



Flotilla

July 2014

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

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Thanks for the contributions in this issue: Jurgen Braunohler, Ralph Drake, Alan Hall, and Jennifer Zelmer.

Deadline for the next issue: **Wednesday, 17th September.**
 Postal address is at the top of this page, and please get your story in here on time. By email, send to write@kenelliott.ca

2014 OHCC Executive		Work	Home	email
Commodore	Ralph Drake	(416) 449-0399	(416) 496-0325	rdrake@drake-associates.ca
Vice Commodore	Alan Hall	(416) 571-9105	(416) 323-0770	alan.hall@sympatico.ca
Rear Commodore	Adam Nicholson		(416) 402-1911	adam_nicholson1@yahoo.ca
Secretary	Ron Duffy	(416) 480-8373	(416) 269-6742	ronaldsduffy@gmail.com
Membership	Katy and David Molyneux		(416) 487-9572	djm@integrapro.com
Treasurer	Peter Suchanek	(416) 458-9199	(416) 545-0832	peter@heinkeandsuchanek.com
Property (Grounds)	Ted Mallett	(416) 222-8130	(416) 486-0515	ted@mallett.ca
Property (Boats)	Roger Martin	(416) 421-6845	(416) 485-2169	roger@unicell.com
Yardmaster	Peter Benison	(416) 912-0781	(416) 698-4482	peter@peterbenison.com
Volunteer Director	Chris Hutny	(416) 952-3562	(416) 703-9605	chrishutny@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Ken Elliott	(416) 363-2974		write@kenelliott.ca
Clubhouse		(416) 465-1234		

Commodore's Comments

OHCC is continuing with ongoing improvements to its facilities. A new railing has been installed at the shoreline retaining wall. Ken Clarke, with some volunteer help, rebuilt the rear clubhouse stair and deck. Special thanks to Alan Hall and the May 10th repair crew for resetting, and/or replacing, the patio stone walkway at the storage lockers.

I am pleased to report that 75% of all the volunteer task assignments are fully booked. Members who have not volunteered yet should contact Chris Hutny, by email chrishutny@yahoo.com or telephone 416 703-9605, to sign-up and participate.

Our yard appearance is gradually improving. The long lingering winter has hampered the start date for planting flowers, etc. I am confident that the volunteer gardening crew will soon enhance the yard for everyone's enjoyment.

The Albacore Regatta will be held on Saturday July 5, 2014. Registration desk opens at 9:00 AM, with coffee and muffins being served. Three or four races are being planned, weather permitting. Dinner and awarding of prizes will follow the races. Cost will be \$75.00 per two person crew.

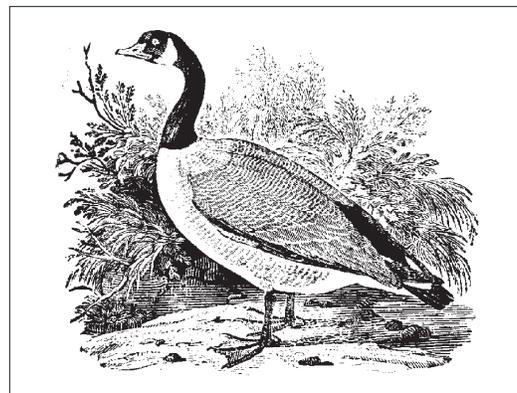
The Outer Harbour Sailing Federation Water Sport Day Camp will start in July and will continue to the end of August. Kids/Youth from ten to 17 years old can participate in sailing, rowing and windsurfing. The weekly program

runs all day, Monday to Friday. I am pleased to report that the program is sold out.

Once again we are taking a pro-active approach to reduce areas where mosquitoes will breed; and we will therefore help reduce spread of West Nile Virus. Each member is responsible to keep the grass cut short on their assigned boat storage lot, and to allow no standing water to collect inside the hull.

The End of Season Get Together/Awards Night will be held at P.J. O'Brien's Irish Pub on Saturday October 25th, 2014 at 7 pm. Tickets are available now at a cost of \$25.00 per person. Tickets can be ordered by mailing cheque payable to the Outer Harbour Centreboard Club, C/O Drake & Associates, 40 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J5.

Ralph Drake, Commodore



Thomas Bewick

Vice Commodore's Report

OHSF Youth Water Sports Camp

At the last Outer Harbour Sailing Federation (OHSF) board meeting in May, I presented a report on the status of the Water Sports Camp (WSC). As of today we are effectively sold out and on our way to making a small profit for the second year in a row.

