

Flotilla

January 2008

News and views from the Outer Harbour Centreboard Club (www.sailohcc.ca)

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Thanks for the contributions in this issue:
Bernie Bieber,
Peter Brayshaw,
Jurgen Braunohler,
and Ralph Drake.

Deadline for the next issue:
Thursday, 13 March.

The address is at the top of this page and the entire editorial staff would be quite grateful to hear from you on time or even a few days before.

If you send an e-mail to writeme@kenelliott.ca back it up with a phone call: (416) 363-2974

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Property (Boats)	Rick Needham		(416) 365-7360
Yardmaster	John Kiwi Reynolds		(416) 766-9987

Commodore's Comments

I HOPE that everyone had a happy Christmas and a great holiday season. Once again we had a fine year of sailing; and with our membership reaching full capacity. I would like to thank everyone who contributed their time and efforts to our club's successful program for 2007.

Member participation last season was greater than any other year I can recall.

The Docks-Out event last October was well attended, and the work was completed expeditiously. Our clubhouse is now boarded up and all equipment is stored and winterized.

After Docks-Out, we held the OHCC Annual General Meeting and the election of the 2008 Executive. That team will remain the same but with the exceptions of Secretary, Yardmaster and Marine Manager. Alan Hall was elected Secretary and Rick Needham was elected Marine Manager. John Reynolds has agreed to accept Yardmaster responsibilities until a replacement is found. All other OHCC officers volunteered to continue on the Board of Directors and were elected for this coming year. I would personally like to thank Frank Whittington (Past Yardmaster), Scott Eckert (Past Secretary) and David Droeske (Past Marine Manager) for their contributions to our club.

The 35th OHCC Annual Dinner Dance was held at Ashbridges Bay Yacht Club for the conclusion of the 2007 season. Bernie Bieber (Rear Commodore) did an excellent job in

presenting the awards. I would also like to thank Kiwi for assisting with ticket sales, and Bob Fahy for selecting our entertainment. I would like to welcome all the new members and associate members who joined our club last year; and we hope that you will always feel at home at the OHCC and that you enjoy the time spent with us.

Next year we will offer a full kids' and youth learn-to-sail program, working in conjunction with the Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club. We will be able to provide learn-to-sail programs all summer for kids and youth from seven years to 17 years of age. These camps will range from: Learn-to-Sail, White Sail and right up to Gold Sail. Contact John Martin 1 519 822-1955 for further details.

Our Executive has already started planning for the coming season. Our sailing programs and facility improvements can be accomplished only with the help from our many volunteers. Please give some thought on where your interests and skills might contribute towards maintaining and improving the club's events and facilities.

Ralph Drake, Commodore

Just after the club closed down last year, a beaver (or two) had a good chew on one of the large cottonwood poplars near the water, and very near girdled the bark! It's curious that the more vulnerable crack willows weren't chosen. Anyway, all trees at the front have since been protected with chicken wire or plastic. It looks tacky, and will probably have to stay there indefinitely. Those critters are always busy.



Rear Commodore

AHOY fellow sailors! All the best to you and your families in the year 2008. May it be filled with strong winds, warm waters and a lot of enjoyable time on the lake.

Attached are the race results from 2007, in a nutshell. Detailed results were displayed at the Commodore's Ball. Unfortunately many winners didn't show up to claim their awards. I will try

my best to prevent the wine from "evaporating" and will give it to you at the first chance I get.

Now is your chance to make suggestions on how to improve the race-rating system. Don't hesitate to send me an e-mail with your ideas. No more changes will be considered one month before the first race. In the meantime, make the best out of winter. **b_bieber@canada.com**

2007 Race Results (in brief)

	505	Pos.	Albacore	Pos.	Contender	Pos.	Misc	Pos.	CL16/Wayfarer	Pos.
Spring	Mike Agrell	1	Dave Harris	1	Frank Whittington	1	Jim Erven	1	Doug Gordon	1
	Angus Ross	2	George Roth	2	Rick Needham	2	Bob Fahy	2	Peter Suchanek	2
	Alistair Martin	3	Theresa Maiolla	3	Bernie Bieber	3	Alan Potts	3	Alan Simpkins	3
Fall	Mike Agrell	1	Ken and Doris	1	Frank Whittington	1	Jim Erven	1	Peter Suchanek	1
	Angus Ross	2	Dave Harris	2	Bernie Bieber	2	Bob Fahy	2	Doug Gordon	2
	Alistair Martin	3	John Martin	3	John Reynolds	3	Rudi Monteforte	3	Alan Simpkins	3
Bell Buoy Tuneup	Ken and Doris	1			Club		AL 6660	1		
	Martin	2			Championship		AL 6841	2		
	Frank	3					505 8467	3		

Regional Training Centres



ONTARIO Sailing announced last fall that they would set up Training Centres across Ontario.

