

# DRY ROT

## From the commander:

What a wonderful summer !! We had Lots of rain to help the lake levels and replenish the root system for our older trees. The only problem was the rain seemed to come on the weekends, just when everyone wanted to go out boating. Let's hope that we have a long and wonderful fall, and get a chance to get out and enjoy the great outdoors before Old Man Winter comes blowing in.



Warren Hyde & Lesley Stewart from CHTV -National Safe Boating Awareness Week.



Tim Noble, Oakville Sqd & Barry Courtman HPS at the Bronte Marina

This was a busy summer for Cal & me attending squadron events. To launch the Boating season and Safe Boating Week May 17 to 25/08. Hamilton squadron's Warren Hyde was on CHCH TV May 14/08 with Lesley Stewart on Morning Live, with Discover Boating and Dundas Marine's Cheryl Eaton. The weather was picture perfect and so were Warren's interviews. He got to do 3 complete interviews, covering our boating courses, PCOC & safety equipment required on your boat.

Next we attended on May 24/08, the Bronte Outer Harbour Boating Symposium organized by the Bronte Marina and Hamilton Halton Marine Police Officer Rob Garland. STO Barry Courtman, ATO Glen Carruthers & EO George Williamson set up a table with brochures & lots of boating equipment. It was a great day and we teamed up with Burlington Squadron's Ray Kirkham, Debbie and Paula Hayes, and the Oakville Squadron's, Tim Noble. George worked with the Marine Police doing the Pleasure Craft Courtesy Check.

On June 07/08 we attended with EO George Williamson, the Blessing of the Boats and sail past at the RHYC – which is celebrating its 140th year. Another beauti-

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**To Register For Boating Classes**  
or for more information, please call:

**HPS Hotline:**

**905-388-1227**

or send us an e-mail at:

**boating@hamiltonpowersquadron.ca**



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## FROM THE COMMANDER



George Williamson  
our Boat Pro Officer



Darryl Lankin welcoming our new  
Commander Vicky Grimshaw



Outgoing Training Officer Des  
Wood making a presentation.



New Bridge of Officers being  
sworn in for 2008/2009.

ful day and we had one of our senior members collecting their gold star.

July 05/08, we were invited to the RHYC for the Shark's World 2008, which is a week long event of racing, there were approximately 53 boats entered for the US, Australia and Canada. A hardy looking bunch of serious sailors enjoyed the attitude adjustment hour and the entertainment of the evening. At this function, we met up with MPP Sophia Aggelonitis who took our boating course a few years ago. Also we met Lt/Cdr Albert Wong from National Defence and he told us of a frigate that was coming into Hamilton harbour in late September. I hope to get more information about this event and get it into this issue of Dryrot.

In May, Jackson Square called asking us to move our display out and to give us another space, but due to timing and other needs, we did not get it set up. This week we will be going into a smaller space which is just around the corner from Tim Horton's, so I am hoping it will give us some exposure to the public. Thank you to those who volunteered to help get it setup.

In June/08, the details with EmbroidMe were finished and the on-line store was launched [www.niagara.districtpowerandsailsquadron.promoshop.com](http://www.niagara.districtpowerandsailsquadron.promoshop.com) or go to Niagara District website [www.cps-niagara.org](http://www.cps-niagara.org) and click onto Squadron Promotional Clothing at EmbroidMe. I have actually gone on line and ordered my golf shirt with the CPS Hamilton Logo and the Hamilton burgee. It looks great and also is great quality. If any member would like something different than what they see on this website, feel free to call me or Shari at EmbroidMe and she will get the item for you and then put our CPS logo and Hamilton burgee on it

for you.

So now there is no excuse, you can wear your boating fashions all year long and even on land.

In the year ahead, I hope to hear from members with suggestions for our squadron activities and social events, and I welcome those who would like to participate. The upcoming year is a very important one for the Hamilton Squadron, as this is our 60th Anniversary. Our bridge is eager to celebrate and remember the last 60 years of the squadron. Please give me a quick phone call or e-mail to me to let me know what your thoughts are. I will be going with P/Cdr Cal to National AGM –Oct 24-26/08 in Windsor and will bring information about the new direction of CPS.

This looks to be an exciting year for training; we are already getting lots of calls for the courses. There will be new courses will be offered this year, like the four evening GPS. Piloting is now being replaced with Seamanship. Watch our website and the Dryrot for more information on them.

