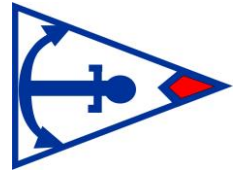




The Bitter End

Editor: Bill Reynolds N



September 2017

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From the Bridge...

As the end of summer nears, it's time to get back to reality. A sure sign of the end of summer is usually marked by the Labor Day weekend, shortly followed by the sight of school busses on the roads. Although it's not officially over, most kids are back to school and getting involved in after school sports and activities and parents running around ensuring everyone is on schedule. For some - such as retirees, I'm sure a smile comes across their face as they see the busses out. I unfortunately have quite a few years before I'm at the stage.

I am the new Commander of the Newmarket Power and Sail Squadron. I've been a member of the bridge for 6 years and have been in various roles such as Flag and Training officer. Growing up, I spent many weekends on the waters of Georgian Bay. My family had a Mirage 33, then a Hunter Vision 36. Currently I have a 27' Express Cruiser that my brother and I share out of Midland. Unfortunately, I haven't used it much with a new home and baby due in early September.

It seems the summer has been relatively short due to the excessive amounts of rain; some places have seen double the precipitation than previous years. With the record breaking rainfall, the Trent-Severn Waterway and Rideau Canal had to delay opening 1 week until May 26th due to high water levels high water flows.

This past June, the Squadron participated again with the York Region Police Marine Unit in a Safe Boating Day at Krate's Marina in Keswick. The event included many other organizations concerned with water safety and the environment. We collected 82 flares for safe disposal provided by CIL/Orion, funded by Transport Canada. Visitors of all ages enjoyed the hamburgers, hotdogs and ice cream that were provided on site. (See the National Report from John Gullick in this edition of the Bitter End)

As fall approaches with cool weather and water temperatures, it's very important to wear a PFD when on or nearby water.

On behalf of the Bridge,
Cdr Stuart Denny

The Newmarket Power & Sail Squadron Bridge 2017-18

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Oh Buoy! Oh Buoy!

By Bill Reynolds

Many of us on Lake Simcoe rely on the Weather Buoy to get up-to-date and current information about wind conditions. This year it was out of commission and as a result, sailing forecasters like Windfinder, Wind Alert and even The Weather Network (Marine) relied on information from a Lake Ontario buoy. Of course, the results were inaccurate because Lake Simcoe is not Lake Ontario.

After two months with rather poor marine forecasts Environment Canada reported that the deployment of buoy 45151 would happen on the July 14 weekend.

Its deployment was delayed this year due to several unanticipated factors. Earlier this season during the first deployment attempt, it was discovered that the onsite mooring chain and anchor had been lost, likely from ice damage to the winter float. This required a full replacement of the chain, anchor, and all hardware required to deploy at the normal location. This, coupled with weather delays, pushed the deployment later into its normal operating season.

True to their word the Buoy began sending data to the Environment Canada website early Saturday July 15.

As a result, we began getting reliable forecasts for sailing and access via the EC Website to the buoy's data in real time.

Newmarket Boating Course Offerings – 2018

At the Squadron's regular Bridge meeting in September, David Puttock, NPS Education Officer, presented his plans for courses to be offered beginning January 2018. This season will see an ambitious selection of programs to satisfy the needs of everyone from beginning boaters to experts.

Most classes will be taught at Dr. JM Denison SS at 135 Bristol Rd. The plan is to offer Boating 1 (Basics), Boating 2 (Beyond Basics), Boating 3 (Introduction to Navigation), Boating 4 (Near Shore Navigation Level 1 [formerly

Seamanship]), Boating 5 (Near Shore Navigation Level 2 [formerly Advanced Piloting]), and Maritime Radio (VHF with DSC). Instructors have been found for all classes. Registration will begin on-line in October once costs have been assessed and classrooms booked.

An outline of each course is provided below.

Boating 1 – Basics: Get your Pleasure Craft Operator Card

All operators of motorized pleasure craft are required to show proof of operator competency. All you need to know for the Transport Canada test is presented in an easy to read format that is both informative and entertaining. You can be confident that this study guide meets all the standards established by Transport Canada's Office of Boating Safety.

Boating 2 – Beyond Basics: More than your Boating Licence

The PCOC makes sure 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.

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 under way, handling a boat under sail as well as your environmental responsibilities and electrical hazards.

Boating 4 – Near Shore Navigation Level 1:

Do you know what to do if a boat on fire calls you for help? Can you deal with emergencies on your own boat? Build your confidence on the water, and make your boating a safe and fun experience, by taking this advanced course. You will learn how to cope with these situations, as well as many other aspects of boating, such as relative bearings, knots and splicing, medical emergencies, coping with adverse weather, and much more.

Boating 5 - Near Shore Navigation Level 2:

Knowledge of the basics of navigation and planning cruises on a maritime chart is just the start. Expand that knowledge by using a variety of electronic devices to chart your course and enable you to plan your course under tidal, current and windy conditions. By learning more about dead reckoning, fixes and running fixes, you will have attained a high degree of proficiency in navigating through coastal waters. In this course, we cover GPS, Chart Plotters, Radar, SONAR, Autopilots and more.

Maritime Radio:

The Maritime Radio course teaches emergency radio procedures and everyday operating techniques. Learn all about the uses of marine radios, choice of frequencies, operation, phonetic alphabet, procedural words and phrases, as well as Digital Selective Calling and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System, (DSC/GMDSS). All mariners, including recreational boaters, will want to take advantage of the many features and capabilities of this innovative form "automatic" radio.

Safety & Flare Return Days Report

by John Gullick, Manager of Government and Special Programs

This year there were a total 29 CPS Boating Safety events held across Canada this summer. The earliest was on April 1st and the last on June 17th.



Based on the reports received from the participating Squadrons here are the totals:

- Number of outdated flares collected: 21,696
- Average # of flares collected per event: 748
- Total number of attendees: 2054
- Total number of attendees handing in flares: 1798
- Total number of attendees who were CPS-ECP members: 597
- Total number of attendees who asked about the RVCC program: 148
- Total number of attendees who were referred to store staff: 332

A few comments from participating Squadrons and Retailers:

- *Great event, very professionally done.*
- *A good learning experience, an enjoyable event and very appreciative customers.*
- *Continues to be a great PR event for the Squadron and its activities.*
- *Many attendees heard about the events from their local Harbour Masters and yacht clubs who were informed by the Squadron and Transport Canada.*
- *Great working with CIL/Orion.*

This was the third full year of the Safety Equipment Education and Flare Disposal program, and like the first two years, it was highly successful. Thank you to Transport Canada, CIL Orion, all of our retail partners and the many squadron and district volunteers who contributed greatly to making this program so successful.

Editor's Note: NPS plans to participate in the Safety & Flare Collection program again next year.

Dear reader: If you have comments or suggestions for *The Bitter End* we would love to hear from you. Share your comments by sending them to *The Bitter End* at npsinfo@mailonly.ca.