



Flotilla

January 2011

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

Executive	1
Commodore	1
Youth Sailing	2
Vice Commodore	4
Rear Commodore	4
The <i>Oriole</i>	5
Ride to Conquer.....	6

Thanks for the contributions in this issue: John Bachman, Bernie Bieber, Peter Brayshaw, Jurgen Braunohler, Ralph Drake, Alan Hall and Jason Roth

Deadline for the next issue:

Wednesday, 15 March.

The address is at the top of this page, and for heaven's sake, get your stuff in on time — or before!

If you send an e-mail story to

writeme@kenelliott.ca

please back it up with a call to:

(416) 363-2974

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Commodore's Comments

I HOPE that everyone had a good Christmas and holiday season. I would like to thank everyone who contributed their time and efforts to our club's successful program for 2010.

The floating docks were removed in late fall and are now stored on dry land until next season. The significant turnout by our members ensured that the yard was reconfigured for the winter. The OHCC Annual General Meeting was held after Docks-Out to inform our members of various matters, membership, finances etc., and to elect the OHCC 2011 Executive. And that same team was re-elected — unanimously.

Our clubhouse is now boarded up and all equipment is stored and winterized.

The 38th OHCC Annual Dinner Dance was held at The National Yacht Club last November. Bernie Bieber (Rear Commodore) once again did an excellent job presenting the yearly awards. John Reynolds helped with the event.

We will continue to offer a full kids' and youth learn to sail program, working in conjunction with Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club. OHCC and The Navy League of Canada had some great events this year and are working very closely to provide expanded instruction and on-water programs for this coming season. We will be able to provide learn-to-sail programs all summer long for kids and youth from seven

to 17 years of age. The Kids/Youth camps will range from Learn-to-Sail, White Sail and up to Gold Sail. Contact Alan Hall (416) 571-9105 for further details.

OHCC and the Outer Harbour North Shore Club's continue to provide water programs that serve the community. Please read Alan Hall's article in this issue of *Flotilla*, page 2 and following. It outlines the various programs provided by the North Shore Clubs.

Our Executive met on December 6th, 2010, to start planning the 2011 season. Through the winter the executive will determine what improvements are necessary to maintain the high standard of our clubs grounds, facility and programs. Our club's programs and infrastructure maintenance can be achieved only through volunteer commitment by all of our members.

I look forward to another year of good sailing.

Ralph Drake, Commodore



Engraving: Thomas Bewick



Outer Harbour Water Sports and OHCC's Youth Sailing Program

By Alan Hall; excerpts from Federation Clubs

IN 2010, our club supported the Federation's first ever Water Sports Initiative, and it has expanded its own Youth Sailing Program. Here is an overview of what is being accomplished, what is being planned and where all this may go.

Community based water sports initiatives on the North Shore have been driven by individual club initiatives. Before updating you on OHCC's Youth Sailing Program for 2011, I want to stress the support OHCC has provided the Federation Water Sports Program and highlight the efforts of our partner clubs on the North Shore to work with Community based groups and provide programs for inner city youth.

In 2010, OHCC provided financial support to the Federation's first ever Water Sports initiative to ensure that inner city kids had an opportunity to participate in structured sailing and rowing programs. Judging by their comments, it was well received: "I love capsizing," "I love the teamwork," "I love everything about sailing," "I love being on the water" are just a few comments from keen participants in the summer camp for disadvantaged teenagers. The conclusion: the Federation ran a successful pilot **summer rowing and sailing camp for inner city youth**.

The pilot program consisted of four one-week camps: A "Learn-to-Row" camp in July and three "Learn-to-Sail" camps in August.

First off the mark was **Hanlan Rowing Club** with ten participants – all high energy, all with a great sense of humour and all with a real interest in tackling and mastering the basics of sweep rowing. Rowing is a particularly tricky sport ; not only do you have to learn the technique but you have to execute that technique in perfect sync with the other rowers in a boat ... very tough for beginners. But not for this group ! By the end of the week, they were rowing beautifully as an eight, a few had conquered the basics of sculling, and everyone rowed to the Eastern Gap to see the city skyline. Take ten great kids, add some enthusiastic instructors, Lake Ontario, picnics, watermelon and Tim Tams and ... you can't help but have a great week !

