

Bluewater

Fall 2025 Edition

- Issued October 11th , 2025 -

CanBoat Bluenose serves all of western Nova Scotia.

You are encouraged to share this newsletter with anyone that has an interest in boating.

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**CanBoat
NautiSavoir**

Bluenose

Operated by CPS-ECP



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Bluenose



Successful Flare Collection Day



Bluenose Squadron, with the complete cooperation of Mahone Marine, operated a marine flare collection day on July 5th. Bluenose Officer, Bill Towndrow, played a large part in the organization and running of this event. A big thank you, Bill! He reports as follows:

Program Overview

The purpose of the event was to collect expired marine flares and ensure safe disposal. This program is a cooperative effort of the CPS Foundation and CIL Orion. Bluenose Squadron facilitated one of approximately twenty-five collection events across Canada. There was no charge to boaters dropping off flares.

We successfully collected and prepared for shipment 593 expired handheld flares, parachute flares, rocket flares and cartridges, and smoke flares.

Lisa Ross, Olympic Sailor, Event

This event took place on July 11th

On July 11th CanBoat Bluenose sponsored an event at Chester Yacht Club.



Lisa Ross, two-time Olympian and Olympic coach was the guest speaker. In the afternoon, Lisa met with youth sailors as they finished out their week. They received a short presentation and snacks.

In the evening CanBoat Bluenose funded a lovely spread of appetizers which Liz Johnson, manager of the club, had kindly agreed to cater. Following the first round of food Lisa Ross had slides and a talk tracing her growth from Opti sailor as a junior to the ultimate stages of the Olympics in Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008. She coached in the Rio Olympics in 2016. Lisa also told us of serendipitous opportunities such as the chance to sail a 72 foot beauty named Silver Fern from Barbados to Grenada in the Maldives. Lisa attributes this happenstance to an innate connection among sailors and the fact that she has an experience, knowledge and understanding of the complex world of seamanship.

Finally, Lisa told us about the new Nova Scotian committee on which she serves. It promotes

inclusion, diversity, and equity, IDE.

The feedback CanBoat Bluenose received from CYC members was positive. Perhaps next year we will be able to come to your club or marina for a similar time shared.

Big Tancook Event

This event took place on July 26th



Wow, what a great time we had on Big Tancook! Thanks to our Bluenose Member, Mark Perkin, we heard many interesting details and lots of information about life, history and places on the Island. Mark travelled with us on the ferry from Chester and, with the ferry stopping briefly at Little Tancook, he had time to pre-acquaint us with stories and information from his years living on the bigger island. On Big Tanook we were greeted by Mark's wife,

Sandra, who would chauffeur us around the island in one of two pick-up trucks, one which is a former fire response vehicle from Japan. Once we greeted Bob Rutherford and Chris Borgal, who travelled on Bob's Blue Heron and anchored near the ferry dock, we boarded the trucks (sitting inside or on the back as we pleased) and began our tour. During the four hours that we were able to visit the island on a beautiful summer day, we visited the community centre for scones, water and other refreshments, the Church (circa 1900), gallery, museum (where gallery hostess, Hilary, provided a ghost story) and movie house, walked the beach and visited Southeast Cove. Then it was over to Mark's home (circa 1868) which is right across Northwest Cove from the ferry for light refreshments. Mark & Sandra provided their own ghost story that was literally close to home...their home! Mark then launched his 4K drone which allowed each of us to don virtual goggles to enjoy a 360 degree scan of the island. Finally, we were driven over to the ferry for departure. It was a grand day with wonderful hosts for 13 of us. Here are a few photos from the day:

The Island Church & Cemetery (circa 1898)



Proprietor/Hostess Hilary in the gift shop & museum with us.



Mark flies his drone to give us a total view of the Island



The Group of us on Mark & Sandra's Deck



Bluenose II Event
This event took place on July 30th at Indian Point



BLUENOSE II

port of call

Indian Point

July 30, 2025



On a July 30th CanBoat Bluenose joined the local boating community and spectators in welcoming Bluenose II to Indian Point. The weather and wind was perfect for small pleasure craft to meet her as she approached.

