

Sail and Paddle

Newsletter of the Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club

July 2009

Editor: Al Schönborn



Sailing School 2009 Alive and Very Well!

Attached are some photos of the sailing school ("a sure sign that summer is here!") and the new stairs to the Legion Hall, stairs which will be used by the sailing school for access to the Legion Hall, thus freeing up the clubhouse and club patio for members.



TS&CC Dragon Boat Crews rake in the gold and silver by Nancy Hamilton

In 2009, TS&CC based Dragonboat teams have dominated competitions in and around Toronto. At the June 6th Pickering regatta, considered one of the most competitive in Canada, the Canadian Senior Dragon Boat Club (CSDC) mixed team took 2nd overall while CSDC-based teams won both the Open and Women's divisions.

At the June 20/21 Toronto International Dragon Boat Festival, arguably the largest festival outside of China with close to 200 teams, CSDC mixed again placed 2nd, as did the Open (men's) team. The Women's team remains undefeated in 2009 with a gold-plated performance in the sport division. *Big Fish*, another TSCC-based crew, placed 3rd in the mixed division.

Light-air sailing with Gord Nikaido

Today's key words are SMOOTH and EASY.

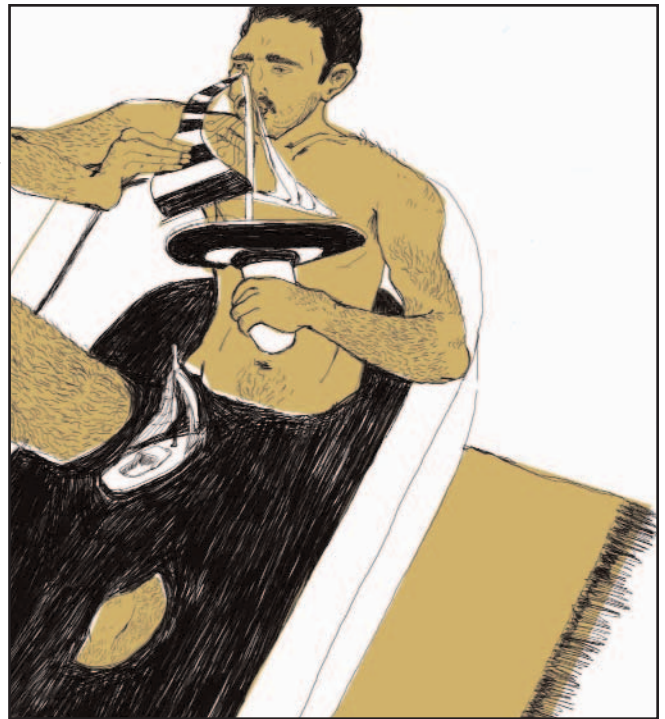
Ease the halyard tensions of your main and jib. Ease the sheet tension of your mainsheet, keep the boom close to the centerline by moving the traveler to windward and easing the mainsheet to promote twist, ease the vang to let the top batten fall off to leeward about 5%. Ease the jib sheet both to promote twist in the sail and to keep the slot open between the main and jib. When in doubt, ease out!

Tacks and jibes should be smooth and slow and kept to a minimum. Heel the boat just enough to let gravity shape the sails.

Keep crew low, forward and close together. This keeps the boat from pitching and reduces wetted surface. Avoid excessive and jerky movement of the sails, rudder and crew! Keep your head out of the boat, look around for ripples on the water and watch the performance of other boats.

Treat light-air racing like a fine scotch and your day will be more enjoyable.

Gord Nikaido



Racing this season has been like playing with boats in a bathtub, all wet or no wind! Josiah Gifford illustration

Blind Sailing Association of Canada Seeks Experienced Sailors as Volunteers

The Blind Sailing Association of Canada is a not for profit organization dedicated to providing programs which enable blind and vision impaired people to participate in the sport of sailing. We are seeking experienced volunteers with a passion for sailing and an interest in sharing this passion with others. With the assistance of sighted volunteers, our blind members gain the freedom to learn, explore and experience the joys of sailing.

If you can provide your time, we can provide the boat, equipment and a great experience. We are moored conveniently at Marina Quay West in downtown Toronto. We are currently seeking experienced sailors as volunteers to help drive our program for the 2009 sailing season. For those less adventurous, you can help, too. We also need a hand maintaining the boats in spring and fall, and help with fund raising, and with other tasks around the club.

To learn more, please contact David Greenwood at 416 489 6153, or send a message to DavidGreenwood@rogers.com.