Each week of sailing had eight participants, who quickly bonded with each other and the instructor, Tom Udale-Clough. They sailed (sometimes in quite challenging conditions), capsized, went swimming, ate lots of hamburgers and when the winds got too strong, learned knots and played card games. Much fun was had by all and many were impressed by how much they had learned. All the participants got a certificate for completing the first level of sailing competency (White Sail I) and some achieved a higher level.

This pilot program was made possible by the support of the **Outer Harbour Sailing**

Federation and the involvement of many volunteers in planning the program, instructing, and assisting on shore including providing surprising amounts of food, financial contributions, use of the **Toronto Multi-Hull Cruising Club's** clubhouse, and the use of boats and equipment. Next year it is hoped that the program will run again on a larger scale, building on what was earned from this successful pilot project.

Community Initiatives

Moordale Sailing Club also provided a program for kids participating in a Community based program. For two years on a row campers from Centre 55 had the opportunity to have a sailing experience in the Outer Harbour. This year Mooredale sponsored two days of sailing experience for summer campers from Centre 55, which is the Beaches Community Centre, located at 97 Main Street. Nineteen campers came to Mooredale on July 12th when Instructor Joshua Chiddy gave them a primer lesson on sailing and rigging Albacores. With the help of a dozen club member volunteers, the campers, aged 14 and 15, rigged up nine boats and headed out into the Outer Harbour with a coach, where each camper had an opportunity to helm and crew an Albacore. Josh kept an eye on things from the club crash boat. While the winds died to very light, the kids enjoyed the experience and learned a little in how to sail and maneuver the boats, and getting themselves into and out of the water fights that cooled everyone down. They very much enjoyed the day, and apparently it is one of the highlights of their summer camp experience. A second event for another 20 campers was held August 9th.

The Windsurfing Club operated three youth windsurfing camps, teaching kids the basic windsurfing skills. Three week long day camps for children 12 years and older took place on July 26, Aug 16 and Aug 30. Their CYA certified staff taught children windsurfing skills in a fun and safe atmosphere for learning. TWC uses a four-lesson approach to teach the basic windsurfing skills to newcomers. The four-part lesson was developed by Bill Quantock in 2005. Bill is an avid windsurfer, enthusiastic CYA Instructor and educator. The lessons (max 12 students per session) follow the CYA windsurf instruction guidelines. Students are windsurfing on their first day of lessons, and they learn many important safety guidelines and skills that enhance their windsurfing experience.

Outer Harbour Centre Board Club expanded its **Youth Sailing Program** in 2010 in a combined effort supported financially by sponsors Hub International Limited and individual donations from club members and Navy personnel to make it possible for **Navy League Cadets** to take

White Sail lessons at Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club. The program, which included a day of introductory sailing hosted by OHCC members for Navy League Cadets, their families and officers, was deemed a success. Through discussions with Lt Commander Russ Arnold, **Navy League Cadet Corps Enterprise 29** and representatives from **Young Station**, a newly formed charity, our club Executive is planning an expanded Youth Sailing Program for 2011. It is hoped that with your endorsement, fund raising and the continued support of our sponsors, this program will serve an additional 80 navy league cadets in 2011.

OHCC/TSCC 2011 Youth Sailing Programs

Teaching a life-long love of sailing

At **Outer Harbour Centreboard Club/Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club** we offer Toronto's best Learn-to-Sail programs for youth ages seven to 17, Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, starting June 27 to August 26. Parents can take advantage of an Early Drop Off program starting at 8:00am and Late Pick Up until 5:30pm and optional Daily Lunch program. Club membership is not required to enroll in our programs.

