cold winter's night, claim your place now before the summer crush.

Commodore's Report *(continued from page 1)*

I am really excited about our upcoming year, and look forward to another great year at the RHYC. By the time you read this you have hopefully been down to the club to see all the improvements we made to the cloak room, bar, kitchen and the Champions room during our January shut down. Thank you to all those who helped make this happen. Remember it is our wonderful volunteers that make the difference at our club versus any other club on the lake. Please get involved; please continue to make a difference. On behalf of all my family I would like to wish each and every one of you all the very best for the coming year.

Russ Perry
Commodore

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**Royal Hamilton
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**12:30pm until
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**\$5 Lunch will be
available at RHYC
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Register on line at www.thestoremasons.com

**WOW =
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learn and talk
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whether you are a skipper
or a first mate, there's al-
ways something to learn
about boating. We share
experiences, both good and
bad, work out solutions and
generally find camaraderie"
says Mason. Be sure to
bring your questions and
concerns.

**Phone: 905-278-7005
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1 Port St E, Mississauga**

Message from the President

By now, most club members will have seen the renovations to the RHYC. Many countless volunteer hours were freely given to make these improvements. The results are stunning. Volunteers are what makes the boating experience at this club so great.

Now that the club's facilities are looking even better, we want to encourage all members to bring more events to RHYC. The club has the facilities and staff to make your event a delightful experience. We offer easy access, lots of free parking, one of the best views of the Hamilton Harbour, updated dining and meeting rooms, great food and friendly staff. Whether your event is small or large, for business or pleasure, we would like you to consider using your RHYC.

Last year, I hosted two events at RHYC. One was a corporate event for 70 managers from across Canada and the other was breakfast for 100 employees from our local office. I can report that both events were extremely successful and it's always refreshing to see the reaction from people who have never experienced the club before. Any size event is welcome and I would encourage fellow club members to use the RHYC for an event at least once this year.

We are planning to make further improvements to the club over the course of this year. Additionally, we are hosting the Mobility Cup and, with that, are continuing to invest in the club's infrastructure to the benefit of all our boating communities. We will be providing more information about these improvements at the AGM where we look forward to seeing you.

Mark Eadson
President



This photo was not taken on a 2-for-1 Thursday night. If it had been we'd have never been able to see the beautiful place setting through all the people.

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3 Events For Only \$50!!!

You can enjoy 3 dinner/events at the club for one low price !!!

Superbowl Sunday Feb 6



Crew Night Saturday Feb 26



St.Patrick's Party Friday March 18



In order to receive the 3 for \$50 discount tickets must be purchased prior to the first event (individual events are \$20 each)

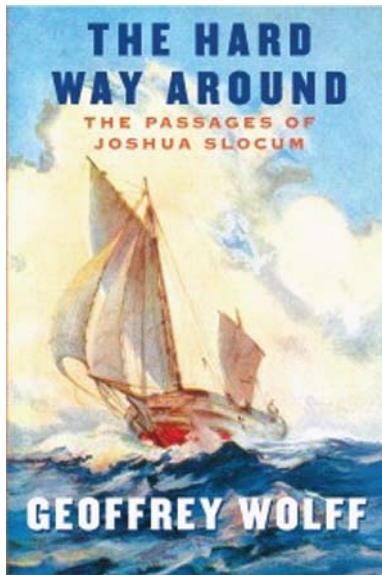
RHYC Race Officer recognized by CYA

The Candian Yachting Association has announced at the year end that CRO Shelley Vaughan has been officially recognized as a CYA certified National Race Officer effective January 1, 2011. This four year certification comes at the conclusion of several years of hard work, and dedication to learning the skills of race management, and providing good racing to the sailors or both RHYC, BS&BC and other clubs in southern Ontario. She has developed a superb team as head of the RHYC Race Committee.