Fred Fellouse, Commodore of the OHSF led a discussion to clarify some changes proposed to the program since the January OHSF meeting. The WSC committee composed of one representative from the three Community Sailing clubs, Hanlan Rowing, Toronto Windsurfing and myself made a decision to reframe the goal of 70/90 cap (no fare/full fare kids) agreed to at the January OHSF meeting to one that allows more flexibility in meeting the demand for both full fare and no fare spaces, and the reality of full/half day bookings, while still achieving the goal of improving overall safety/supervision of the students on and off the water.

Deb Cummings, the Hanlan rep responsible for No Fare bookings reminded us that she was given the clear mandate by the Board to 'not turn away no-fare kids', in particular an agency that has been courted for two yrs+ that came forth with a request for 40+ spaces.

The expansion of the subsidized side of the program created pressure to increase the enrollment of full-fare to balance the budget. (No fare currently sits at 99, with 29 kids above the original cap of 70.)

Effectively the board voted on a motion put forward by Ralph Drake to replace the original

mandate of 70/90 youth overall to a maximum of 40 youth per day. This allows the program to employ five highly qualified instructors and to take up to 40 kids a day out on the water rowing, sailing and windsurfing over the 8 weeks of the program.

The Countdown is on — One Year to the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am Games!

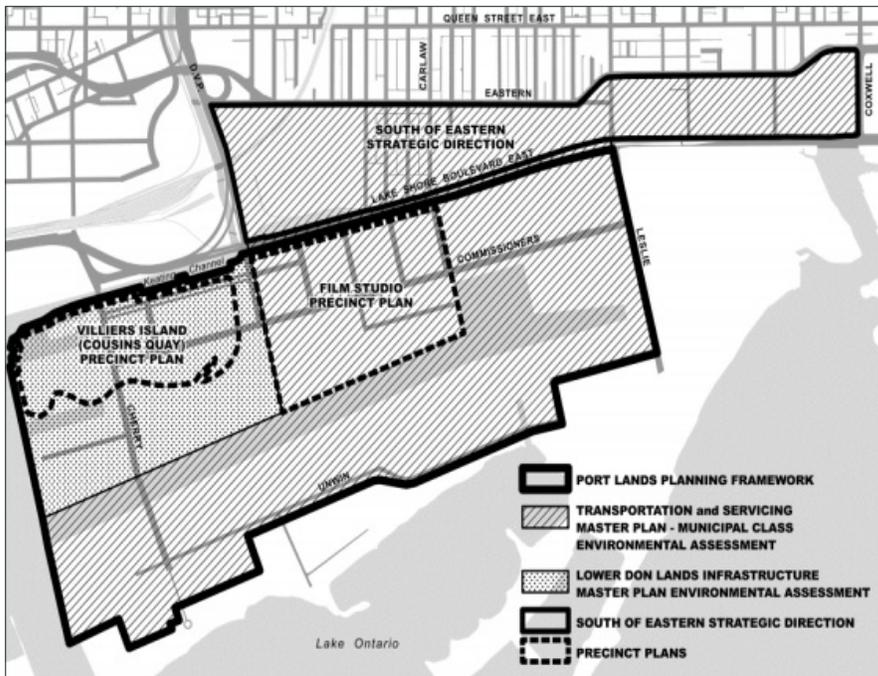
A two-day festival is being held on July 11 and 12, 2014 to celebrate the Games at Toronto's Nathan Phillips Square with countdown clock unveiling, athletes, free concerts and fireworks with an exciting program of live music, star athlete appearances, entertainers and activities the whole family can enjoy – and all for free!

There are 10 sailing events in the Pan American Games — two for men, three for women, five open (men and/or women) featuring a variety of boats, from windsurfers to dinghies and catamarans to keelboats. Each event consists of a series of races around a course with points awarded in each race according to finish position. The final race is called the medal race and counts for double points, which are then added to the sailor's total score. The sailor with the lowest accumulated points at the end of the preliminary and final races is the winner of the event. The medal course will be in the inner harbour in front of the Corus/Humber building.

Our own JJ and Tracy Hall have visions of entering the competition. They have acquired a boat and are going to attempt to qualify in the *Snipe* class. The qualifiers are at TSCC in May of next year, winner take all. Tracy and JJ sailed a *Snipe* once in 2012 when they chartered a boat for the North Americans at EYC and were 9th of 23. JJ says: "It's a huge learning curve from the Albacore so we have our work cut out for us. Thankfully the sailplan is very similar; however the boat is not." Their first event is the Canadians in Hamilton July 5/6, 2014 then the North Americans outside of Boston August 15-17, 2014. Look for an article on their exploits in the next issue of *Flotilla*.

