

The Bow Wave – April, 2018

Mark Your Calendar – (Note that Launch is on a **FRIDAY** – see the AYC 2018 Events Calendar at www.AYC.ca for more detail:

- Spring General Meeting – Wednesday, April 18th at 7:30 pm; sign-in begins at 7:00 pm
- Dock Party – Saturday, April 21st
- Launch – **FRIDAY**, April 27th

Rob Bittle, Commodore

A heartfelt “WELCOME HOME” to all our members and friends returning from sunnier climes to begin the annual ritual of preparing our beloved boats for another great summer at AYC! Hug-your-boat was a great success attended by more than 70 people and I believe a good time was had by all. My thanks to our Social Director, Alison Honey Wood, and her crew of volunteers – preparing the food and beverage. It certainly was great to see so many of you come out to ‘break the ice’. The past few months have been busy with meetings and consultation with various authorities with jurisdiction over issues which concern us all. The Commodore of the National Yacht Club, Mr. Don Weston, is spearheading a movement to preserve and to refurbish the break-wall to the west of our basin. There has been limited response to date but I will keep you posted on any further developments.

The Council of Commodores has discussed some items which you may find of interest and I will place a binder containing minutes of the meetings in our lobby. Some members of our Board met with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority in order to acquire information on the programs they provide for yacht clubs within their geographic area of control. We did discuss the matters of public access to the waterfront as well as the serious deterioration of water quality within the basin. The possibility of seeking assistance with disposal of weeds was also discussed.

The large question of water levels is very difficult to answer. All authorities maintain the cause of last year’s unprecedented flooding was climatic conditions which could not be overcome. The same authorities assure us that there is not likely to be a repeat and that they are prepared to deal with a normal spring flood. American sources predict spring levels to be approximately 4 – 6” higher than the average for this time of year. Canadian sources offer no prediction which I have been able to obtain. As optimistic as that information may seem, the Conservation Authority warns that there is a systematic (and deliberate) move to raise levels on Lake Ontario in order to facilitate the preservation of wetlands along the shoreline. This strategy, combined with the extremes of weather related to climate change, make predictions less reliable. Your judgement is most likely better than mine!

Although the thought of work hours is not foremost in your minds at the moment, please note that the sign-up sheet for Site Maintenance has been posted in order that you may have early choice of dates to assure yourself of these hours. The ground temperatures are being monitored regularly and the yard water will be turned on as soon as the risk of freezing has passed. A reminder that launch will be on a Friday this year, so adjust your schedules accordingly.

We have received the usual roster of reciprocal cards from various clubs around the lake and our invitations were sent via email earlier. The Board has decided to announce our reciprocals through the website offered by the Lake Ontario Club Cruising Association (LOCCA) and you can

investigate these for yourself on-line. For those of us less used to computer searches, we will also have hard copy available in the usual binder as soon as I can find a volunteer to undertake this task.

As daytime temperatures rise and we begin the tasks necessary for launch please remember the courtesies to neighbouring boats:

- Leave your name, your boat name and your cell phone number on your dashboard while you are parked in the yard
- Tidy up around your work area at the end of each day before you leave the yard
- Do not leave your power cables connected and strung out unless you are using them
- Put hoses away when you finish using them
- Dispose of shrink wrap and waste materials properly and in the locations provided for this purpose
- Dispose of oil and antifreeze in the drums provided for each.

See you soon in the yard!

Dan Peel, Vice Commodore

Greetings and Happy Easter / Passover to all! I am sure all of you are as anxious as I am to get working on our yachts and get them sea-worthy before our upcoming Friday launch on April 27th. Here are a few updates:

- Yard water will be turned on as soon as we are sure the ground temperature will stay above freezing. Like the Easter Bunny or the Ground Hog, the members I count on to provide me with this information are elusive yet masters of this forecast. As soon as they are convinced of spring temperatures we will have yard water activated and Colin will send out a notification.
- When parking in the yard please respect other members by identifying your car so that others can find you if necessary.
- When leaving your boat please ensure your power cord is unplugged and your ladder is locked.
- Shrink wrap should be cut up and wrapped into its smallest form before placing it in the "Recycle" dumpster. If the dumpster is full please wrap it tightly and leave it on the lawn behind the dumpster.
- The waste liquid bins are beside the shipping container at the southwest corner of the yard.

