

THE MAINSHEET

Red Stripe... Tom Turkey Winners 2008

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FALL 2008

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"A BIT OF OUR HISTORY"

Each of these photos, taken in the 1970's, provides a picture of the marina prior to the purchase from Gillinghams in 1978. Looked at closely, they exhibit a wealth of information as to how the property has changed over the last 30 years.

An Arial view

Most striking is the preponderance of power boats, four or five times the number of sailboats. The sailboats that do appear are generally Sharks as well as a few HR and C&C 25's. Rather than a travel-lift there was a marine railway that ran to what is now the maintenance shop where a few old boats were stored. "Murray's Boat Repair" has not yet appeared: the Sailing Club A-frame has. In the centre of the dry-sail area appears a boat shed for power boats which was relocated over the years. On the waterfront to the left is Dinty Moore's, formerly LeDoux's ice-cream stand; a storage building converted from an old loading shed appears on the right. At the extreme right of the picture is the Customs Dock beside the lighthouse. In the same area, under the large tree sits the



Teenie H. A mast crane can just be made out in the centre of the white building. Along what is now Nelson Street, appears the roadway into Shepherd Boatworks. Of interest beyond the property is the Riverside Hotel, the weather station at Fort Niagara and a large building beside the US Coast Guard dock shed.

From Nelson Street



Clearly evident in this view is the mast crane and small boat lift used to haul Sharks which was subsequently moved to the front wall and ultimately to its present position beside the launch ramp. The original gas shack and Esso sign have now been replaced, the tree cut down and the lighthouse has since taken on a decided lean. As seen here, there were pylons on both sides of each dock and outside these were fender boards all of which took up considerable space. Shortly after the Club purchase, the dock structure was altered to its present day configuration, saving 3 feet per dock in width which, multiplied by 50 docks amounted to 150 feet more docking space. This also allowed for a complete reconfiguration of the layout of the docks all of which led to a considerable increase in revenue. Do you know which of the remaining "original 18" still sails Loch Sloy seen here on the right?

-Terry Boulton

Sailing Club Purchases Gillingham Yacht Basin -December 28, 1978

Thirty years ago this December the Gillingham Yacht Basin was purchased for \$750,000.00 by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club. How fortunate we are that there were those with the vision to pursue this purchase and there were enough boaters willing to make the financial commitment.

Today, the status of marinas in Canada is dire as outlined in an August 4th article in *Macleans Magazine*. "There are 959 marinas in Canada...and soon there will be a lot fewer. 'Marinas are closing,' says Al Donaldson, executive director of the Ontario Marine Operators Association. 'Waterfront property value exceeds the value of the business, it's as simple as that.'...marinas are facing rising property taxes, labour shortages, bureaucratic obstacles and higher fuel costs...marina development is virtually non-existent...marinas are either being bought by developers [or their leases terminated by municipalities which own the property] or swallowed by bigger fish [therefore] the chronic shortage of available boat slips will only worsen." NOLSC faces none of these obstacles as a result of that 1978 purchase.

The property ownership has a long and convoluted past which, for purposes of this article is traced here from 1957, a date to which some of us can relate. The property was purchased from the Cayuga Steamship Company by the Maid of the Mist Steamboat Company for \$40,000.00. Al Downer leased the property until Don and Dennis Gillingham took up the lease, eventually to purchase the property themselves in 1972. The relationship between the Gillinghams and the Sailing Club which had existed on the property since 1964, had always been amicable and mutually beneficial. As a result of this good will, the Sailing Club was offered the opportunity to purchase from the Gillinghams who, to the great advantage of the Sailing Club, took back the original mortgage. This mortgage was paid off in 2007 which puts NOLSC in a most enviable and unique position as a Sailing Club.

Back in 1978, to raise the necessary funds was a daunting task headed up by Lionel Garrett then Commodore of NOLSC. Making up the Board at the time were Dave Flemming, Laurie Muir, John Doucet, Richard Kelly, Art Peacey, Tom Burford, Doug Minor, Don Campbell, Norm Manson, Doug Grayson, George Hinterhoeller, Ken Miller. At the time of the offer to purchase there were 50 paid-up, active members of the Sailing Club according to the 1978 April Mainsheet; not a large enough membership to make the financing feasible. As the closing date had been pushed forward, by the Gillinghams, from March 1979 to December 78 there was a frantic membership/fund raising blitz in an effort to raise the funds to make the purchase possible. \$250,000.00 was needed for the down payment: for many, the financial commitment would be considerable. Everyone who had a boat in the basin was approached with the opportunity to "buy into" the Sailing Club and incredibly 120 boaters came forward to show their faith in The Club and thus the necessary funds were raised.

There were not quite 120 individual boaters as a number of businesses or corporations associated with the boating industry of that era also "bought in". Of those approximately 110 individual members, today there remain 18 Active Members with a boat in the basin: Terry Boulton, Judy (Clare) Brandow, David Clayton, E.J. "Skip" Doyle, James Garrett, Lionel Garrett, Murray Haines, William Harper, Joel Lippman, Pearl (Dr. Wm.) Mitchell, John Morrison, Duncan MacFarlane, Paul (Robert) Riseman, Douglas Robinson, Glen Stewart, John Van Wyk, Dr. David Wilson, Doug Wood.