With respect we note the passing of a long time member – Murray Laws. On August 03/08 Murray was a member with the Hamilton Squadron for 53 years. Murray's membership number was 951. We know that he was very much a part of the Hamilton Squadron of CPS, a member at MBYC and will be missed.

We look forward to meeting our members this fall & winter, please come to our breakfasts at RHYC and to the other social events planned.

Wishing you a great fall and let's hope that we have wonderful Indian summer.

Cdr Vicky

## FINISHING TOUCHES

Last spring Commander Grimshaw asked me to visit the store which embroiders the shirts with our logos and burgees on them. My job was to check out sizes and styles. I don't usually travel toward St. Catherine's but after one very nice summer day my husband and I had in Niagara-on-the-Lake, I thought going home through St. Catherine's would be nice. In addition, we had just bought a new GPS and were eager to try it. I entered the address for Embroid Me and off we went. We saw every back street between Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catherine's, but we finally got there.

Shari St. Peters was warm and welcoming. She showed me the wide variety of styles and colours they have in golf shirts, vests and outerwear. I could feel and see the quality of the shirts. I tried some on so that I could get an idea of the sizing. If you want to know what a medium doesn't look like, come and see me. For those of you who like cotton, there are even



some styles you can get in cotton; you just have to ask. It was encouraging to see all the embroidery being done right on the premises. If there is a problem you know where the work comes from and who the boss is.

I enjoy wearing my shirt with the Hamilton Power Squadron logo on it. I like feeling a part of something good and I like others to know that I'm a member of such a great organization. Some people ask what the logo is, so it's also good advertising.

Now that Embroid Me has an on-line store for the Niagara District Power Squadron, ordering is easy. Fill out your choice of size, style, colour and the shirt will be yours. If you have a problem or a question, there's a nice little box for you to fill out and your question will be answered.

Let's face it, we have to wear a shirt, so why don't we go for good quality and advertise an organization we believe in.

Debby Conderan



### HPS Breakfasts at RHYC

Due to the overwhelming success of the last breakfast get-together at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club, the Bridge have decided to make it a more frequent event and have reserved spots for **January 18<sup>th</sup> 2009** and again on **March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009**.

Those of you who attended the last breakfast will no doubt agree that the fabulous view of the Bay from the dining room windows just adds to the enjoyment of the breakfast.

For just **\$12 (all inclusive)** the buffet-style breakfast includes: coffee, tea & assorted juices; assorted pastries & sliced fruit; eggs, bacon, sausage, home-fries & toast; pancakes with syrup, warm fruit and fresh whipped cream. We are also working on having a guest speaker – details TBA.

Tickets can be reserved by calling Glynis Hornsey at **(905) 527.1606** or through the Hotline: **(905) 388-1227**



# Ontario's Bermuda Triangle

Stretched out on the foredeck of my boat, dock lines gently tugging at my good ship, I lazily peck away on my laptop, on a sun soaked Southern Ontario afternoon. The sound of steel drummed island music rises through the forward hatch. I bask in the simplistic pleasure of it all. This is what we seek is it not? It gets us through our grey, drab Canadian winters and has us scurrying to the marina as the warming Spring sun melts away the last of the snow. We begin to uncover our boats, working in earnest to get our precious vessels ready for launch.

Come Spring, the marinas are literally a beehive of activity, sounds of grinders, buffers, excited boat chatter, while the fresh spring air is filled with promise and the smell of hull wax. To put a nautical twist on a famous movie line, “the smell of wax in the morning is the smell of victory”. Old acquaintances are renewed; adventurous plans for the upcoming summer are shared. Boating tips are swapped, and the race begins. Who can get in first? “They have to have me in by the May 2-4 weekend!” If they don’t, call the marine unit for apparently a grave crime has been committed.

Once the boats are in and rigged, people mysteriously begin to disappear. Is there some strange cosmic force at work here? Should we call in Mulder and Scully? I look around, and this marina is like every other faceless marina and yacht club in the province. It’s full of boats and yet except for a small handful of regulars who reside on their boats for the summer or make it down throughout the week, there is nary a soul around. Captain Morgan himself could fire a cannon ball down the docks and it would pass harmlessly by. I realize I am very fortunate in that I have an occupation which allows me great flexibility during the summer months. Still, where did everybody go?