For those onshore there was a collective intake of breath as the mast and sails of this famous schooner appeared above and behind Zwicker Island. One forgets just how tall and impressive she is. Many boats followed her as she made her way to anchor, dropping sails on her final tack.

Bill Towndrow kindly picked up anyone who arrived by car. The boats rafted up on his mooring. We had a smaller group this year than in the rain last year, but no less food and refreshments methinks. We took photos and videos, reminisced, and made plans. No fireworks this year due to fire restrictions - maybe next year.

Thanks to those who were there in person or in spirit.

Commander Laura



Commander's Corner

I was unable to launch this year. I accepted this and turned my attention to other benefits of a summer in Nova Scotia. All was well. There are others for whom this has happened. Lengthy repairs, recuperating from a sickness or accident, money concerns, a rest even, are all possible reasons this



Bluenose Squadron Executive (Bridge)
Contacts:

Laura Webber

could happen.

In my case an opportunity to race aboard the schooner Pegasus was something to anticipate, to enjoy and to remember in the cooler days to come. I also had a marina acquaintance, who realized *Symphony in Sea* was on land, reach out to me. She even offered to pick me up at our empty mooring. It was a rich day for me. Thank you friend.

For some people being on the water fills a longing, nourishes the soul. I'm not overstating. Even for those who may not be experiencing this consciously, once they feel the movement of the boat, relax into its rhythm, breathe the air, they will be grateful for the gift.

Remember your fellow boaters whom you haven't seen at the marina lately. Maybe they would love a change and to be on the water. They are, no doubt, knowledgeable and familiar with being safe and useful on board. Perhaps they know how appreciative a skipper is to have extra treats on board and will bring some munchies to share. Perhaps you will find it a pleasant, dynamic afternoon. Perhaps you will find a friend.

PS - If the invitee declines, perhaps the stress of trying to make it happen is just too much at this time. Please know, you still did a wonderful thing.

Laura Webber

Laura Webber

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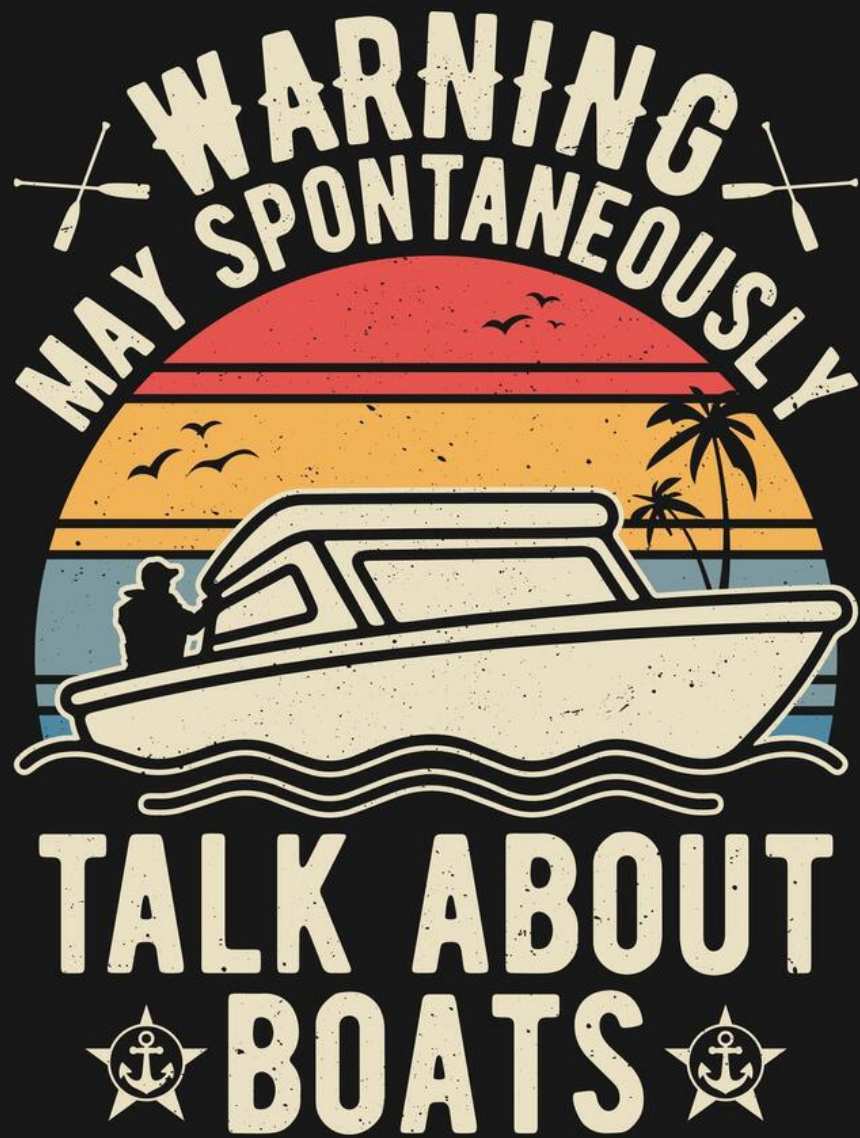
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Note: Although not currently part of our Bridge, we highly value our two other knowledgeable instructors namely [Al Bishop](#) and [Dave Puddington](#).