Port Lands Acceleration Initiative Phase 2

Waterfront Toronto and the City of Toronto continue to plan the Port Lands. The last public meeting on May 15th released planning details for the Cousins Quay Precinct which is one of the three precincts in a report to be filed on June 19th at City Hall. It covers: The Film Studio District Precinct Plan and The Villiers Island/Cousins Quay Precinct Plan (both are underway, to be completed in 2015); and the Polson Quay Precinct Plan (to be initiated in 2015). You can read about it in the June 5th Port Lands Acceleration Initiative Phase 2 Progress Report by visiting www.portlandsconsultation.ca. You can follow these developments by adding your name to their mailing list. Write to them at info@waterfrontoronto.ca. Alan Hall



Let's talk of many things

Do you have a Question? Or a Concern?

I AM going to ask our members to email me any questions or concerns they may have so that I can bring them forward for a full discussion. I recently led a work party and we got talking about **Sailing Fanatics**. I gave a very brief history and was thanked by the group of about ten members. I was surprised that this cross-section of members didn't know the story behind OHCC's Board decision to accept Tom Winskells proposal when it was made three years ago. What this suggests to me is that many of

our members didn't realize that our club faced a crisis of an aging membership, and took steps to come up with an innovative way of renewing the club and our sport at the same time. I think it might be a good idea in a future issue to do a quick summary of our membership numbers over the last three years to put some context to this challenge. Briefly, we have continued to hold down membership costs while our membership ages and sails off into the fog of old age — the ancient mariners that we are. Of course there is more to this than just an aging membership, but feel free to write me at alan.hall@sympatico.ca.

..... of skeeters and security

A HIGH-PITCHED buzz signalling the arrival of mosquito season was fresh in my memory when I was invited to write an article for this newsletter. We all know the basics of prevention, beginning with disrupting the mosquitos' habitat by emptying standing water. But are you still getting bitten? There's always the option of long sleeves or repellent, particularly at sunrise, sunset and early in the evening when mosquitos are most active, but there are more options to consider. Please feel free to share your suggestions in future issues of this newsletter and/or at OHCC's Facebook page; see (www.facebook.com/sailohcc).

(1) **Hunt** for padlock bargains for your bikes, make sure your car doors are secure and always keep the club gates locked when you're out sailing. OHCC's mozzie zapper recently went missing. If you're a believer in these machines, why not check out Kijiji or Craigslist to see if a replacement can be found? That said, scientific studies have found that mosquitos continue to be more attracted to humans than to bug-zappers. Whether it's to protect a new zapper or other essential kit, please remember to keep the gates locked when you're out sailing. All boat clubs, especially Outer Harbour Clubs, have reported thefts. *So one more time now:* if you are going sailing or going home, be certain that there is still a club member around on site; otherwise lock the clubhouse door and the gates.

(2) **Watch** what you're doing, and wearing, and eating: The experts at mosquito.org say that movement, perfume, dark clothing, drinking beer (sorry!) and limburger cheese attract the bugs. But consuming garlic, bananas, or vitamin B12, in contrast, does not appear to have any useful effect, they say.

(3) **Try** something new: poor sailing days are



Portrait of mosquito taking on fuel. Photo: Darlyne Murawski

often good days for kayaking and canoeing. If you wince when you see a forecast of very light winds, and you expect to be stuck on land at the mercy of the bugs, you may want to try paddling. It will give you a chance to enjoy the harbour from a different point of view: getting up close to the beavers and birds that tend to hug the shoreline. Just make sure to dodge the swimming dogs and the balls that they are chasing! If you are new to the sport, there are a number of places around Toronto where you can take lessons (like Harbourfront Canoe and Kayak Centre) – just remember that most courses will include some practice in water rescues. If you don't want to swim in the lake, be sure to book a rescue course in the pool.

Happy swatting!

Jennifer Zelmer

HMS *ST. LAWRENCE*

by Jurgen Braunohler

ON A blustery September 10th, 1814, amidst much fanfare, the mighty HMS *St. Lawrence* slid down the ways into Lake Ontario at Kingston, in Upper Canada. With the arrival of the American fleet in the Kingston Channel, the British frigates were warped into defensive positions, bristling with guns, while the launch proceeded unhindered. Then an easterly gale sent the invading squadron running before it to the open lake. The British had good reason for confidence. The *St. Lawrence* would be the only line-of-battle ship ever to sail the Great Lakes, and was about to dominate the lake and keep the American fleet bottled up in harbour.