“Margaritaville”, “Windsong”, “Tequila Sunrise” “Asylum”. I look around at the surrounding boats and their names say it all. As boaters, the majority of us are looking for escape, paradise, that “island” lifestyle—even if it is just for the season. We dreamily slip into

the sailing and cruising fraternity to relax and enjoy what summer and the boating lifestyle has to offer. But then quicker than an accidental gybe we begin cramming it in with everything else and it soon becomes just another thing on our “to-do” list.

We pour through our sailing magazines through the winter. With a jaunty look we boast about this lifestyle with our “land friends”. Then with a typical Northern Latitude attitude it all gets lost. We continue to work in our gardens, make those long drives to the cottage, and have backyard bbqs of all things! Suddenly it’s fall, and as we absently wonder where the season went, we ready our boats for haul-out.

So this is what I propose to all my fellow sailors. Navigate down to your boat tonight, tomorrow night, this weekend. Share some good food, music, and stories with some of your fellow dock mates. Enjoy your first coffee of the morning a few miles off shore. Go for an afternoon or evening sail. Strike up a conversation with a neighbour and agree to meet somewhere off-shore. Drop the hook, do some swimming, bbq some cheeseburgers, and share some cold drinks. Sail out to the point. Set a course in a direction you’ve never taken before. Let the fresh wind carry your daily trials and tribulations out past your streaming wake, they will be lost in the shimmering water forever. Watch the sunset from the bow of your boat. Listen for the sizzle as that great ball of fire sinks into the cooling water. If the weather turns or just for a change of pace, explore the local town or city. One never knows what hidden treasures and colourful characters you will find. Light air or heavy winds, your time on your boat can be enjoyed in so many different ways. A sailor’s life really can be an adventure, even north of the 49th. So cancel that appointment, turn off your cell phone and return to your sailing roots. After all, you’ll never make any sailing memories; you’ll never live the dream if you don’t make it down to the marina. So stop by on your way to your boat and say hi, I know a great cove where the bottom holds and the water’s calm.

Warren Hyde

## SEABREEZE

Gee, we are already back starting a new training session after another summer, which always goes too quickly. I trust you all had a safe and enjoyable summer out on the water.

Elsewhere in this issue of Dry Rot you should find information on upcoming courses being offered. One way of making the coming winter months more palatable is to enroll in a course offered by CPS. Why not consider a refresher course to fine tune your skills. Please also consider volunteering a small amount of your time in helping out by being a proctor at the boating courses. There are many other ways that one can involve themselves with this fine organization. Back in the sixties I remember the credo of JC’s (Junior Chamber Of Commerce), that it was a “Self Improvement Organization”. I think this motto can easily be applied to our Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons. Besides boating one can learn many different things being teamed with this organization.

The spring breakfast at RHYC was a real hit. The round tables with crisp linen tablecloths, good food, a lovely view and ample parking were all instrumental in making this event a huge success.

The Graduation Dinner and AGM went well, with a lot of work behind the scenes by Ruth Lewis, Vicky Grimshaw and Cal Traver. Cassidy and Curtis Williamson and Annie did a great job of presenting the food and cleaning up afterwards. After his four years of dedicated service, outgoing Commander Cal Traver rightfully deserved the accolades he received and was visibly moved by the extended applause, plus the presentation by incoming Commander Vicky Grimshaw. Cal is a real ambassador for the Hamilton Power and Sail Squadron. Thanks to P/R/C Marney Warby for filling in as Secretary. I would like to thank District Commander Daryl Lankin for assisting with photography during the proceedings. The students received their diplomas and awards and the new Bridge for 08/09 was sworn in. It looks like an exciting new year with lots of new faces.

One of the purposes of a newsletter is to recognize



people who give willingly of their time and talent to the betterment of the organization. Walter Plater has been serving coffee at the boating classes, as well as proctoring. I like Walter’s unassuming style and dedication. Chatting with Walter last winter, I was surprised to learn that one of his other volunteer activities is the bell player at St Paul’s Presbyterian Church at 70 James Street South in downtown Hamilton.. The church is celebrating its 175th year this year! The 11 bells were installed in the 180 foot spire in 1906 and can be heard all around the downtown core. Since 1977, Walter has arrived promptly every Sunday, making the climb all the way up the rack to play the bells for 15 minutes before the regular 11 am church service. How is that for dedication! It was quite exciting to hear and see Walter play. He gets a real workout, as he has to grasp the levers with two hands and push down smartly for every note. There are 11 levers that look like wheelbarrow handles coming out of a frame. These levers are connected to rods that extend all the way up to the actual bells. Walter opened with a lovely crescendo of bells, a celebration! The first hymn he played was “When I Survey This Wondrous Cross”, it gave me Goosebumps. The last hymn he played was “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”. After Walter finished playing we went down to the beautiful sanctuary to attend the Sacrament of Holy Communion, a fitting way to begin a boating summer.