[CanBoat Courses](#)

Do you know what you don't know?



Editor's note: photo created with Co-pilot AI

The Transportation Safety Board investigates marine accidents of note, always searching for root causes to determine recommendations to save life and property in the future. Lately two of these investigations involved pleasure craft. One of these is presently under investigation, the other concluded: “although the pleasure craft operator involved in this occurrence had completed an accredited boating safety course and held a valid Pleasure Craft Operator Card, his knowledge of signals, lookout, safe speed, collision avoidance, and navigation in restricted visibility was limited. The pleasure craft had a simple passage plan for the intended voyage, but the craft’s occupants were unfamiliar with the navigation area and were unaware of the presence of a ferry service. The pleasure craft operator therefore did not have sufficient knowledge to navigate safely in the prevailing conditions at the time of the occurrence.”

All four of the pleasure boat occupants were hospitalized.

The report went on to challenge the PCOC knowledge requirements: “If the process to obtain a Pleasure Craft Operator Card does not provide pleasure craft operators with adequate knowledge of vessel operations, such as the *Collision Regulations* and principles of passage planning, and if there are no requirements for operators to remain current with this knowledge, there is a risk that they may not be capable of safe navigation in high-traffic waterways.”

CanBoat offers courses that vastly increase your knowledge above the level of PCOC.

Interacting with others as you work through a course gives you “real life” experiences.

Together these also have the added benefit of mental health by challenging your thinking!

Bluenose Squadron is offering several of these courses. We have classes scheduled for Maritime Radio Certificate (required if you use a VHF), Basic Navigation and Boat Handling, Near Shore Navigation, Offshore Navigation and Celestial Navigation.

Do you know what you don't know? Do you really know enough to safely boat in your waters?

Why not challenge yourself to step it up and take the next level course? Or try one of

CanBoat's mini courses. You can find it all on the course calendar at:

<https://www.canboat.ca/course-calendar/>

As always, your educational needs are ours to solve. Bob Rutherford and Bill Towndrow are at your service. Contact us at:

