



The

# Helmsman

AUGUST 13, 2015

SUMMER ISSUE

## *Words from the Upper Deck*

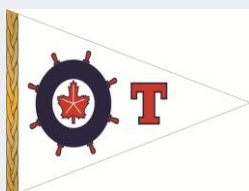
I certainly hope that you are enjoying your summer boating experiences and encourage all readers to use this newsletter as a way of informing fellow boaters of our varied boating experiences. You can exchange boating experiences simply by emailing our Editor: [kathkeays@gmail.com](mailto:kathkeays@gmail.com) with your information. (Be sure to include in the subject, Article for the Helmsman.)

Personal boating experiences become an excellent teaching tool during our boating courses. This is the great advantage of taking **CPS** courses in a classroom situation rather than online. The student has the opportunity to learn from other students sharing both the good and not-so-good experiences from other boaters. After all- and to borrow an expression- **CPS** are volunteer boaters helping boaters!

Our 2014-2015 training efforts resulted in many successes for not only new boaters but boaters interested in expanding their boating knowledge. Highlights include:

**Basic Boating/PCOC** attended by 4 students all of whom were successful in passing the written exam; **Boating Essentials** attended by 8 students all of whom were successful in passing the written exam; **Electronic Navigation** produced 2 successful passes with a total attendance by 5 students; **Maritime Radio** provided successful reports to all students who wrote the exam.

After each course, we ask the student to critique the instructor, content and delivery from which we gain insight as to how to make the course more meaningful for the student. This feedback resulted in a provision of Saturday morning workshops for the Boating Essentials this past season. We will continue to provide a Saturday morning workshop in 2016 for the Maritime Radio course.



The grad party for the Boating Essentials students, provided an *on the water* NAVEX for students prior to enjoying a good BBQ and open conversation on our training programs in general. We thank Ken Mugford and Greg Tanner for their generous support in providing the platforms for our NAVEX.

In 2016, for Boating Essentials, we will providing an additional practical session where we will be looking at such areas as boat handling, lines, knots, docking and undocking – addressing those areas where the new boater really needs help and support from experienced boaters. These lessons, although taught in the classroom, cannot be properly understood until boats are actually in the water – so we will again be asking some seasoned boaters to assist us with this practical session.

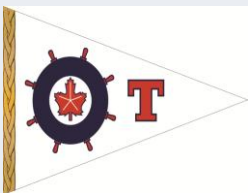
Be sure to browse our 2015-2016 **CPS** course offerings included in this issue. We hope that our readers can get the word out and also begin planning for the fall, winter and spring sessions of the **CPS** courses.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce, Phyllis Durnford, as our newest volunteer who will be coordinating the squadron efforts to supply the Recreational Vessel Courtesy Check program. The RVCC program is offered nationally by Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons. (see a Biography on Phyllis included in this newsletter)

Our squadron continues to offer this courtesy check program to boaters at CFB Trenton Yacht Club. We have also provided checks to boaters at Cobourg Yacht Club and at the new TrentPort Marina.

As we prepare for fall activities, why not look at taking a boating course offered by **Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons**. The **CPS** courses offered by RCAF Trenton Squadron are outlined in the Education Report column.

Lastly, as we have now entered a new **CPS** training year and as training is, really, our sole source of revenue to support our squadron, we end each year by forwarding to National our audited financial statements. I want to publicly thank and recognize Mary Game who so graciously assists our squadron by auditing our financial records and providing words of wisdom on how that effort can be improved to facilitate easier record keeping.



*John Brewster, Commander*

# ***RCAF Trenton Power & Sail Squadron***

Bridge 2014-2015

Commander: John Brewster

Past Commander: Ken Mugford

Education Officer: John Brewster

Secretary: Wayne Keays

Treasurer: John Fear

Public Relations Officer: John Fear

Membership Officer: John Dodson

MAREP Officer: Ian Brant

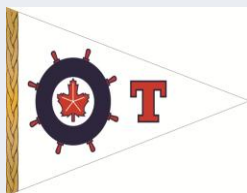
District Representative: John Fear

RVCC Coordinator: Phyllis Durnford

Webmaster: Michael McMahon

Helmsman Editor: Kathy Keays

New Member : Henry Marr



***Email: [rcaftrentoncps@gmail.com](mailto:rcaftrentoncps@gmail.com)***

***We are on the web: <http://www.cps-ecp.ca/RCAFTrenton/>***

## ***Education Report***

**The following course offerings have now been planned for the 2015-2016 fall, winter and spring sessions. General course registration night will be at the CFB Trenton yacht Club on Baker Island t 1900 Monday September 14, 2015.**

