



# NEW HORIZONS

THE ROYAL HAMILTON YACHT CLUB (ESTABLISHED 1888) INC.



May 2011

## Commodore's Report

What a miserable month we have had weather-wise as many of us struggle to get our boats ready for spring launch. Saying that, what a wonderful and busy time we have had at the RHYC last month!

Jane and I were the guests of Commodore Geoff Coombs and his wife Kim at BS&BC's Commodore's Ball. I was able to thank BS&BC for all their support on the Mobility Cup, and how much stronger our two clubs are by working together. We were able to return the favour by having Commodore Coombs and his wife attend our Ball the following week. What a wonderful event this was. The food, service and entertainment were absolutely first class, as we celebrated the "unofficial start" to our boating season. We were able to support our Olympic hopeful's "Team Gordon" with a fun silent auction before our diner. We also were able to make the announcement of our new club flag, the "Defaced Ensign". Please see Commodore Metcalfe's article further in this issue of Horizons. Special thanks to VC Shelly Bengier and her social Committee for putting this all together for us.

When you are next at the Club, you will start to see the changes made thanks to your support through the capital levy. All the new ceiling tiles are now in, the new ramp is installed at the front door and the decking along the east wall next to the inner basin is going in. Also the City finally agreed to do the much needed repairs to Cayuga dock. All of these repairs and changes were necessary and certainly help improve the image of our club.

I was also asked to sit on a committee with Vice President Christine Green and Laurel Thompson. We have been able to have the students of Mohawk College's Architecture department do some forward think about what our club could look like if only..... It may help future Boards think about greater improvements as we grow and move ahead. The service provided by the students is at no charge, and the College is very happy to have a project like this to work on.

George Tinsley has been working hard getting our club and interclub racing programs in place for this year. Registration nights have been held. Please, if you could not make it down to register for racing, contact George and make sure this is done before you actually head out on the race course.

Thanks to VCs Paul Vayda and Chris McCormack, we seem to be well ahead of last year in our organization for our sailing school and pool.

Our staff has all been hired, and our programs are filling up quickly.

Colin Jacobs with the help of Steve has the Commodore Harry Penny and most of our race committee boats either back in the water or almost ready to go. Thanks to Larry Scott for doing some much needed work on Mother Goose! *(continued on page 4)*



## Past Commodore's Report

After much hard work and dedication, the RHYC received the Letters Patent, symbolism and the digital copy of the coat of arms for the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club from The Canadian Heraldic Authority on April 4, 2011. This information is now part of the Public Register of Arms, Flags and Badges of Canada, Volume VI, page 23. Once they have been framed, these items will be on display at the Club. I would encourage you to take a look.

Taking immediate effect, a vessel owned by any member in good standing of RHYC is permitted to wear the Defaced Blue Ensign.

These may be obtained from the RHYC office.

It has been an interesting journey discovering and following the process of obtaining the Letters Patent. In fact, we have broken new ground.

I want to thank Gwen Myatt, Michael Cox and Bishop Spence, all part of the team that worked towards the successful conclusion of the project.

See you at the Club.

Rodger Metcalfe  
Past Commodore

## In this issue of New Horizons

Commodore's Report .....	Pages 1-2
Past Commodore's Report .....	Page 1
In Memory .....	Page 2
Shellbacks .....	Page 3
Dispatches From The Jury Boat .....	Page 4
Dispatches (cont.) .....	Page 6
From the Office .....	Page 8
Sport Tourism .....	Page 8



## In Memory of Ned Colquhoun

A Memorial and Celebration of Life  
Will be held at The Royal Hamilton Yacht Club  
Friday, April 29, 2011 @ 11am

Please bring your pictures and stories to share with family and friends as we join to remember our long time Friend, Father and Grandfather

COLQUHOUN, Edward Alexander Peacefully in his sleep on April 26, 2011, Ned Colquhoun, born Edward Alexander in 1918, sailed away. He will be sadly missed by his children Rod (Donna), Ian (Susie), Marg, Duncan (predeceased 2007) and Gord (Pam). His wife, Eileen predeceased him in 1994. His grandchildren Allan (Cachelle), Heather (Mark), Jon, Meghan (Jesse), Gavin, Dylan, Fiona, Fraser, Ronan, David, Viveca and Sven will mourn the loss of their Grandad. He was also blessed with one great-grandchild, Sophie. His extended family at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club, which provided many years of conversation and care, will remember him always with his brass-plated spot at the bar. A memorial service will be held at the Yacht Club on Friday at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Youth Sailing Program at the Yacht Club. Please bring your memories and pictures to share at the memorial service.