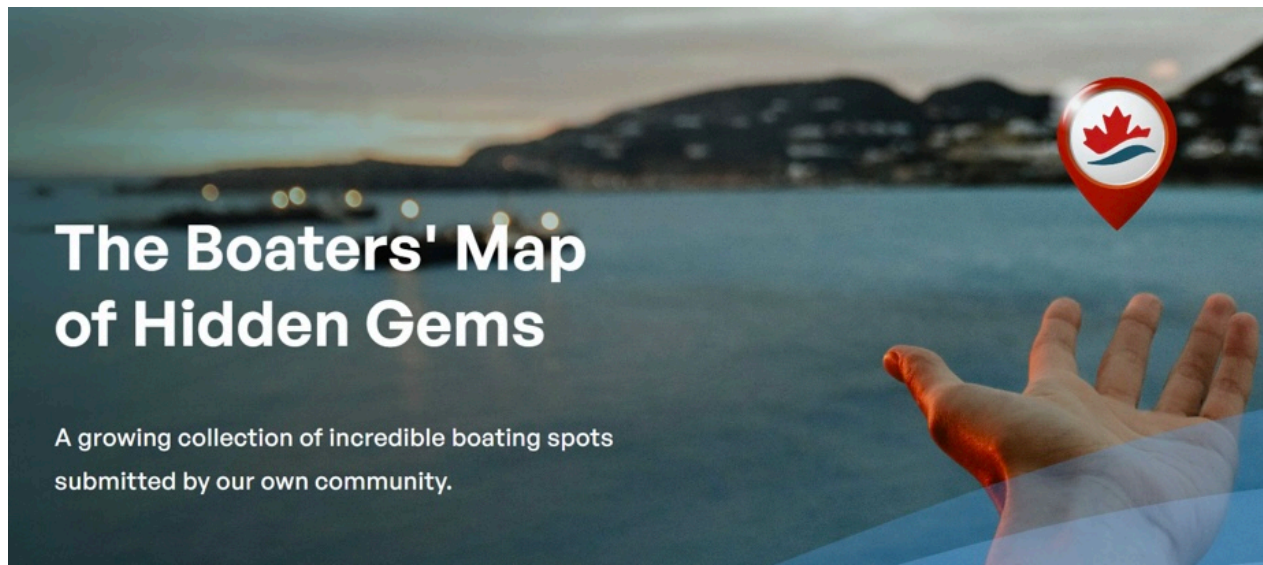
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**Let's take a moment of
silence for those**



**Forced to winterize their
boats.**



We recently introduced Hidden Gems and asked you to help us put points of interest on our map. Thanks to those who contributed. So far, we have about 50 locations, most are in Ontario. Great job Ontario, *but come on everyone else*, this is a Canadian map.

The Hidden Gems map also represents a great opportunity to engage with your local marinas and yacht clubs. We would like it to be the go-to map for cruisers this summer- a tool to help boaters plan and record their trip.

The intention of the Hidden Gems Map is to encourage boaters, themselves, to create a collection of incredible boating spots, scenic routes, anchorages, facilities, etc. The community's input will be displayed on the interactive map that can be searched and filtered. This will be a map built by boaters, for boaters. Each destination includes tips, activities, amenities, and how long to stay — so you can plan with confidence.

Members are in a great position to help get the map started. Take the lead and add your favorite destinations and why you love them. Fill out the easy to complete [input form](#), to submit your information. And get your marina or yacht club to add their information as well. The submission form link is also on the [CanBoat.ca](#) and [NautiSavoir.ca](#) homepage.

Social Functions



Watch for squadron bulletins over the Fall and Winter for our social gatherings. We are planning one this Fall and another after Christmas. If you have requests for any particular social events, please email Chris Borgal: borgal.christopher@icloud.com

When you winterize
your boat at home! 🤔



[Canada's Safe Boating Guide:](#)



NOTMARs

A Selection of Recent NOTMARS affecting our area

Dangerous Wreck (from June Notmars)

Chart 4381 - Chester Harbour - New Edition - 28-APR-2023 - World Geodetic System 1984 06-JUN-2025 LNM/D. 23-AUG-2024 Add dangerous wreck, masts visible, with legend PA Rep (2024)

44°31'57.5"N 064°12'59.9"W (See Chart 1, K25, B7, I3.2) DFO(6311959-01) Add wreck, least depth unknown, dangerous to surface navigation, with legend PA Rep (2024) 44°32'06.5"N 064°12'41.6"W (See Chart 1, K28, B7, I3.2)

[Click HERE for the latest issue for the Eastern Region](#)

Who you gonna call?

Bill Towndrow reports: *The question has been raised, and in any conversation I was part of, did not have a definitive answer regarding the appropriate channel for a request to VCS (Halifax) for a radio check.*

VCS requests that we continue to use ch16 until such time as they deem traffic is too heavy. They are referring to a long-term traffic trend, not due to traffic at a particular time. Should they make the decision to require radio check requests on a different channel, it will be promulgated by a Notice to Mariners. Until such time as traffic dictates, it is simpler all around to use ch16.