At 221 feet overall, and 2,304 tons, HMS *St. Lawrence* was a behemoth. She drew 20 feet of water, and her mainmast towered over 200 feet. She was “ship rigged”: meaning with square-rigged sails on all three masts. Her crew numbered a thousand, and both her frames and her thick sides were of solid oak. She was armed on three decks with 104 guns, making her the equal of the biggest warships (including Nelson’s HMS *Victory*, now berthed as a museum piece in England). Many of her guns were long-range 24 and 32 pounders, denoting the weight of shot fired. But she also carried 32 and 68 pound carronades, those close range but fast loading “smashers” that could reduce an enemy ship to kindling.

The Americans so feared the *St. Lawrence*, and had nothing to match her, that their Commodore Isaac Chauncey hired a pirate to sneak into the

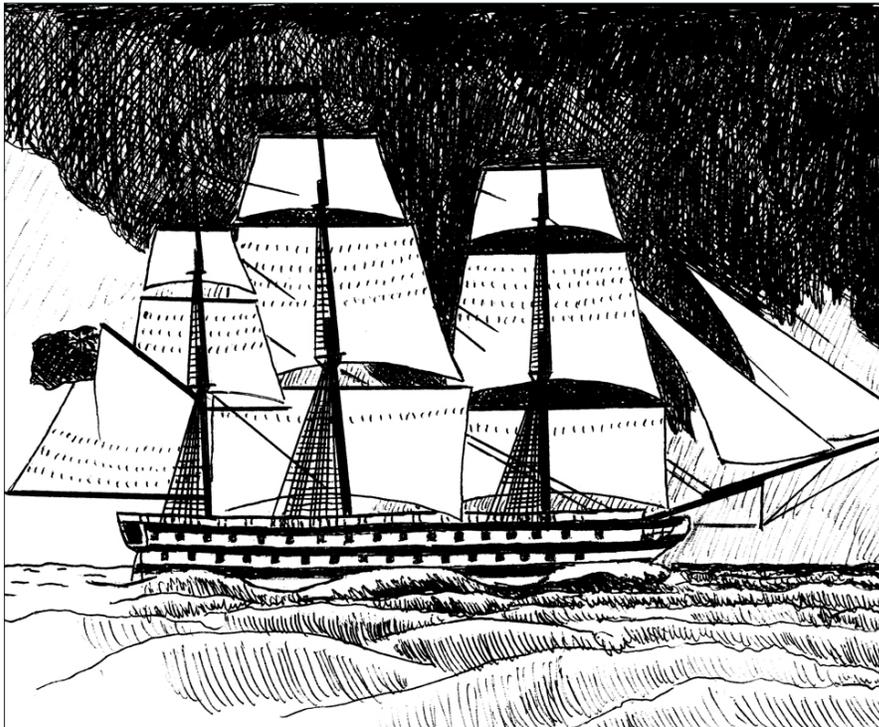
anchorage and blow her up. The man chosen for the job was none other than the infamous Bill Johnston, who, after the war, became the murderous scourge of the St. Lawrence River and eastern Lake Ontario. The enterprise did not go according to plan. After rowing into the Navy Bay anchorage in the dead of night, daybreak revealed that the squadron was gone, and sailing out of sight over the horizon. His weapon had been the forerunner of the modern torpedo: a floating barrel of gunpowder with a lit fuse, attached with a long rope to a spear fired by a musket into the hull before making a frantic getaway.

At this juncture, it might help to know what a ship-of-the-line was. In those days, ships were rated according to firepower, to keep smaller vessels out of a fray where a bigger ship could blow them out of the water. First, Second and Third Rates were allowed to stand in the “line of battle” because of their size, firepower and ability to withstand punishment. In modern times, the line-of-battle ship became known simply as the battleship, only now with engines and rotating gun turrets. However, since ships don’t form into line of battle anymore, aircraft carriers, submarines, and missile frigates have taken over.

Three days after their October departure, the weather suddenly turned squally, and seamen scrambled aloft to shorten sail. The American squadron had shadowed them since leaving Kingston, right after which British Commodore Sir James Yeo had ordered two hours of intensive gun drill. The Americans kept their distance, and in the end decided to stay away altogether, leaving the British the freedom of the lake. But that night the *St. Lawrence* was struck by lightning, which shattered her mainmast, killing fourteen men, and almost igniting a powder magazine. The big ship anchored three miles off the Niagara River and disgorged her 600 troops into smaller vessels, with some difficulties in the strong winds and heavy swell.