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

It was great to see so many of you at the Discovery Center to see what the City's latest plans were for our waterfront. It is vitally important that we get a long term lease so we are best able to continue for many more years.

For those who attended the fund raiser "Ports of Call" in Burlington last month, I think you will agree that this was a first class event. With the Mobility Cup happening in only four months, we still need financial and volunteer support. Please see Laurel Thompson, Colin Jacobs, or me if you can help.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Club!

Russ Perry  
Commodore

### *New Horizons*

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

The deadline for the June 2011  
New Horizons Issue is **May 15**.

Please submit articles to:  
info@sonyadelaatphotography.com.

For advertising and inquiries,  
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Editor: Sonya de Laat



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“Richard Herrington: Armchair Sailor” was a very apt title for his March 3rd Shellbacks presentation. Richard is a book-lover especially for those with an emphasis on nautical themes. Not only for this presentation, Richard also shares this keen literary interest monthly by providing book reviews in RHYC’s New Horizons newsletter. As a boy, Richard was fascinated by sailing and books about sailing and his passion has never waned. He simply loves being near water. An example he described was how much fun he had a long time ago just riding back and forth all day on the Toronto ferry.

Richard shared a lifetime of reading with us and introduced his audience to the best and most interesting seafaring books he had encountered along the way. With each book title he provided a thumbnail summary of its contents. The books’ subject matter covered a huge range of topics. Some re-enacted ancient mythical journeys, such as “Kon-Tiki” and “The Jason Voyage”. Many dealt with historical events including books like “John Paul Jones,” and “The Opium Clipper” to name a couple. Two controversial books by Menzies, “1421” and “1434”, postulated that a Chinese fleet circumnavigated the globe in 1431 and were already trading with Portugal in this era. His many Canadiana books included a very humorous one, “The Boat Who Wouldn’t Float”, along with tales of whiskey running, the 1917 Halifax explosion, the War of 1812 naval battles on Lakes Ontario and Erie, and numerous books retelling oceangoing adventures in small boats. Fascinating stuff!

Following Richard’s presentation, many enjoyed the chance to view the collection of books he brought along. This talk on his favourite topic was well-paced and informative; judging by the interest and attention shown by his audience, it appears that Richard’s enthusiasm is contagious.

Nepal, with its capital Khatmandu, was once considered to be an exotic and mysterious place. To many of us it still is. Henk’s presentation of his trip with Vikki to Nepal made the country less mysterious, but still very exotic.

Nepal’s topography ranges from desert to rain forest, from the tropical to the arctic. The north is dominated by the Himalayan range including the world famous Mount Everest. The primary religions are Hinduism and to a lesser extent Buddhism. Henk handed out some very interesting souvenirs for examination. These consisted of a prayer wheel, a meditation bowl, a miniature carved window frame, and replicas of Ganesha and Hanuman, some Hindu gods. Because Henk and Vikki’s trip coincided with a Hindu festival, they recorded many festive scenes of local people in brightly coloured clothing and marigolds in their hair celebrating in the streets of the town.

Their journey proceeded to Nepal’s mountain area. Here the villagers live in traditional, seemingly primitive conditions that Henk compared to 16th century European life. However, the villagers seemed to have all the necessities of life. They found the children delightfully unspoiled. One particular photograph showed Vikki distributing candies to a group of excited youngsters. Pictures of magnificent royal palaces and temples in Khatmandu were a striking change from the rural scenes they had just left. Henk concluded that Nepal is much more egalitarian and does not have such huge extremes of wealth or poverty as they saw in India.

Henk’s presentation proved to be a very enjoyable trip for the Shellbacks audience.

Coming Speakers –

- April 21 – Andrew Staples “How I Backpacked the Trans-Siberian Railway”
- May 5 – Dennis Toews “A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Olympics”
- May 19 – Richard Collins “Port Credit, over 175 years old”
- June 2 – Greg McDowell “Ontario Sailor Magazine”

Join us for lunch, you won’t be disappointed.

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## Dispatches from the Jury Boat

By Kathy and Leo

As the beginning of another sailing season draws near, we thought it was a good time to reflect on what it is that makes the sport of sailing so very unique. First and foremost, sailing is a self-policing sport, built on the principles of sportsmanship and fair play, as stated in the Basic Principle which is found near the front of the rule book just before the fundamental rules.