With this recognition of race management skills Shelley joins the ranks of a group of dedicated volunteer sailors, intent upon maintaining the highest standards of professionalism in our chosen sport. CONGRATULATIONS SHELLEY! WELL DONE and WELL DESERVED.

Book Review

“The Hard Way Around”, by Geoffrey Wolff, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2010



There are many biographies about America's most famous sailor: Joshua Slocum. In fact, there are Slocum's own autobiographical books, culminating in his masterpiece, "Sailing Alone Around the World." So why this one? The answer is that Geoffrey Wolff has done an excellent job of revealing who this anachronistic, irascible curmudgeon really was; that is, what motivated him. Born on a farm in Nova Scotia, with grade three education, at sixteen he ran away to sea, never to be truly land based again. An exceptional navigator and master of ships, he spent a lifetime commanding his own trading and fishing vessels, with his wife and family at his side on every ocean of the world. Wolff explains that while he was an adventurer, his commanding presence could control a mutinous crew. His shipbuilding skills could put together a fine sailboat from the remains of a ship wreck. And his navigation could find any island, no matter how small or how many thousands of miles away. But why? It was a hard life with no material rewards, and a first wife, Virginia, whose death he was never able to get over. Was Slocum looking for something? What was he trying to tell the world in his books and lectures? Wolff suggests that something was lost as steam eclipsed the glory days of sail. Why else would Slocum, at 64, sail way from Martha's Vineyard on his next adventure aboard his fine ship Spray, never to be seen again?

Richard Herrington
RHYC Book Reviewer


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From The Office

The renovations are finished in the bar and coat room areas!

A big thank you to all those volunteers that came out in January to help sand, scrape, paint, hammer and clean the club, to make it look as great as it does. With the club looking as it does now, it makes it that much easier to show the club to perspective members!

With this first part of the renovation project complete, we are now looking at what we can do for the spring time. Christine Green will present a plan at the AGM outlining projects that are still on the list.

With the reopening of the club on January 20, the club introduced the new wine list. We have brought in a selection of whites and reds that hopefully please your palate. The list was well received and it is another new addition to the F&B operation this season.

The two for one Thursday night is going strong, with close to 70 people on the 20th coming out to enjoy the club. The response has been great for this weekly event and not only does it allow the members to enjoy the club at a reasonable cost, but brings with it a very positive spirit of what the club should be like all the time. It's great to see the club being used like this!

On another note, Amy Klokoft has re-joined us after coming off of maternity leave. She will head the Learn to sail adult component of the club and also work with the adopt a boat program. We are expecting a great sail training season ahead. Welcome back aboard Amy!

Looking forward to seeing everyone down at the club!

Ron Philp
General Manager



Is there a more inviting picture than this: an open space at the bar for lunch, dinner or a liquid libation.

RHYC WINE LIST

<u>Reds</u>	<u>Glass</u>	<u>½ Litre</u>	<u>Bottle</u>
Obikwa Cabernet Sauvignon, South Africa	5	17	26
Los Arboles Malbec, Argentina	5	17	26
Yellowtail Shiraz, Australia	6	18	28
Barefoot Merlot, California			26
Peller Estates Cabernet Franc, Niagara			30
Two Oceans Pinot Noir, South Africa			30
Cookoothama Shiraz, Australia			33
Masi Valpolicella, Italy			34
Wayne Gretzky Merlot, Canada			36
<u>Whites</u>	<u>Glass</u>	<u>½ Litre</u>	<u>Bottle</u>
Two Oceans Sauvignon Blanc, South Africa	5	17	26
Lindemans Bin 65 Chardonnay, Australia	5	17	26
Barefoot Pinot Grigio, California	5	17	26
Hardys Stamp Riesling Gewertztraminer, Australia			26
Beringer Pinot Grigio, California			26
Peller Estates Chardonnay, Niagara			27
Woodbridge Sauvignon Blanc by Robert Mondavi, California			30
Wayne Gretzky Chardonnay, Canada			33

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