The whole family can learn to sail

Outer Harbour Centreboard Club / Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club are able to help the whole family learn to sail in a friendly family-oriented atmosphere.

The **Optimist Racing** program is designed for youth from 10 to 15 years old who have achieved Optimist Skills III or White Sail III level. The Bronze Sail programs are designed for youth from ten to 17 years old who have completed their White Sail III level. Students learn advanced sailing skills and an introduction to racing in TSCC's fleet of 420's. **The Silver Sail VI** and **Gold Sail VII** are eight-week programs designed for youth 15 to 18 years old. Students compete in multiple regattas during the summer. Racing rules and advanced tactics are taught.

OHCC is pleased to offer this program to develop the potential of young sailors who get access to an excellent youth sail program in a "Development Centre" supported by the **Ontario Sailing Association**. Go to our website www.sailohcc.ca to download the registration forms and additional information, or contact Alan Hall at alan.hall@sympatico.ca.

Bikes wanted . . .

. . . for OHSF Youth Water Sports Program next summer. Further to my article above, if you have a used bike in reasonable condition but no longer needed, and one that would be suitable for youth aged 13 to 16, the St. Lawrence Recreation Centre would love to have it. They will do minor repairs if required, and then make the bikes available to the youngsters coming to the sailing and

rowing courses that the Outer Harbour Sailing Federation intends to hold this coming summer.

Last year, the Recreation Centre organized a well-supervised biking group for youngsters to get down to the Outer Harbour. That worked very well for the pilot program, but this time, many more bikes are needed.

Please contact Mary Neumann at 416-968-1696 or mneumann@rogers.com if you have a bike that you would like to donate. **Alan Hall**



Staff photo

If you think this looks miserable, you should see it in colour!

Vice Commodore's Report

Neighbours: At the meeting of the Portland's Action Committee, we were provided with a presentation by the City on the Tree Farm which is being constructed on a site just to the north west of the club, and bounded by Unwin, Regatta Road and the Goodman Trail. The existing contaminated soil has been capped with two feet of clay, and a number of roads constructed to provide easy access to a series of nursery beds, woodchip/mulch and log pile areas. The existing screen of trees on the boundary with Unwin will be retained.

The trees on Regatta Road adjacent to the Soccer fields will also be retained and in addition behind the trees a berm will be built and stocked with Spruce and White Pine trees. To the north of the Goodman Trail, the existing substantial trees will be retained and a berm built, stocked with a screen of Sugar Maple, Red and White Oak, plus Basswood and Hackberry. The really interesting point is that the nursery beds will be irrigated by City drinking-quality water, from the pipeline on Unwin. When the City representative was asked if the sailing clubs could tap into this water system, it was indicated that this may be possible and details of water usage by the clubs would be required to assess the impact on the irrigation system. The City representative was also questioned on the Lake Ontario Park (LOP) plan, for the Tree Farm is situated on the site of the proposed Dunes, with the Goodman Trail relocated up the centre of the dunes/tree farm, but the representative appeared unaware of the details of the plan.

Some time ago, our good friend (to the clubs), Councillor Fletcher, indicated the LOP Plan was dead with the possible exception of the relocation of the Water Rats and of opening up the Spit to the public. The development/expense of the Tree Farm confirms this, with the advantage that the apparent care being taken with the screens, berms

and tree-planting should provide a pleasing background to the car park on Regatta Road, plus the possibility of getting city drinking water. The disadvantage is that the possibility of OHCC or any of the adjacent clubs obtaining a 10% increase in land space on relocation of the Goodman Trail to the centre of the dunes now appears dead.

At the meeting of the Council of Commodores earlier this month, we were provided with details of the 12 Yacht Clubs that are appealing the municipal tax assessments which are averaging a 600% increase in taxes. The process will take at least two years to resolve, and we were thankful that, since our increase was negotiated down to 50%, we were not part of the process.