- Please ensure diesel / oil go into one container, bilge water and mixed gas go into another container and antifreeze / water mixture goes in the third container. All of the containers are clearly marked.
- In the next couple of weeks Tyson will be leading a group to frame and build out our tool shed and work shop. If you are feeling skilled and handy please volunteer to work on this crew to make us a groovy work shop. Contact me at vice-commodore@ayc.ca.
- If for any reason you are not planning to launch your boat from the yard this Spring, please contact me immediately at vice-commodore@ayc.ca.

I look forward to seeing you all in the yard.

Ken Daisley, Rear-Commodore

Welcome back spring and our prelude to boating! Diane and I have been away for a good part of the winter with other things to occupy our time rather than the usual fuss and excitement of boating season. After attending the very successful Hug Your Boat festival I feel the excitement returning as we plan our spring DOCK PREPARATIONS. As usual we will be preparing the docks to accept our boats the weekend prior to launch (Saturday, April 21st). We will be adjusting chains, installing mooring balls, installing water lines and electrics and so on. I will be looking for the usual membership participation in this very important undertaking and will be reaching out via email for volunteers very shortly.

As well, I plan to post the Officer-of-the-Day (OOD) Sign-up Sheet and hope to see it filled in short order.

Also please note that slip assignments may change slightly this year. Details are being finalized subsequent to the next AYC Board Meeting where a review of potential members will be finalized. I plan to post an update before the AGM on April 18th.

So, AYC Members, please come out and help out your Club at the first major work party of the year. It's a great way to get on to the Work Hours Completed List and as well a great way to start the season. Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Alison Honey Woods, Social Director

It was great to see so many members at Hug Your Boat. A massive thanks to Linda Allen for all her work shopping for the event, Keith and Ken for manning the grills, to Julia, Edina and Nataly for their prep work, Phil and Audrey for clearing up and everyone who pitched in to make the event such a seamless success.

Mark your calendars and save the dates for AYC's Big Three:

- Sail Past – Saturday, June 16th
- Hot Summer Nights – Saturday, August 11th
- Hog Fest & Almost-Around-the-Island Race – Saturday, September 8th

This season, along with AYC's official events, there are also some great member-driven events that are open to everyone. We will be adding them to the calendar on the AYC website and

publicizing them throughout the season. Would you like to host an open event at AYC this summer? Get in touch!

I love volunteers. Being a member of the social committee is a great way to get involved at AYC and gain work hours - so don't be shy, drop me an email at social@ayc.ca.

Chris Guth, House Director

Thank you to the many people who have passed along their positive feedback regarding the improvements to our Club over the winter. Given the positive feelings about the new paint in the lobby, I would like to repaint the women's and men's washrooms. Please volunteer and earn some work hours by emailing me directly at house@ayc.ca.

The Maintenance sign-up sheet has been posted and needs your commitment ASAP. We cannot maintain and improve our Club without your active participation so please add your name to the list at your earliest opportunity. The best time slots of course are filled first.

I look forward to seeing you at our Spring meeting and in the yard over the coming weeks. Have ideas for any improvements? Please contact me directly at House@ayc.ca.

Reciprocals

- As an AYC member you have reciprocal privileges at many clubs around Lake Ontario
- Find the list here at the Lake Ontario Club Cruising Association (LOCCA): [LOCCA](#)

AHMEN Racing Schedule

- The AHMEN Racing Schedule is now available here: <http://www.ahmen.ca/schedule.shtml>
- The first race is the Sunday, August 12th, 2018
- AYC is providing the race committee on September 15th

Associate Members Take Note

- The AYC Bylaws have changed: all Associate Members must now complete 4 hours of work annually.

Water Levels (Updated March 30th)

Water levels for all of the Great Lakes continue to be above average levels and all of the lakes are above last year's March levels, except Lake Ontario, which is 6 inches below last year's level. Lake Erie is the only lake to rise from the beginning of the month, rising 3 inches. The rest of the lakes dropped by 1-4 inches. Over the next month, all of the lakes are expected to continue their seasonal rise. Lake Superior is expected to rise 2 inches, Michigan-Huron and Erie are forecasted to rise 4 inches, Lake St. Clair is forecasted to rise 5 inches and Lake Ontario is expected to rise by 6 inches. (Source: [Great Lakes Information](#))

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