They are speaking for this area only, I did not inquire regarding other areas as I suspect our members that venture further afield are well aware of practice for the area they are transiting.



Our Member Roster

Hello Fellow Bluenose Members

Welcome to October 2025

We hover around 50-55 active members in the Bluenose Squadron. We all share a passion for our vessels and adore our time on the water. I know you take note of other vessels and often wonder her details. We think it is fun to share details of our vessels with each other. Therefore, for those interested, I continue to compile our vessel details and share them with our fellow Bluenose members. [The current roster of our boats can be viewed at this LINK.](#)

If you prefer not to share any of your vessel details, then simply let me know in a brief e-message.

If you would like to share and be part of this notion, please e-mail the following details about your vessel to me @ jamesivormcmillan@gmail.com:

- Your Name
- Boat Name

- Power, sail, row, paddle, etc.
- Home Port (or close to where she resides during 'the season')
- Type
- Length
- Hull colour
- MMSI number

Also, to make this even more enjoyable (and convenient), please attach a picture of your vessel to your submission. I will compile all this information and share with your fellow Bluenose members.

Thank you for being part of Bluenose.

Note: the above sunset photo is of *Pegasus*, the small schooner owned by member Mark Perkin.

Best,

--Jim McMillan

Squadron Membership Officer

jamesivormcmillan@gmail.com

QUIZ



Do you have a checklist for preparing your vessel for winter layup?

For a suggestion (and for some Fall boating tips), please find the little ship's wheel



near the end of this newsletter.



Squadron Burgee



Above is our Bluenose Squadron burgee! Looks great, doesn't it?! If you want one please contact Financial Officer, Dan White. The price is currently \$20 which is a tiny bit more than they cost to produce.

[Dan White](#)



CanBoat Shopping

CanBoat Hoodies Are Perfect For Fall Adventures



Get cozy and treat yourself to a CanBoat / NautiSavoir hoodie! There are over 30 colours to choose from including a highly visible safety green. You can also find full zip and extra cozy fleece options. You can even customize some product sleeves by adding your vessel name, Squadron name or volunteer position. [READ MORE](#)

Next Newsletters

The next Bluenose Squadron Newsletters being planned for December 2025 (Season's Greetings), February 2026 (Winter), April 2026 (Spring), June 2026 (Summer) and October (Fall)

- Jim Peerless, Secretary & Communications

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Quick Links

[Annual Notices to Mariners](#)

[Aqua Map - 25% discount on bundles](#)

[Atlantic Used Oil Management](#)

[Bluenose Boat Roster](#)

[Bluenose Microsite](#)

[Bluenose Newsletters](#)

[Bluenose Officer Contacts](#)

[Boating Courses](#)

[Boating Safety - Discover Boating](#)

[Marine Weather - Atlantic](#)

[MICA Island Use Guidelines](#)

[LAT/LONG into Google Earth - How to](#)

[Navionics](#)
[Predictwind](#)
[Quick Course Reference](#)
[Safe Boating Guide - Transport Canada](#)
[Sail Plan - Transport Canada](#)
[Scotian Shores Cleanup](#)
[Shore Cleanup](#)
[Weather to Boat](#)
[Windy](#)

Comment: I have been using the *Windy* and *Predictwind* apps for 2 years now. I don't need the paid version of those apps for my local trips. I use them for my own boating (a runabout on rivers, harbours and lakes) and for a dragon-boat on an interior Nova Scotia lake. I have found them to be remarkably accurate. Much more accurate than the chance of showers or thundershowers. Jim
Peerless, squadron secretary & communications.



Quiz Answer:

Winter layup checklist - [Click Here for the CanBoat checklist](#)

[Click HERE for Fall Boating tips.](#)

[Click HERE for Winter Checklist](#)



**HE TOLD ME HE HAD A CENTER
CONSOLE WITH TWO ENGINES.**