### Sportsmanship and the Rules

Competitors in the sport of sailing are governed by a body of *rules* that they are expected to follow and enforce. A fundamental principle of sportsmanship is that when competitors break a *rule* they will promptly take a penalty, which may be to retire.

That first sentence of the Basic Principle is a truly unique concept in sport – no referees needed on our playing field – the players are not only expected to follow the rules, they are also expected to enforce them! This suggests that in addition to having read the rules, sailors need to have at least a basic understanding of the rules and how they work in practice. One of the fundamental rules of sailing is rule 3 which says: “By participating in a race that is conducted under these racing rules, each competitor and boat owner agrees to be governed by the rules.” The other thing that many sailors forget is when they enter a race or a series and complete the entry form, the boat’s owner or owner’s representative must sign a statement to the effect “I agree to be bound by *The Racing Rules of Sailing* and by all other *rules* that govern this event.” Ignorance of the rules is

never an excuse for breaking the rules.

The second sentence of the Basic Principle is also very different to other sports. You should not wait to be told to take a penalty by an official or another sailor. If you break a rule, take a penalty and do it right away. It is the sportsmanlike thing to do. If you cause injury, serious damage or gain a significant advantage, then the appropriate penalty is to retire.

So, what is the first step in gaining a better understanding of the rules? If you don’t already have a rule book, get one. Rule books are for sale in the office for a very reasonable price. The current book is good for two more seasons. (The International Sailing Federation updates the rules every four years and the Canadian Yachting Association publishes a new rule book effective 1 January in the year following the Olympic Summer Games.)

The next step is to read the rules and now is an excellent time to begin as racing begins very soon. The rules are written in plain English and are really not too difficult to understand. The essential rules every sailor needs to know are the rules of Part 2 which govern boats when they are sailing near each other. These rules occupy seven pages in the rule book. Imagine that – a mere seven pages of the 180 pages in the book! Other noteworthy rules are found in Part 3 and govern the conduct of races. The rules of Part 3 occupy just another six pages. The Definitions and Race Signals are also very useful for sailors... these add up to six more pages, giving us a total of 19 pages worthy of study.

To help you get started, here is a reprint of Racing rules for kids and small boat tacticians, a light-hearted collection of very basic rules by Hugh Elliot, a US Sailing Certified Judge:

*(continued on page 6)*

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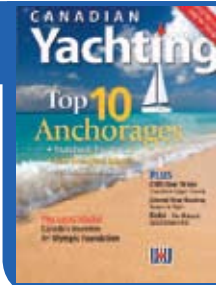
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## Dispatches from the Jury Boat *(continued from page 4)*

1. Don't hit other boats. Collisions are slow and arguments are slower.
2. Keep out of the way of boats in front of you.
3. Port tack boats usually have to stay out of the way of everyone else
4. Windward boats must stay away from leeward boats.
5. The inside boat gets to go round the mark first.
6. Don't hit marks. Doing circles is slow.
7. Don't hit the committee boat. First, it is a mark (see the Definitions and rule 31) and second, it really makes them mad.
8. Nothing good ever happens on a layline.
9. The port tack layline is a very ugly place.
10. Control your own destiny: stay out of the protest room.

Besides reading this column in Horizons, there are a number of excellent books that explain how the rules work in practice using diagrams and situations that arise on every race course. Next time you are in Toronto, drop by the Nautical Mind bookstore on Queen's Quay and pick out a book that suits you. You can also always ask one of us to explain any rules that you don't understand or how the rules apply to hypothetical situations. There is nothing a judge likes better than having a good rules chat or taking the opportunity to help another sailor better understand how the rules work.

Last, but certainly not least, we remind you that sailing is not a contact sport and that the rule about avoiding contact applies to all boats, all of the time. Over the years, there have been far too many incidents both here at RHYC and at other clubs around Lake Ontario that involved collisions with serious damage. Our sailing season is just too short for any boat to be out of commission because it is undergoing repairs that could have been avoided if sailors had simply followed the rules.



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**Sunday May 8, 2011**

10:00 am & 12:30 pm

Reservations can be made at  
[dining@rhyc.ca](mailto:dining@rhyc.ca)

Or call 905-528-8464 ext 228

Adults \$26.00 Kids under age 12 \$10.00  
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### Buffet Menu

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## From The Office

Work is well underway within the RHYC, not only to complete the items on the Capital Levy list, but to finish the long overdue items on the maintenance list as well.