In the past, Ontario Sailing has employed one or two coaches to deliver coaching services to our Ontario Sailing Team (OST) and Ontario Sailing Development Team (OSDT). The coaches have done an admirable job of trying to service the team members but have found it difficult to serve the needs of many other athletes and multiple boats across Ontario.

The Regional Training Centres would be located at many of member clubs across Ontario and would be designated as either a "High Performance Centre" where our OST sailors and others training at that centre would train from, or a Development Centre where our OSDT sailors and others training at that centre would train. Ontario Sailing will support the centres with

funding towards coaching support.

Ontario Sailing will employ the services of a team manager and build a working relationship with CYA and other high-quality boat specific and professional coaches to help complement the coaching team at each centre. Training Camps will be hosted at the centres where other team members from the same level of centres would come and train together while working with the coaches from other centers and those brought in by Ontario Sailing for that particular camp.

Any club that is in good standing with Ontario Sailing and CYA would be considered as a site for a training centre. These will require a considerable commitment on the part of the clubs, coaches, athletes and Ontario Sailing in order to function.

For further information: Glenn Lethbridge, Executive Director Ontario Sailing at: 1-888-672-7245 ext. 224 or execdir@ontariosailing.ca

Vice Commodore's report

AT THE time of my last report, which was written after the visit of the C.E.O of **Waterfront Toronto (WT)** and his remarks to that Board the following day, it appeared that there was rationale for some optimism: the next set of plans for the Lake Ontario Park would show us and our neighbours retaining our existing waterfront. Alas, this has not proved to be true. At the Stakeholders meeting held on 5 December, **WT** produced revised plans showing a thirty-metre "hard surface, multi-use trail" between our premises and the waterfront, with our location presumably being moved thirty metres north. There are hard, fixed docks and a boathouse shown south of the multi-use trail. In addition, the WaterRats have lost their entire location! They are shown to be removed to the Hanlon's site, and in turn Hanlon's Rowing Club is to be re-located to the Marina area. A further meeting is to take place this January, when *again* our representatives will go forth to battle.

The Master Plan of Lake Ontario Park is now scheduled to be finalized and approved by the **WT** Board in spring of 2008. After that the design, development, construction, documentation and environmental assessments will be completed, with actual construction scheduled to start in 2011 and to be finished the following year.

In previous reports we have stressed the need for individual members, especially the Toronto residents, to make their objections known to their local councillors etc, because many other citizen groups are very vocal and sometimes successful in getting their needs attended to. For instance, the so-called "temporary" soccer playing fields to the west of Regatta Road are now classified as permanent, and we understand that a First Nations Group has produced plans for a thirty-

acre Heritage Park to be located within the Lake Ontario Park. Certain of these groups are very vocal in declaring: "The waterfront must be open to all" without considering safety etc. All our members should therefore keep pressing on with any political pressure they can muster over retaining our club's sole access to the waterfront.

In the meantime, I must offer a great vote of thanks to Lee Smolin, who is our chief negotiator, and to our Commodore, Ralph Drake, for the countless hours they have devoted to our club's future. They have ensured that at least we will have some type of location within the new Lake Ontario Park.

Wishing you great sailing in the coming year.

Peter Brayshaw

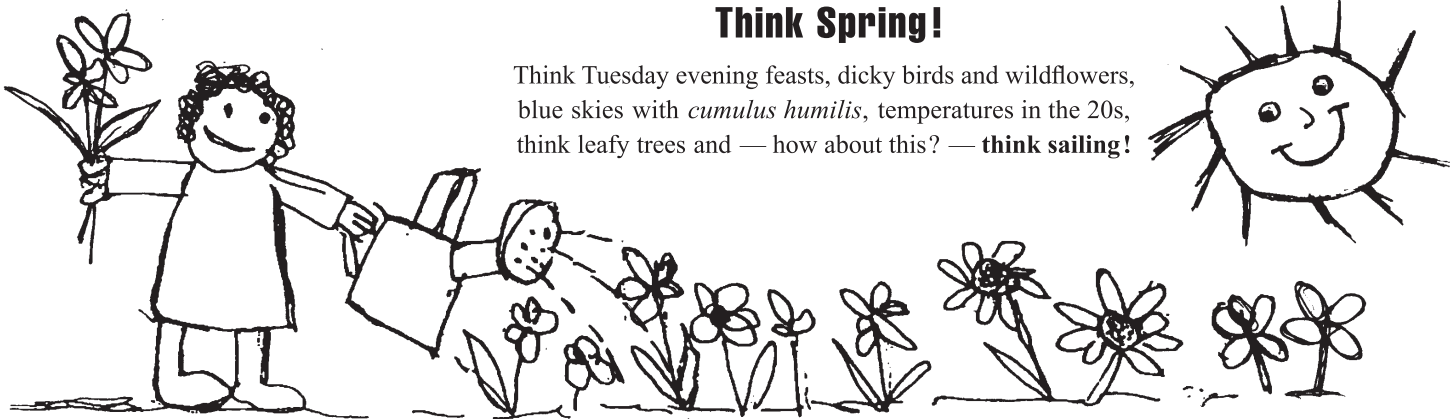
More from Rear Commodore

Try <http://www.sailinganarchy.com/forums>: "*Contenders* are the most dominant fleet in Toronto – I dare *anyone* to challenge us! Most of us train part-time in Mixed Martial Arts and we never wash. So be scared! Signed, **Neil Smith**."