However, some useful information was provided by Bronte Harbour yacht Club, that was recently involved in renewal lease negotiations with the Town of Oakville and had also been hit with a large tax assessment increase. By substituting a Licence (a civil contract) rather than renewing the lease, the municipality is not required to charge municipal taxes and in fact the contract/licence for 50 years at \$27,000 per year, plus cost of living increases, will not require payment of municipal taxes for that club. The negotiations that the Outer Harbour Sailing Federation (our landlord) is conducting with the City of Toronto could well turn out again to be a licence, rather than a lease. However, these negotiations are still at a standstill, though we are informed that the City is consulting with Waterfront Toronto on the actual terms of the new lease or licence.

At the above meeting, R.C.Y.C who will be organizing the sailing events at Toronto's Pan American Games, indicated that the co-operation of other clubs will be required. More plans will be available December 2011 but it is anticipated that any Legacy Buildings will be built on Port Authority Land (Eastern Gap/Cherry Beach?).

Well I could go on and on, but I sign off by wishing you all good, safe sailing in the coming season. Roll on spring!

Peter Brayshaw, Rear Commodore

Rear Commodore

AHOY fellow sailors! A beautiful fall topped a great summer and ended a magnificent sailing season last year. As I processed the race results for that year, I became aware of a personal touch each individual race-committee brought to paper: regrettably, I was not able to use some of the result-sheets due to the fact that some essential information was missing. For the coming 2011 season, I will try to design a results-sheet which requires *all* the necessary information more clearly — and I have no doubt that each race committee will fill it out completely.

On the other hand, the race committee needs important information from all of *you* as well.

If a racer does not sign out properly, the race committee has only the sail number to record.

As we know, some sailors are changing sail numbers during the season, or taking other dinghies' sails for a trial, or they are even using old sails to race. Without a proper sign-out (full name, boat class and sail number) you are taking the risk of not getting ranked.

Please make this an important item in your New Year's Resolutions: to sign out correctly, prior to each and every race.

I wish you all the best for this coming season.

Bernie Bieber, Rear Commodore

Remembering the *Oriole*

By Jurgen Braunohler

"SHIP'S Company, attention!" There is a mass stomp of boots, followed by a complete silence. Nearly a hundred sailors stand ramrod straight on the floor below the balcony at Toronto's HMCS *York*. Joe Quinn has brought his nephew, Kevin, here to sign him up in the Canadian Navy, and they witness Divisions. Watching young Kevin is a trip back in time. Long before commanding his own training schooner, the *Sea Venture* for youths, Joe too had signed up here as a Naval Reservist. That was 30 years ago and had led to a grand adventure on another sail training vessel. Her name was HMCS *Oriole*.

Joe finds much to reflect on: the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Navy, for one thing. How it began with two ships in 1910 and became the third largest navy during World War Two. There is also the matter of his naval career path, which took him from boot camp to various coastal defence vessels. By his third summer he found himself as a trainee aboard the *Oriole*, a 102-foot Canadian Forces yacht based at Esquimalt, British Columbia. He also thinks about the university business degree he got while in the navy, as well as the tall ship career he pursued on leaving the service. Mainly he thinks about the *Oriole*.

The story of the *Oriole* yachts goes back to 1871, and the Gooderhams of Toronto, owners of the famous distillery and preeminent yachting family. Ownership of that first boat was followed by *Orioles* II and III, which were all gaff-rigged schooners. But the steel hulled *Oriole* IV was

a Bermuda rigged ketch, and her construction was begun in Toronto. Due to shipyard labour troubles, however, she was finished in Massachusetts instead. In 1921, she was sailed home to the Great Lakes. After many years of pleasure sailing and racing, even hosting royalty and used by the Sea Cadets, *Oriole* IV was commissioned into the Canadian Navy in 1952.

Three decades after that commissioning, young Joe Quinn found himself aboard the yacht, on a practice run seventy miles down the Juan de Fuca Strait to the lightship, the mark of the annual Swiftsure Yacht Race. Her 21-man crew included members from all branches of the armed forces, as well as the odd cadet that included an at-risk youth or two, an influence on Joe's later work with the *Sea Venture*. In that year's race she screamed home at 15 knots under spinnaker, genoa and even a mizzen staysail. Joe's cruise was about to get exciting too.