Mike Kott

# Live and Learn

I have felt for some time that boating is like life itself where we keep constantly learning. With eyes wide open, every move is an adventure where we keep learning new ways to make things more enjoyable, easier and safer.

In June, I was anchored at gorgeous Heywood Island, about 10 miles east of Little Current. After two days there I got the itch to head east to Killarney. The weather was quite overcast and hazy, with visibility about 1 1/2 miles, as I could see East and West Mary Islands to the north. I started up the diesel plus all my equipment including the radar as a precaution. The anchor eased up nicely with the windlass and I left it to trail slowly in the water to rinse off the clay and muck. Before I cleared the main anchorage I brought up the Bruce anchor and the last bit of chain and secured it.

There is a shoal that extends out to the north east of Heywood and one must make certain they are past that before heading east towards the Landsdowne Channel. One thing I have observed in the relatively short time I have had radar is that not all buoys are reflective. I never did see the buoy that guards the outer edge of the shoal, so I went back to basics simply timing my run, as well as keeping an eye on the depth sounder before making my turn. I marveled and the very intuitive “bird’s eye view” presentation of the

radar as I approached and traveled east along the Landsdowne Channel.

As I traveled further east past Snug Harbour the fog became thicker and thicker down to about 1/3 of a mile. As I approached “The Narrows” a series of port and starboard hand buoys north of Badgeley Island, the visibility dropped further down to about 200 feet or less, right where good visibility would have been nice to have. I slowed T L down to about two knots which requires jogging in and out of drive. I favored the more benign port side, watching the depth sounders, radar, chart plotter, COG, compass, paper chart, and straight ahead into the mist, whenever I could!

In the past I have poo poed the latest advertising for electronics, where the push is to put everything on one screen. You must remember that I was raised in the fifties and the purchase of the family entertainment centre involved a TV/HI FI combination. As with many, it ended up as a HI FI/Liquor cabinet, when the TV became no longer repairable! With this in mind, as well as the concern of losing everything at once, has led my thinking to resist the “all on one screen” concept. However, as I was navigating my way to the first buoy of the narrows, I seriously reconsidered this old thinking.

I now dropped speed to about one knot, just main-



T L at Covered Portage Cove



Morning Mist at Mile 58 Collins Inlet

## LIVE AND LEARN



*Clouds Building at Turnbull Island (Near Blind River)*  
taining steerage. It was extremely hard keeping an eye on all the screens and data. Then, something caught my eye. It was a target coming straight at me at a fairly high rate of speed. I immediately switched from navigation mode to collision avoidance, using the radar to place the closing target to my starboard. Sure enough out of the murk came a large express cruiser, a “Wedding Cake” I call them, going way too fast for the conditions. I was simply too busy to get angry or to do anything else except avoid this idiot. As soon as the vessel had passed I brought T L back up on course and a few seconds later thankfully spotted a buoy. I approached gingerly, dead slow and made a positive identification of the buoy, relieved to find I was spot on. From that point I navigated from buoy to buoy, until I cleared the narrows. From there it was slow going continuing to the north end of the Killarney channel.

I radioed Fred at Gateway Marina in Killarney and got clearance to come to a slip there. Gateway Marina is small, but it has a chandlery, nice fully serviced docks, squeaky clean washrooms and showers, a real nice air conditioned restaurant and bakery. In the morning, one of their “Morning Glory” muffins with a cup of coffee is pure heaven. Another taste sensation awaits at Herbert’s Fisheries which is only a short walk away at the government docks.

Mike Kott.