On arrival back in Kingston with exhausted troops headed home, fresh soldiers were embarked, and *St. Lawrence* got underway for the Niagara River on November 1st, and anchored twelve miles outside it. Again, a heavy swell caused problems in landing 1200 troops. After crossing the lake to the town of York, they awaited the arrival of 1100 more troops who were on their way home, while Toronto enjoyed the spectacle of a major capital ship at anchor in their harbour. Outgunned on the lake, and over-run with British redcoats, the Americans blew up Fort Erie and left Canada for good. The *St. Lawrence* arrived in Kingston to a festive welcome and a fired salute. 🔫

Drawing: Jurgen Braunohler



2014 OHCC Race and Events Schedule (continued)

Date	Event	Responsibility	Start
July 1 (Tuesday)	Canada Day		
July 1	Summer/Fall Tuesday Race 1	Bob Fahy	7:00 pm
July 3	Summer/Fall Thursday Race 1	Tom Payne	7:00 pm
July 5 (Saturday)	OHCC Albacore Open Regatta	JJ/Stephanie/Ralph	9:00 am
July 8	Summer/Fall Tuesday Race 2	Alan Simpkins	7:00 pm
July 10	Summer/Fall Thursday Race 2	Frank Reid	7:00 pm
July 15	Summer/Fall Tuesday Race 3	Peter Suchanek	7:00 pm
July 17	Summer/Fall Thursday Race 3	Dave Provan	7:00 pm
July 19 (Saturday)	Round the Finn	Contender Fleet	2:00 pm
July 22	Summer/Fall Tuesday Race 4	Frank Whittington	7:00 pm
July 24	Summer/Fall Thursday Race 4	Ted Mallett	7:00 pm
July 25	Albacore Friday Night	JJ Hall/Stephanie Mah	7:00 pm
July 26 (Saturday)	R S Regatta	Tom Winskell	9:00 am
July 29	Summer/Fall Tuesday Race 5	Rick Needham	7:00 pm
July 31	Summer/Fall Thursday Race 5	Bernie Bieber	7:00 pm
August 4	Civic Holiday Harbour Masters	JJ Hall/Stephanie Mah	7:00 pm
August 5	Summer/Fall Tuesday Race 6	John Reynolds	7:00 pm
August 7	Summer/Fall Thursday Race 6	James Stanley	7:00 pm
August 8	Albacore Friday Night	JJ Hall/Stephanie Mah	7:00 pm
August 12	Summer/Fall Tuesday Race 7	Roger Martin	6:30 pm
August 14	Summer/Fall Thursday Race 7	Charles Wakefield	6:30 pm
August 19	Summer/Fall Tuesday Race 8	Stephanie Mah	6:30 pm
August 21	Summer/Fall Thursday Race 8	Joel Magnan	6:30 pm
August 26	Summer/Fall Tuesday Race 9	Heather Macnaughton	6:30 pm
August 28	Summer/Fall Thursday Race 9	Dave Ross	6:30 pm
August 29	Albacore Friday Night	JJ Hall/Stephanie Mah	6:30 pm
August 31 (Sunday)	Back-to-School Regatta	Contender Fleet	2:00 pm
Sept 1 (Monday)	Labour Day		
Sept 2	Summer/Fall Tuesday Race 10	Ron Duffy	6:30 pm
Sept 4	Summer/Fall Thursday Race 10	Michael Smits	6:30 pm
Sept 13 (Saturday)	OHCC Club Championships	Adam Nicholson	11:00 am
Sept 27 (Saturday)	Ont. 505 Championship/Contender Regatta	A. Ross/S. Mah	9:00 am
Sept 28 (Sunday)	Ont. 505 Championship/Contender Regatta	A. Ross/S. Mah	9:00 am
Oct 13 (Monday)	Harbour Masters	JJ Hall/Stephanie Mah	1:00 pm
Oct 13 (Monday)	Canadian Thanksgiving		
Oct 18 (Saturday)	Docks Out/AGM	Ralph/Adam/Roger M.	9:00 am
Oct 19 (Sunday)	OHCC/Multihull winter yard configuration		
Oct 25 (Saturday)	End-Of-Season/Get Together/Awards Night	Adam Nicholson	7:00 pm
Nov 11 (Tuesday)	Remembrance Day		
Nov 15 (Saturday)	OHCC Yard Clean Up	Ted Mallett	9:00 am