### **Basic Boating/PCOC**

This course will prepare you for the legally required PCOC (Pleasure Craft Operator Card) card exam, and teaches the elements of seamanship. You will learn about your boat, its equipment and maintenance, buoys and lights, marine rules of the road, getting under way, docking and anchoring, safety afloat and much more. Our course is approved by Transport Canada and the U.S. Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

Dates: Monday September 21-October 26, 2015

Costs: \$60.00

### **Boating Essentials:**

This course will develop your navigation skills. It covers compass, GPS and marine charts, navigation and plotting course and position, digital charting, knots, anchoring, and layup and launch, together with practical cruise exercises. Instructors are experienced boaters who will prepare you to boat safely and enjoy your time on the water. There is an opportunity to follow on with Maritime Radio.

Dates: Monday November 02, 2015-Monday February 22, 2016 (a Saturday morning workshop to be held on November 28, 2015)

Costs:

Members \$180.00

Non Members \$215.00

2<sup>nd</sup> family member \$180.00

### **Electronic Navigation:**

This course consolidates GPS and Electronic Charting into one course. It covers use of both integrated chart plotter systems, as well as using a laptop computer with charting software and a GPS data input connection. Includes manual, CD, and Maptech's Chart Plotter software as a learning tool. A practical in-class cruise will be done to develop hands-on skills. Students are encouraged to bring their own portable GPS units to class.

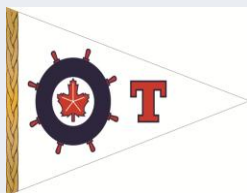
Dates: Wednesday March 02, 2016-Wednesday April 20, 2016

Costs:

Members \$110.00

Non Members \$135.00

2<sup>nd</sup> family member \$110.00



## Seamanship:

Seamanship follows on from Boating Essentials, and makes an excellent refresher course as well. The course offers interpretation of charts, the DR plot, bearings, fixes, running fixes, collision regulations, and plotting and labelling. It covers in detail the hazards of weather, wind, waves, tides, and tidal currents. The course also teaches skills to deal with life-threatening situations such as man-overboard and medical emergencies,. It includes 3 practical cruises to consolidate the knowledge learned.

Dates: TBD based on interest (Wednesday evenings beginning in January 2016)

Costs:	1 <sup>st</sup> family member	\$125.00
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Family member	\$105.00

## Maritime Radio:

This course will prepare you to write the exam for the Restricted Operator Certificate (Marine) with the new Digital Selective Calling (DSC) endorsement.

Dates: Monday February 29, 2016-Monday March 14, 2016 (A Saturday morning workshop will be held on March 12, 2016)

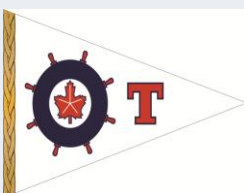
Costs:		
Members	\$80.00	
Non Members	\$100.00	
2 <sup>nd</sup> family member	\$70.00	

## Fundamentals of Weather:

Winds, waves, fog, lightning, hail, tornadoes.....hurricanes! The wise boater respects and anticipates Mother Nature's many moods. Beyond "red sky in the sunset", the new CPS Weather Course provides boaters with the tools to find and accurately interpret weather reports and forecasts and to develop keen judgements in "reading" the sky and sea for optimum boating safety.

Dates: TBD based on interest

Costs:	1 <sup>st</sup> family member	\$125.00
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Family member	\$150.00



Effective July 1, 2015, there will no longer be a free membership offered upon completion of the Boating Basics (PCOC) course. Those students completing any CPS course will now be offered a *First Year Preferred Rate Membership* of \$35.00. This is a \$10.00 reduction from the regular Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons price of \$45.00/year.

## *New Courses Planned*

**The Boating Essentials course is being phased out during 2015 and replaced with two new courses. These new courses will begin in the fall of 2016.**

### **Boating 2:-Beyond the PCOC**

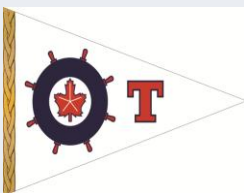
The PCOC course makes sure that you have immediate navigation and safety skills but it's just the beginning of what you should know when you get on a boat. In the second of our Boating Series, you are introduced to the art of navigation, anchoring, ropes, lines and knots-not to mention what to expect when the boat is moving under power. This course also has a number of optional topics that will be taught depending upon your interests; these include towing, trailoring, and a checklist for layup and launch.