Our web site is: <http://www.BlindSailing.ca>

Canoe for Cancer: Saturday, September 19th, 2009

Canoe for Cancer is a grassroots event which has seen success in the Brantford-Paris community over the past 29 years. This year we are looking to make the event bigger and better than ever! This is a half-day event which begins at 9am, with the canoe and kayak trip lasting 2 1/2 to 3 hours. The course is set on the beautiful and unique Grand River and all participants are provided with river guides on behalf of our main sponsor, *Grand Experiences*. There is also a picnic-style lunch provided by *Cafe de Paris*.

To participate in this event, you must collect donations for the Brant-Norfolk Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society. If you do not own your own canoe or kayak, we ask that you raise at least \$150, part of which will cover your canoe or kayak rental. If you own your own canoe or kayak and you raise over \$100, you will be eligible for an incentive prize. This is a great opportunity to experience the Grand River, make connections with other canoe and nature enthusiasts, and support a fantastic cause.

If you would like to register, or have any questions or concerns, feel free to email us at brant@ontario.cancer.ca, call the office at 519-753-2566, or check out our website at www.cancer.ca/canoeforcancer. Thank you.

Youngest around the world solo sailor: An interesting story that the membership may be interested in:
<http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/07/16/teen.sails.around.world/index.html>



29th Annual Canoe For Cancer Saturday, September 19, 2009

- Canoe down the Grand River from Glen Morris to Paris (3 hours)
- Bring your own canoe, life jackets and other safety equipment. Canoes are available for those who raise over \$150 in pledges if you register prior to Labour Day
- Registration begins at 9 a.m. in Paris near the Syl Apps Arena, trip begins at 10 a.m.
- Boxed lunch and shuttle service are provided.

For more information and pledge sheets go to cancer.ca/canoeforcancer or contact us in person at:

Canadian Cancer Society
Brant-Norfolk Unit
brant@ontario.cancer.ca
(519) 753-2566

Breakfast is Served!!

The Club is now serving breakfast on Sundays from 9:30-11:15.

Water Taxi Service Expanded:

Sailing School Instructors who are not teaching classes are offering water taxi service for members Mon. to Fri. 9am to 4:30pm.

Death or taxes or both? a Report from our Commodore

Death and taxes are the two certainties in life. Ironically, we seem to be dealing with death pretty responsibly. Managing our care, extending the quality of our later years, even curing some of those end-of-life disorders such as heart disease and cancer. But taxes? Well, if you belong to a boat club and are trying to last longer by living that active life style, taxes are something you are not going to escape. MPAC, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation responsible for determining the assessment value that cities use to establish their tax rates and consequently the property taxes paid seems to have had an epiphany when it comes to boat clubs. While everyone else in the City of Toronto saw their assessments rise tens of percentage points we saw ours rise by 400%. And we were one of the lucky ones. Some clubs that have shore side property downtown, well, can you say 7000%?

Historically, the local boat clubs have had leases with the City that specify we pay taxes on the property as well as rent. The taxes were established based on the investment in the property. So for example, if you are like the Boulevard Club and invested \$20MM in your property, well, that was your assessment (and that led to taxes of about \$200,000). If you were TS&CC and invested \$500K, well, that led to our assessment and taxes. This essentially let poorer clubs co-exist with wealthier clubs, even though we all paid similar per unit rents. Now with MVA (market value assessment) the property tax seems to be based on the maximum possible development of the land.

How much is this going to cost the average boater? Well, most clubs have achieved some diversification in membership, for

example, I believe less than 20% of the membership at RCYC has a sailboat, so there are a lot of people to spread the tax around to. The problem becomes particularly acute for clubs that are solely into boating. If we take the average rise in assessment convert it to the expected increase in taxes and divide by the number of boats on docks we get an increase of about \$1000 per sailboat member docked, a significant tax shock.

So what are we going to do? Well, around Toronto, some clubs have started to notify the City that they can have their keys back and are looking to their fellow boaters to en masse give all their keys back to the City and let them sort it out. The tax increases are truly outrageous. The more quiescent amongst us are working within the system and have launched formal requests for reconsideration and third party stranger appeals (as we don't own the land). The tricky part with the system is the tax increase is a windfall for the City and they are the only ones that have the capacity to truly demand a change in the assessments. So some clubs are suspicious that the City won't act in our best interests consequently the RFR and "stranger" appeal mechanisms. We have also contacted our politicians, but they know an issue to stay away from when they see one, so besides empathy, we have not been able to find a political force to help us out.

For those concerned about the TS&CC, because we have about 300 members (only about 50 with keelboats), the current fee increase will be \$50 per member in every category for the 2010 fiscal year. The tax is implemented starting this year and increases proportionately over the next four years.

Peter Kozak