## The Haul Out Party Friday, Nov. 08/08 at Macassa Bay Yacht Club

**This year, in lieu of a Holiday celebration, the Bridge has decided to hold a “Haul Out” party.**

**This will take place at Macassa Bay Yacht Club on November 8th, 2008.**

**Drinks at 6:30 and supper at 7:30pm, followed by a few party games such as ‘Trivia’ and a ‘Treasure Hunt’. Prizes for the most correct answers.**

**No need for the party clothes, just come dressed as you would for your Haul Out and relax and enjoy the fun.**

**Tickets are \$15 each, which includes a hot buffet-style supper of lasagna, salad, chili & buns, and of course some desserts for those of you with a sweet tooth. As always, the cash bar will be available for beverages throughout the evening.**

**Reserve your tickets by calling Glynis Hornsey at (905) 527.1606 or through the Hotline : (905) 388-1227**



# Hamilton Power & Sail Squadron Course Registration Dates

## Location of Registration:

### Canada Marine Discovery Centre

57 Guise Street East,  
Pier 8, at the foot of Hughson St.,  
Hamilton, ON

Saturday, Sept 20/08  
Sunday, Oct. 05/08  
10:00am to 4:00 pm

Call to pre-register or  
for more information  
**905-388-1227**

**Barry 905-387-9220**  
**Glen 905-387-8127**

e-mail us at

[boating@hamiltonpowersquadron.ca](mailto:boating@hamiltonpowersquadron.ca)

## Safe Boating Courses

starting Nov 18/ 2008

### Boating Course

(15 evenings )

includes Course Materials, Chart  
& \*PCOC\* (Pleasure Craft Operator's Card)

### VHF Course

(Maritime Radio)

(2 evenings)

includes manual & restricted  
operator certificate

### GPS Course

(4 evenings) Includes manual

Contact Hamilton Power & Sail Squadron  
**905-388-1227**



## To the Graduates of 2007-2008 Boating Class

Congratulations and welcome to Canadian  
Power & Sail Squadron of which you are now  
members.

I hope that you will enjoy an enduring and reward-  
ing future as a member of the Hamilton Squadron. I  
urge you to enroll in the next course which for boating  
grads is Seamanship or our other courses offered, GPS,  
VHF & Weather.

Seamanship will greatly expand upon the skills and  
knowledge acquired in the boating courses. Please  
look at our calendar of social events to take place in  
the next months. We look forward to seeing you again.

*Cdr Vicky*

## Hamilton Power & Sail Squadron Bridge Meetings

Second Tuesday of the month  
At Macassa Bay Yacht Club

Oct 14/08  
Nov 10/08  
Dec 08/08  
Jan 12/09  
Feb 09/09  
Mar 09/09  
Apr 13/09

## HPS Social Events

Fall/08 — Winter 09

Nov 08/08

### Haul Out Party

6:30 cash bar / 7:30 dinner

MBYC Tickets \$ 15.00

Limited seating so RSVP Oct 30/08

Jan 18/09

### HPS Breakfast

9:00am to 11:00 am

RHYC Tickets \$12.00

RSVP by Jan 10/09

Feb 20/09

### 4th Annual Pizza & Wing Night

6:30 cash bar, / 7:30 pizza is served

MBYC Tickets \$ 15.00

Limited seating so RSVP Feb 13/08

Mar 22/09

### HPS Breakfast

9:00am to 11:00 am

RHYC Tickets \$12.00

RSVP by Mar 14/09



2007/2008 Bridge Officers receiving their Merit Marks.

IN MEMORIAM  
MURRAY LAWS

Hamilton Power and Sail Squadron was saddened to learn of the passing of Murray Laws, a well known Squadron member. Murray received 6 Merit Marks, having passed the Boating course in 1955, Engine Maintenance in 1957, and he became a Senior Member in 1984. Throughout the years he and Bessie, his wife, have been staunch HPS supporters – attending graduations and entertainment functions. You may remember him taking photos, a career he chose and he would always hand deliver a picture to you of your boat. His love of the sea had always been his true love.

In this day and age, being involved with an organization for 53 years is, indeed, remarkable! Upon research, Murray has been a HPS member and has witnessed the Squadron progress through the early years with 44 Commanders having been elected to Hamilton Squadron. You could state that he, indeed, was a rare individual dedicated to safe boating.

We are proud to have known him and will miss his smiling face.

P/R/C Marney N. Warby, AP

MOVING?

Please send notification in writing to:

Percy Brown  
194 Stewartdale Ave., Hamilton Ontario L8K 4P5

or Email (please indicate "Address Change" in subject line)  
cici@nas.net

Old address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

New address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐

Yes, I would be interested in receiving *DRY ROT* via email in a PDF format.

Hamilton Power & Sail Squadron 2008/2009 Bridge

Squadron	Name	e-mail	Phone No
Commander	Cdr Vicky Grimshaw	cici@nas.net	905-628-0645
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Training Officer	Barry Courtman	barrycourtman@sympatico.ca	905-387-9220
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