With the Capital Levy list, the following items have been purchased and installed at the Club:

1. The defibrillator has been purchased and installed by the door to the patio;
2. The inner dock planking has been purchased and work will be completed within several weeks in this area;
3. The ceiling tiles have been installed in the Champions Room, as well as the Board Room;
4. The new access ramp has been installed by the entrance to the building. This allows for easier access to the building for those with disabilities;
5. New chairs and tables have been ordered for the Champions Room and will be delivered in June; and
6. The new lawn tractor has been purchased and is currently in use around the club.

Other notes of interest:

- The City has installed a new security access system for the Iroquois docks and the new security pass cards are at the office. A \$20 deposit applies to these.
- Work has started on Cayuga docks to see new decking installed. The City is overseeing the project and we will have a completion date very soon.
- The wireless internet system has been updated because of security concerns and a new password has been installed. Please see the bar staff for this new password the next time you are in the club.
- The new summer menu will be coming out the first of the month. You will see more summer items on this as well as new specials and a Sailors supper every Tuesday and Thursday evening during racing season. We hope you enjoy the changes. Kevin Cheeseman has come on board full time as Sous Chef and he and his evening team will be preparing all your favorites.
- The Commodore Penny is now floating and is sporting a new Bimini thanks to an anonymous donor. The race committee will find this very useful this summer. A big thank you to that member who paid to have the Bimini made and installed!
- The leak in the Ladies shower room has now been fixed. We are still working on several other small issues but are confident that everything will be done in May.
- We are working on a new outdoor bar for the patio. This should come together within the next several weeks and the official launch date will coincide with Rock the Hammer on June 25th
- We are working on the finishing touches with the cloak room with carpeting to be installed in the next week or so. It is a great addition as many members have taken advantage of being able to hang their coat in this room over the last few months!
- You will see many improvements in the swimming pool area this summer. Work will begin the first week of June to update the bathrooms and the pool house. Stay tuned!

We hope you enjoy the physical changes to the RHYC. The staff is working hard to improve the member experience at your club. We have had many positive comments from members and guests over the last several months concerning the renovations.

Have a great summer!

Ron Philp  
General Manager

## Sport Tourism doing right by harbour

*(From The Hamilton Spectator, Letter to the Editor)*

Re: Don't be hasty on tourism (Editorial, March 24)

I'd like to express support for Tourism Hamilton and especially the Sport Tourism people.

In 2002, The Royal Hamilton Yacht Club hosted an international sailing championship that brought 178 athletes from 28 countries to the city for 10 days. The amount of assistance from the economic development department at that time was negligible. In subsequent years, with the generous assistance of the Sport Tourism arm of Tourism Hamilton, RHYC has hosted another world championship, four national sailing championships, and annually, four provincial regattas for youth sailors.

The small amount of financial support has been welcome, but help from Sport Tourism staff in sourcing hotel accommodation, providing visitor information packages and, on occasion, personnel support has been invaluable to the all-volunteer organizing committees.

We are currently preparing for the Rotary Mobility Cup in August, which is Canada's largest regatta for sailors with physical disabilities. Sport Tourism's assistance in sourcing what limited accessible hotel accommodation there is in the city has been of immense value to the organizers.

With Tourism Hamilton's help, our harbour has become an important destination for sailors from around Lake Ontario, with more than 300 boats cruising into the clubs and marinas each year for a minimum of one night's stay.

- Colin Jacobs, Hamilton, Member,  
RHYC

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## May 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 VHF Course 9-4:30	2 Club Closed	3	4	5	6 Ontario Sailing Clinic 6-9pm	7 Club Closed @ 4pm  Ontario Sailing Clinic 9am-9pm
8 Mothers Day Brunch  Ontario Sailing Clinic 9am-9pm	9 Club Closed	10	11	12	13 Ontario Sailing Clinic 6-9pm	14 Fun in the Sun Pool Fundraiser  Ontario Sailing Clinic 9am-9pm
15 Ontario Sailing Clinic 9am-9pm	16 Club Closed	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 CLUB OPEN	24	25	26	27	28 Lilac Regatta
29 Lilac Regatta	30	31	The Royal Hamilton Yacht Club			

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If you are thinning out perennials this spring, bring them down to the Club! The RHYC garden has room for them. Contact Kathy Haggan 905.777.8644 or neilk2@cogeco.ca.



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mothers Day Brunch**  
Sunday, May 8th, 2011

**Fun in the Sun Pool Fundraiser**  
Saturday, May 14th, 2011

**RHYC Sailpast**  
Saturday, June 4th, 2011