Timing for this course is spread out over 9-12 weeks.

**and**

### **Boating 3:-Introduction to Navigation**

The third course in our series explores navigation further as you learn how to plot and label on paper charts as well as what the skipper should be doing before setting out and when underway, handling a boat under sail as well as your environmental responsibilities and electrical hazards. This course also has a number of optional topics that will be taught depending on your interested. These include tides and currents, canals and locks, and collision regulations. Timing for this course is spread out over 9-12 weeks.



John Brewster  
Education Officer

For further details call John Brewster, Education Officer, at 613 395-2117

# Why Take a Boating Course?

(An Article prepared for Mason's The Store by John Gullick, SmartBoater.ca)

I will start by asking the following question: Would you start driving a car before taking a course and/or driving lessons? The answer is probably no and for good reason.

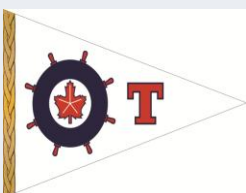
When it comes to operating a boat, especially a power boat, personal watercraft or sailboat, I often ask the same question and the answer I get is usually very different. Most people believe that operating a boat is much easier than operating a car and I would respectfully suggest that this is far from the truth.

Let's think about it and follow the comparison. When you do the written portion of your driver's test you have to be able to identify a large number of signs. The same is true for travel on the water. I counted up the number of different signs, markers, lights and flags that are noted in Transport Canada's Safe Boating Guide and there are over 60. Add to that which side of the boat you keep certain markers on changes depending on the direction of the water flow and you have to know how to determine that.

Let's go even further. You are required to carry up to date charts, the water version of road maps, on board. To be able to use them you also need a magnetic compass and an understanding of the symbols that are noted on the chart. There are literally pages of those. In fact there is a whole book dedicated to charts, their symbols and how to read them.

Now let's look at the operation of the vessel itself. Power boats, personal watercraft, sailboats and paddle boats all perform differently, just like cars, trucks, motorcycles and bicycles. When you turn the steering wheel on a boat it is the back end of the boat that moves first, not like the front end of a car. When you take your foot off the gas in a car you can still turn left or right with no problem. The same is not true in a boat. So much so in some cases that, without power to drive forward motion, the boat or personal watercraft will not turn at all. Cars have brakes boats don't and rely on reverse thrust or friction to slow the boat down.

Most cars also contain all the required safety equipment already built in. The same is not true of boats. Different types and sizes of boats require different safety equipment to be on board, in good repair and accessible. You need to know what that equipment is and how to maintain it. For the most part seat belts are the same but lifejackets and personal flotation devices (PFDs) are not. Today PFDs are purpose designed for different types of on the water activity and you need to know how to choose the right one for what you do and how to maintain it.



Last but not least, let's consider weather. It is true that in a car you have to consider adverse weather conditions, especially heavy wind or rain but in most cases you are protected from those conditions and can carry on to your destination. The same is not true on the water. Slight changes in the weather can call a halt to what started out as a fun day on the water. Even too much sunshine can have adverse effects and you need to know when to recognize that and how to do something about it.

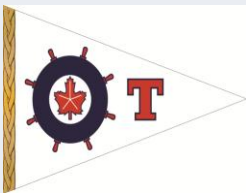
Are you beginning to get the picture and I have not talked about Cold Water Shock due to unexpected immersion and the dangers of Carbon Monoxide?

The body of knowledge that is required to pass the test for your Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC) now has 257 key learning points and that covers only the basic level of knowledge that is really needed to fully understand and enjoy a safe boating experience for you and your family and guests.

Transport Canada offers a list of Approved Providers of PCOC training and testing on its web site; go to: [www.boatingsafety.gc.ca](http://www.boatingsafety.gc.ca) . The Canadian Yachting Association (CYA) offers both theoretical and practical courses in sailing through its provincial organizations; go to: [www.sailing.ca](http://www.sailing.ca) . Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons (CPS) offers a wide range classroom and home study courses and seminars that cover everything from basic boat safety, handling and navigation to advanced navigation, offshore cruising, local and global weather, marine electronics, marine maintenance, distress signaling and much more; go to: [www.cps-ecp.ca](http://www.cps-ecp.ca) . Many marinas offer courses and seminars as do private individuals and organizations. Classroom courses are usually offered during the winter and early spring months so you can enjoy year-long boating experiences, learn a great deal and make many new friends that share your passion for boating.