The passage out had been hampered by fickle winds. For a heavy boat like *Oriole*, the hardest part was getting out of the Strait. But the wind quickly piped up coming home. Suddenly, a sloppy hoist and a roll to windward wrapped the monstrous spinnaker into an hourglass shape. The wind chose that moment to whip the sea into seething whitecaps. Worse, the sail had fouled the headstay, preventing normal lowering. As the helmsman was ordered to bear off and the cox'n ran forward, Joe was already at the end of the bowsprit. When others joined him, they hauled down the spinnaker and untwisted it.

Working on the end of a bowsprit that's shaking from thrashing canvas, and getting soaked as the great hull smashes through the seas, takes courage and presence of mind. The very stuff that navy training seeks to bring out. Joe Quinn had shown the initiative and instincts that would make him the legendary skipper of the *Sea Venture* one day.

Now, 28 years later, he stands inside HMCS *York* and watches his nephew Kevin. Not close enough to intervene quickly, Joe suddenly realizes the lad didn't know when to stand for the flag and the boy gets a reminder, passed down the chain of command at that. Joe smiles proudly when his nephew responds with alacrity as he suddenly gets his wits about him and the National Flag is broken out. He's a sailor in the making alright.

Joe Quinn is a fictional character from a novel the author is writing. For youth interested in naval service, contact the Recruiting Officer of HMCS York at 416-635-4400 ext. 6310 or try Google at jobs_york@forces.gc.ca

Jurgen Braunohler.

Illustration: Jurgen Braunohler



Riding Somewhere Important

By Jason Roth



ALL of us have been touched by cancer in one way or another — if not personally, then without a doubt, one of our close friends or family members has been faced with a cancer diagnosis. In fact, 40% of Canadians will be diagnosed with some form of cancer in their lifetime. I hope that you will help me in my quest to raise funds for research to find a cure.

For me, this started with a decision to get back in shape in the early spring of 2008. I figured that I would use the *Ride to Conquer Cancer* as a means to an end — a way to force myself to get back on my bike and work hard enough to lose a little weight and improve my fitness level. Unfortunately, some bad bike set-up and an aggressive training plan led to bursitis in my right knee. I did manage to complete the ride in 2008, but did so with a great deal of discomfort.

Despite the pain, I found that the ride wasn't just a training goal — it was like an epiphany. For the first time in my life I was taking a really active role in helping find a cure for cancer. We were about 2,500 riders that year, and raised over \$14,000,000 in one incredible, life-changing weekend.

That summer got biking back in my blood, and I spent the next year doing a lot more riding. I joined the local cycling club, and seriously increased the amount of time and distance I could ride. I lost over thirty pounds and am now in the best physical shape since university. More importantly, I rode the *Ride to Conquer Cancer* again, joining nearly 3000 other cyclists in raising more than \$14,500,000.

In June 2010, I rode in the 3rd annual Ontario

Ride to Conquer Cancer, joining 4,100 others to raise over \$16.4 million for the Princess Margaret Hospital.

And now — now I'm doing it all again. It's no longer "an epic ride", it's not even a physical challenge for me any more. It's not about me at all. It's all about the fight to conquer cancer.

In fact, not only have I already registered for this year's Ontario Ride, but I plan on taking part in the *Alberta Ride to Conquer Cancer* as well — twice the distance, twice the fun!

Help me help the incredible people at the Princess Margaret Hospital. Be a part of the cure yourself by sponsoring me, so go to:

www.conquercancer.ca/goto/jasonroth and click "Donate Online Now."

Better yet — get off YOUR couch, and join my team; become an active participant in one of the most amazing weekends you will ever have.

My thanks to you in advance for your help.

Jason



Photo: John Bachman