A quote from the 1978 Mainsheet editor, Doug Minor, captures the feeling of elation felt at the time:

Oh yes, I almost forgot to tell you that you are the owners of a very expensive and exclusive piece of waterfront property - The Niagara-on-the-Lake Harbour! There is naturally a great deal to sort out before spring, but this remarkable venture has finally become a reality and we and our kids are assured of a good marina for ever. This was made possible by the prompt financial commitment of 120 people whose used top siders should be bronzed and put on permanent display in the N.O.T.L. Museum.

From that auspicious date, December 28, 1978, the Club has never looked back. { Future copies of the Mainsheet will cover highlights of the three decades - 1978 to 2008. }

-Terry Boulton



-Letter from the Editors



Falling Leaves and Cooler Weather Ahead!



Where on earth did the summer go??? It seems like we just got started (at the end of August) and then it was over. For some it is the end of another season as the boat yard crew hauls out boats for the winter. For others...there is still time to get a few more exciting sails in before Greig says "that is enough, your coming out'. We managed to get one more sail in on Halloween...last year was Thanksgiving...maybe next year it will be Christmas...just kidding! I hope everyone enjoyed what little sailing time we had along with all of the social functions and cruising.

Garry and I hosted the cruise to IYC in August with the help of Dave and Shirley Bruce (Serenity Now). I would like to thank all those that participated and helped out. We had a fantastic time. We would like to especially thank those that dressed in Pirate gear for the cocktail party on the Saturday evening. What wonderful costumes! I think Louise Van Atte must have a huge tickle trunk full of costumes on her boat.

We also had the pleasure of hosting Tom Turkey. What a wonderful way to end the sailing season and to see everyone one more time before haul out and the snow flies. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves. A special thank-you to all of our helpers, Penguin, Red Stripe, Serenity Now, Catchacoma, Blue Fantasea, Barb Wells and Dave & Vivian. A Big Thank you to Maureen and Colin for a great Tom Turkey Race. Garry and I look forward to more hosting opportunities next year.

We had a great time.

This will be the last issue of the Mainsheet for 2008. The next issue will be around March/April. Deadline for submissions will be March 15, 2009. If there is anything anyone is interested in seeing in the Mainsheet, please drop me a line. I would love to hear from you.

&

All the best to you and your families over the holiday season. See you next year! -kb

> Kathy Brown Toucan 905-468-5848 toucansail@hotmail.com

Maureen Dodd Euphoria 905-468-4810 maureen@doddsgreenhouses.ca





WEDNESDAY RACE NIGHT BARBEQUES

We are pleased to announce that this year we raised \$1845.00 at our Wed. night barbeques after the race. All of this money goes to support our junior sailing program. Thanks so much for your support and donations as many of you said :"Keep the change; it's for the junior sailors". Also, a special thanks to Janis, our cheery banker and to Rick, our competent cook.

Zooomm's crew has decided to resign as hosts of our Wed. night event. We have done this for some years and would like a break. Larry Bayer started the barbeques about 10 years ago . It was a great idea - time to socialize and fund raise at the same time.. Better to keep the money in our club rather than running off to local establishments to spend

our money. Hopefully, some other crew will step up to the plate and be responsible for next year. We do not mind ordering the food and picking it up but would like to relax and socialize after the race.

Are you willing to volunteer?

Thanks again for your support. The Crew of Zooomm



Junior Sailing News Junior Sailing News All quiet on the Junior Sailing front. The boats are nestled in their winter bunks. Our instructors and students are back in school. Many of you know my grandson, Graham. He completed his CYA Bronze V certification this year. He is a freshman at Canisius High School in Buffalo. Graham crewed the Canisius B 420 to a first place finish in the High School North West District finals in Rochester, NY Our sailors rock! Recently, I was asked about the injuries that occur in Junior Sailing. Keep in mind that we have more than forty students and instructors each month. Also, as I wrote about last winter, one of the qualifications to become an instructor is a First Aid or St. John's Ambulance certification. They need it! We average 20 stitches/staples a year. We use about 4 dozen ice packs and a gross of Band-Aids per summer and our instructors pull a couple of slivers every day. Well, we get boom bangs. We get fingers and toes crunched between boats and docks. There are sharp edges on the rigging. The slivers come from the docks. Sounds like mayhem! I suspect any summer youth program has similar injuries. I don't mean to belittle the concerns but the success of the Junior Sailing program has lead to the influx of many students whose parents are unfamiliar with sailing. It is a vigorous sport. I crew Bumble Bee on Wednesday nights. I have bruises and cuts at the end of a race and I don't even know when they happened. Come to think of it, no one on the Bumble Bee has any idea of first aid. One other thing. Each CYA certified instructor carries five million dollars of liability insurance. That's \$5,000,000. The premium is part of the \$150.00 fee each instructor must pay to OSA for his or her certification. The club does not pay this fee but we require their certification. In any event, be assured that your instructors and your Club are adequately covered for any injury. See you at the Santa Claus Parade. Paul Sullivan Director, Junior Sailing **BUY, SELL & TRADE....**

Do you have items you wish to advertise for sale, buy or trade?