It is said that knowledge is power and when it comes to boating you can never have too much of it. That knowledge can give you the confidence to really enjoy your boating experience and it can give others confidence in your abilities as a safe boat operator. The best trip is always a safe return trip.

To learn more about boating safety and everything you need to know to enjoy great times on the water visit a new national boating safety site [www.SmartBoater.ca](http://www.SmartBoater.ca) . Everything on the site is free and downloadable.





## Phyllis Durnford

Newly appointed RVCC co-ordinator Phyllis Durnford, practically jumped at the offer to participate in the squadron's efforts to supply the Recreational Vessel Courtesy Check program. Phyllis recently relocated to Cobourg from Toronto/Frenchman's Bay squadron is no stranger to the water.

Her enthusiasm for boating and sailing started in Deep River, progressed to a basic sailing course and the purchase of a Laser sailboat. A move to Toronto showed her the need for a bigger sailboat, or access to one. She crewed in the racing program at Whitby Yacht Club until her passion for horses took over. Looming retirement, and no horse, brought sailing/boating back to the fore, so she took the CPS Boating Essentials course to update her database.

After her move to Cobourg, and involvement in their yacht club, our squadron and the RVCC training, she organized a successful RVCC event for Cobourg. As our new Coordinator, she sees opportunities to expand the RVCC process to yacht clubs/marinas along the lakeshore between Trenton and Port Hope through recruitment of more volunteers to present the RVCC at their respective yacht clubs/marinas and act as RVCC "ambassadors" in their areas; involvement of boat dealers and marine stores to include the RVCC process in their clients' boating/sailing-related activities; establish an RVCC presence at waterfront events such as fishing derbies and festivals.

### **OPP HAND OUT STIFF FINES ON THE WATERWAYS**

7/21/2015 10:05:02 AM

Three boaters face some hefty fines that were given on the Trent Severn Waterway over the weekend.

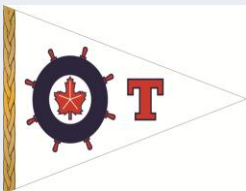
Northumberland OPP's Marine Unit handed out a \$305 fine when a boat operator in Trent Hills failed to have an operator's card.

Two people driving Sea Doo's were stopped for speeding in a 10 km/h zone in the Hastings area. Both drivers received \$240 speeding tickets. One was given a \$305 fine for failing to have an operator's card and the other the same fine as he owned both vehicles and for allowing the other person to drive the Sea Doo.

Northumberland OPP marine operator Constable Jeff Laporte says, "Please ensure that you have an adequate number of Person Floation Devices (PFD) on board for everyone and to have children wear their PFDs while in the boat at all times as tragedy can strike without warning"

The Marine Unit had interactions with 45 people on the waterways over the weekend.

(article from BrightonToday.ca)



## *RCAF Trenton Squadron RVCC Report*

10 August 2015

RVCC Officer: Phyllis Durnford

As all of you know by now, having read my Bio earlier in this edition, I have taken on the responsibility for coordinating the RVCC process in this squadron. HMMM, I wonder what I've gotten myself into.... ☺ Here's the good news: To date this year, the RVCC volunteers of this squadron have presented a total of 41 Courtesy Checks!! Compared to 2014, that's over twice as many done. Give yourselves a round of applause! And, we're in the process of setting up an RVCC event at Trent Port Marina, date TBD shortly, so, all you folk who attended the April 16 training seminar, now's your chance to step forward and help the Squadron add to that total! Most of all, help your fellow boaters to assure that they will be safe on the water. As soon as I know the date, I'll advertise it through the squadron.

I'm looking forward to meeting more of the squadron members, and getting to know where all the yacht clubs/marinas are located. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to bring forward ideas about events at which the squadron could present the RVCC's, this year for sure, and to help with planning for 2016. I've put a few ideas in my bio, and I'm sure you will come up with more.

Fair winds and following seas, folks! Stay safe.

*Phyllis Durnford*