Ahem. As President of the Canadian *Contender* Association, I would like to set the record straight — it's only I, Neil, who does not shower, and that's how I win: anyone who gets too close passes out from the stench! The rest of us smell like roses. And, as an occasional *Albacore* crew, I should note that the *Albatunas* are the dominant Toronto fleet. Every Friday night from May to September there are thirty to fifty boats out racing; and that's in addition to regattas and the Harbour Masters, almost every weekend from June to September, which attract similar numbers."

Think Spring!

Think Tuesday evening feasts, dicky birds and wildflowers, blue skies with *cumulus humilis*, temperatures in the 20s, think leafy trees and — how about this? — **think sailing!**



Camp Dare Whaler

By Jurgen Braunohler

The D.A.R.E. Program

This was an Ontario Provincial Government project to rehabilitate young people who had been in trouble with the law. It's title was: Development through Advantage, Responsibility and Education.

I SNAPPED a safety line on (as I was seventy feet above the ground), before tackling the Aerial-Obstacle Course in the trees around Camp Dare. It was my first day on the job as instructor. I grabbed the quivering cable and contemplated my situation.

My previous experience aboard the tall ship *Pathfinder* had suggested that I would be a good teacher for Camp Dare's Boston Whaler.

In that summer of 1977, and at the age of 20, the defining entry into my adulthood was at hand. That day, I had already taught a wild sailing lesson, and was now demonstrating how to crawl along a rope to the next tree.

The boat in question was a twenty-seven-foot fibreglass, yawl-rigged Navy Whaler named the *Boomerang*. Close-hauled in a breeze, I had helmed her for the first time as we made for Georgian Bay's Bustard Islands after motoring down the Key River from highway 69. The first crew consisted of a group of women inmates from Vanier Prison. The boat was not quite the usual cruising vessel, lacking a cabin of any kind. Instead, two wooden chests called *wannigans* held all food and galley gear. A tent could be rigged aboard but we usually camped ashore. Meals and navigation took place in the open, exposed to wind and spray. There were eleven of us aboard for five days.

Later that night on the Bustards, a roaring fire burned under the blazing stars. Camp chores were combined with sailing life. The boat had been unloaded, tents pitched and dinner cooked. *Boomerang* had been warped to the middle of a

cove and moored there. The skipper and I shared a tent. From that point on, the usual camaraderie of a wilderness trip brought us closer together — including the occasional spark of humour like the three women who got spooked by a dark shape they thought was breathing, but which turned out to be a rock. It was an innocuous start to a wild year.

Facing light winds and rain along the north shore of Georgian Bay, we shipped oars and pulled our way up the Bad River Channel. The skipper related having once seen there a waterspout that had destroyed a cottage. On our return to the Bustards the wind picked up and we scudded along under full sail: jib, lug-rigged main and mizzen. After a foggy lay-over day and an encounter with a rattlesnake, we continued south to Byng Inlet on a compass course offshore between reefs. The massive rocks loomed on either side just below the surface of that wide blue expanse.

Having returned to the Bustards again through the 30,000 Islands, we had deteriorating weather. Morning found us facing more than one dilemma: rain, and a wet and chilled crew (two of whom were found struggling under their collapsed tent). There were strong winds and roaring surf. We were also due to get back to base. My responsibilities mounted in dealing with the crew's problems and finding a safe anchorage in the event of the threatening storm, while skipper dealt with the boat and the decision to sail. Then, on a moment's notice, the whaler was loaded and was making way under power, with jib and mizzen set for stability. The storm broke as soon as we reached the shelter of the Key River.

The next crew was a group of reformatory boys. We were to make a passage to Killarney. After enduring a wild ride in heavy seas enroute to the Bustards, we tacked our way seaward as strong gusts ripped across the water. The big mainsail proved a handful and was managed like a jib. Yet my testing had only just begun.

I was promoted to skipper and *Boomerang* was mine. So, with another crew of prison inmates, men this time, I was once more tacking to sea in mid September. Bigger things awaited me on the stormy autumn waters and the winter woods. And a second summer on the wind-blashed bay became for me a rite of passage to manhood. ♻️

Open boat voyaging has been part of Sea Scouting for 100 years and is continued by youth with Outward Bound, Atlantic Challenge (in Penetang, Ont.) and the Nova Scotia Sea School.



Drawing: Jurgen Braunohler