Please contact: Kathy Brown (Toucan) or Maureen Dodd (Euphoria)

FOR SALE:

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entertaining; garage. \$289,000 US.

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Edifications

A few years back I told a story of what it is I do for recreation. I don't recall if I mentioned fishing in the near north, in that article.

Our Commodore asked me about him and I going fishing one day so he could see what all the hubbub is that I enjoy as much as he does sailing.

I said I would set up a "fishing adventure" in Aug. '08.

We flew in to a small wilderness lake just east of Port Severin in late Aug. for 2.5 days. The group grew from 2 to 6, which included 2 more club members. I figured this destination would guarantee fish (largemouth bass) for all and the lake didn't disappoint. Everyone caught fish with the biggest weighing 5+lbs. A friend of a friend caught this lunker and took home the cash!

Weather, fishing, camaraderie, tunes, flight, food and libation could not have been better. Got to love when a plan comes together.

Did you know...

The very airplane (Cessna 206) we flew in was here at the club in the late 90's to pickup passengers from the gas dock. The people were from a visiting boat that took the quick way back to Toronto.

P.S I apologise for the lack of content re: the club in this edification. It means everything is in fabulous shape here at NOLSC.

Till next time Ed





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Director at Large	Russ Hodgkinson	Penquin	
BOARD AFFILIATES	~ ~		/
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Club Historian	Tom Haines	Therapy Too	(905) 468-2833
Mainsheet Editors	Maureen Dodd	Euphoria	(905) 468-4810
	Kathy Brown	Toucan	(906) 468-5848

Who's Who?....



FALL GENERAL MEETING

REMINDER!

Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club FALL GENERAL MEETING

<u>Notice of Meeting</u> *Thursday, November 20, 2008 Meeting 7:30 pm*

NOLSC CLUB HOUSE

Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club

AGENDA

- * Review and approve minutes of Spring General Meeting held on March 20,2008
- * Review and approve Financial Statement for 2008
- * Election of Board Nominees
- * Appoint Auditors for 2008

* Review and Approve Directors Reports.

*	Ho	use

- * Operations
- * Fleet
- * Junior Sailing
- * Social
- * Membership
- * Long Range Planning
- * Public Relations
- * Director at Large

Judy Brandow John Vanderperk Bruce Harper Paul Sullivan David Rourke Rick Corvino David DeBoy Henry VanAtte Russ Hodgkinson









BLAZER...

In the middle of the 19th century it was the custom in the Navy for captains to buy uniforms for their boat's crew. Uniforms were not commonplace amongst the lower deck but most captains liked to show off their crews on ceremonial occasions and since the captains were paying for the uniforms out of their own money, so they were given the freedom to choose their own style and colour. The boat's crew of HMS Harlequin, the records state, were dressed as harlequins; the HMS Caledonia's crew wore the tartan; and HMS Tulip's boatmen had a green suit with a flower in their caps. But the most memorable outfits of all were the snappy blue jackets worn by the boat's crew of HMS Blazer. In no time the crew became known as "the blazers" and that is how the garment got its name.

REGATTA...

An Italian word, the correct spelling is regatta and it means a boat race. In the Middle Ages it was the custom for people of Venice to sail to the Lido to practice throwing slings. Since this was for the possible defence of the newly founded Republic the government provided boats for the trip and between them a haphazard race was begun. Subsequently it became official that the boats begun from a line. The Italian word for line is riga and it is from this word that regatta is derived. Regattas are still very popular in Venice and take place each year.



Retirement...Jack Kizlinski

After 16 years of excellent security service at NOLSC, Jack Kizlinski has retired. At 89 years young, Jack informed Barb and I, that Wednesday, Oct. 29 was his last day. I hope we spoke for all, in wishing Jack all the best in the future. We thanked him for his dedication in making NOLSC his primary work place. Of course there is a chance we may see him from time to time, helping with our recycling program! (you know what I mean.)

Ed McIlroy

Obituaries

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of one of our NOLSC members. Our thoughts and condolences go out to the family and friends.

URQUHART, William (Will)- On November 4, 2008 surrounded by his family, at Henderson Hospital in Hamilton, at the age of 59. Husband of Charlotte "Lottie." Father of Sarah. Brother of Beth Wright (Rod), Jim (Elaine), Hugh (Diane) and Robert (Vicki). Survived by eleven nieces and nephews. Son-in-law of Elizabeth DeBoer. Will established Urquhart Investigation and Research Inc. in 1990. Cremation has taken place. Will's family will receive friends at the NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE CHAPEL of the MORGAN FUNERAL HOMES, 415 Regent Street on Thursday evening from 7-9. A service to celebrate his life will be held at the funeral home on Friday at 11 o'clock. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Juravinski Cancer Centre.

Online guest register at www.morganfuneral.com







Tom Turkey 2008

