

## The Bow Wave – July, 2018

### Commodore Robert Bittle

Happy Canada Day! A number of folks have asked if I can commit some of my remarks from the Sailpast address to print, so this is my attempt to do so from my notes:

*This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alexandra Yacht Club on this property. You may have seen the photograph from the official opening ceremony in 1988. A few recent events prompted me to investigate some of the hitherto unknown elements of our history which I thought you might find interesting.*

*The area we now know as Toronto Islands was originally a peninsula attached to the mainland and named "Menecing" by various native peoples, including the Anishinaabeg, later called the tribes of the Ojibwa and the Mississaugas. This land was held to be sacred by the natives because of the healing and restorative nature of the waters by the Lake. We enjoy the same effects to this day in our leisure pleasures of sailing and boating. This is a part of the legacy we have been entrusted to maintain in honour of the traditions handed down by our founders and forefathers. The Alexandra Yacht Club was founded in 1906 and originally located on a sand bar to be known as "Fisherman's Island" at the foot of Cherry Street. The descendants of the Ojibwa and Mississaugas now known as the "New Credit First Nation", began negotiations with the Government of Canada in 1986 and reached an agreement finally in 2010 in which the Mississaugas relinquished their claim to the islands and the surrounding lands.*

*The formation of the Toronto Harbour Commission and subsequent development of the Port of Toronto forced the relocation of the clubhouse to the northeast end of Ward's Island. A very short while ago, I received a note from the daughter of Mr. Jack Ward asking if we would like to have a number of small trophies dating from 1916 which she had discovered among her father's effects. Three of these trophies now reside in the A.Y.C. trophy cabinet restored thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Guth, and you may view them there. The Ward family was, of course, very prominent in Toronto and "Ward's Island" was named for them and they were the owners of the first hotel on the Islands. Remember the restorative qualities of the air and the water of the Islands.*

*From 1914 the sailors of AYC were very active and accomplished in the fourteen and sixteen-foot skiff races held at the time. They competed against other Clubs, notably RCYC, RHYC, QCYC and others. The success of AYC racers culminated with the winning of the prestigious Telegram trophy in 1924, and a photograph of the winning crew graces our walls in the upstairs of the clubhouse. Now we have some trophies which augment this story.*

*My purpose in relating this history to you is to instill the pride we should all hold in the fellowship of AYC. We have a proud history and we should all share in it.*

### Treasurer's Report, Keith Whalen

- We are in our normal operating cycle. Expenses incurred relate to Socials, Utilities and Waste Management (which we need members to pay attention to what goes in each bin! When we are not diligent, it costs us!)
- Averages per month: Phone & Internet -\$187, Gas is about \$250, Hydro - \$500, and Waste Management a whopping - \$580
- Waste Management is a huge concern, we need our members and guests to be clear on what goes in each bin. If the recycle bin is contaminated; we get charged for the item as garbage. Thus we get charged with two garbage pickups. If this continues, regrettably, we should consider cancelling the recycle bin and treat all waste we generate as

garbage. OOD need to stress this to our visiting guests. Our members need to be mindful of what goes where or simply just put \$10 in each bag and toss it in... it amounts to the same thing!

- Reminder for members to pay for their ice. I cannot provide an update on the status of the ice fund at this time, but will do so next month. (Guilty... I owe \$3.00)
- Thank you Vice Commodore for sourcing out the shinny used (new to us) tractor/tele-handler. Our VC was able to negotiate the price down to what our membership had given him the authority to spend... \$30K. It looks great, sounds great, works great... but it needs a name!... I am thinking " Billie Rob".. the blue back savor!
- Electronic Accounting Project update. Well, I am behind on this project. The delay is my very very bad! My apologies to both Beatrice Shears and Christine Montag and thank you for your patience. I hope to be able to book a block of time off work (once the new boss - Premier Ford is in) to do catch up. I want to finalize this project by the end of July so that our Audit Committee can get a jump on their work in August.
- I want to thank the Rear-Commodore, House Director and Social Director for providing detailed expense reports. I appreciate the time and effort you put into making it easier for me! If you see them around the Club, offer them a beverage for the work that they do! (That applies to all members of the Executive!.... lol)
- BAD NEWS: Winter invoices will be distributed shortly! They will be due by July 31<sup>st</sup> as per the by-laws. Once again, I will issue about 75-80 invoices to members who are on the list. Just because you receive an invoice, does not mean that you are in the yard for storage. Those decisions are made by the Vice Commodore based on yard layout, etc. If you pay, and you do not get in the yard, you will be refunded as soon as the list is finalized. Capiisce! There has been no change to the rate of a \$1.50. I will be proposing an increase at this fall AGM of \$0.10 per square foot each year for the next five.
- Thanks to Diane Wait for her work on updating members files and vendor files in the office.
- Hey, if you are looking for something to do on a "Wednesday", then join us for a "Sail & Social". Contact: Chris Guth, Don Williams, Phil Dunk or myself. Bring a friend or foe, go for a short sail, then back to the club for a simple, yet delicious meal! Donation required to cover food costs! Good reason and way to get your boat off the dock, meet some good, cool and interesting people!

### **Recycling! Joe Koole**

Despite previous instructions from the Vice Commodore the recycle bin (the one on wheels) contains many ineligible items such as containers with food, oil containers, wood, plant containers, shrub clippings etc. This contaminates the entire bin resulting in it having to be dumped as garbage. We are sailors and are all aware of the need to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible. Please be more careful when disposing items making sure that they are placed in the correct bin. Cardboard boxes and plastic bottles need to be flattened to keep costs down. PLEASE separate all refundable items and place in containers provided in the BBQ area, in the kitchen and behind the garbage/recycle bins. The funds raised from refundables goes entirely to charity - Covenant House. Volunteers are needed to actively ensure that the right thing is going in the right bin. We can do more AYC!

**House Maintenance – Chris Guth**

Two additional volunteers are urgently needed for House Maintenance for July. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Club now. This work is critical to maintaining our Club during one of our busiest months. Please sign up ASAP and thank you.

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Colin Smith

AYC Communications

[Communications@AYC.ca](mailto:Communications@AYC.ca)

[www.AYC.ca](http://www.AYC.ca)