

July 1998



La Salle Mariner's Yacht Club

Blessing of the Fleet : RCAF Branch 364 Coloured Guard with Wind Song,
(Blessing of Fleet) chairman, Bob Henson sailing past

LaSalle Mariner's Yacht Club 1998 Officers

Commodore: Bob Bingham 736-1245

Vice Commodore: John Amyot 253-8878

Treasurer: Yvonne McRobbie 978-1756

Secretary: Elaine Prettyman 978-9820

House Director: John Murphy 256-3302

Road and Grounds: Lothar Bauer 734-1146

Social Director: Perry Basden 972-5949

Race Director: Bob Reaume 978-0947

Harbour Master: Ralf Fiedler 969-7995

Refreshments

Jim Blackton 734-8746

Yvonne McRobbie 978-1756

Ralf Fieldler 969-7995

Publisher

Ralph Kepran

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Editor

Richard Parchoma

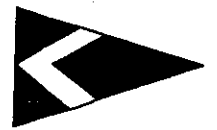
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LaSalle Ontario, N9J 2N1

1998



LaSalle Currents



Volume # 2 Issue #7

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From The Commodore

This is a very busy sailing month and I am going to get right to the point.

√After the success of our first work party another one is in the works, but this time hopefully a few more members. Remember this is an excellent way to earn your 12 required work hours.

√In case some members think we have forgotten, plans are still in the works for the beautification of our front entrance. Different options are now under consideration.

√A special meeting is planned in the near future for discussion of purchasing a fork lift truck and the building of a new shed.

√No parking in front of the clubhouse has been a great success. Keep it up. It makes the clubhouse less cluttered and it keeps the dust down. Remember the two loading zones are just that, for unloading and for loading. After you have completed the job you should park your vehicle in the parking lot to make this loading area available for another member. It is not your personal parking spot.

√Our club has purchased a new gas barbeque for our club through Bergeron Home Furniture in LaSalle. Thanks Phil.

√It has come to my attention that many crew members are speeding down the entrance way when they are coming to race on Wednesday nights. They are creating a great deal of dust. Members who race on Wednesday nights, please inform your crew about slowing down.

√The north harbour walkway project is almost ready to go. **Suggestion To North Harbour Members.** This would be an excellent time for you to volunteer some of your time for this important construction. It will benefit you.

Commodore Bob Bingham

Famous Sailor Declared Dead

The Associated Press Paris

Eric Tabarly, France's best known yachtsman who crisscrossed oceans to win numerous solo titles, died in a final battle at sea, officials confirmed Sunday June 14th.

Missing since Friday night after falling off his 100 year old sailboat the Pen Duick near Wales, Tabarly was declared dead Sunday by officials in the Brittany port of Brest and in a tribute by President Jacques Chirac.

Searches by sea and air failed to turn up the renowned navigator, who shot to fame in 1964 when he won England's Transit solo race across the Atlantic and inspired sailors across France.

Patrick Tabarly said his brother "didn't put luck on his side" by failing to carry a radio transmitter or wear a life jacket.

"It was his style of life that he liked and he died in full form," he said.

The boat's crew said in a statement that Tabarly was knocked into the sea while changing to a smaller sail because of high winds as the boat headed toward Scotland.



The Currents is published monthly. While The Currents has researched and inquired to assure that information contained in The Currents is accurate, we recommend that you double check, to assure complete accuracy. Not receiving The Currents? Call the editor to get your copy!



Blessing of the Fleet

The Strawberry Festival weekend is a time when the town of LaSalle comes alive to one of the biggest festivals on the Detroit River. It is a time when the family can enjoy a relaxing break from every day life as well as enjoy the celebrations that see people coming back each year for more.

The Blessing of the Fleet at LMYC occurred on the Sunday of the LaSalle Strawberry Festival Weekend. At 1:00 pm at LMYC Window's Walk with Commodore Bob Bingham and Reverend Stan Fraser presiding, a wreath was placed into the river honouring those sailors buried at sea. You could hear a pin drop as the 4 members from RCAF Branch 364 (LaSalle) stood at attention while Amazing Grace on the bagpipes played. The boats paraded past the Widow's Walk where Reverend Fraser bestow blessings on each

vessel for success and safe return from the sea. Many of the vessels were boarded by the owners, crews, and families.

As the first boat approached 2 RCAF members fired a salute. The first boat to be blessed was that of Bob Henson (Blessing of the fleet chairman) on Wind-song. 24 vessels received their blessing in the traditional manner while 6 boats were blessed at the dock. After the blessing the festivities continued in the clubhouse. Inside the clubhouse Commodore Bob Bingham welcome the guests and thank the members and friends who participated in LMYC Annual Blessing of the Fleet. Reverend Stan Fraser said grace and then our culinary adventure began. An assortment of food, graced the entire clubhouse. There were garden salads, marinated meatballs, fresh vegetables, chicken, seafood, and a staggering pastry line. After eating

members and friends chatted until 4:00 pm.

The blessing remains an important part of LMYC culture. It creates an atmosphere that reaches into the heart of every club member and finds the spirit and pride that is the Blessing of the Fleet.

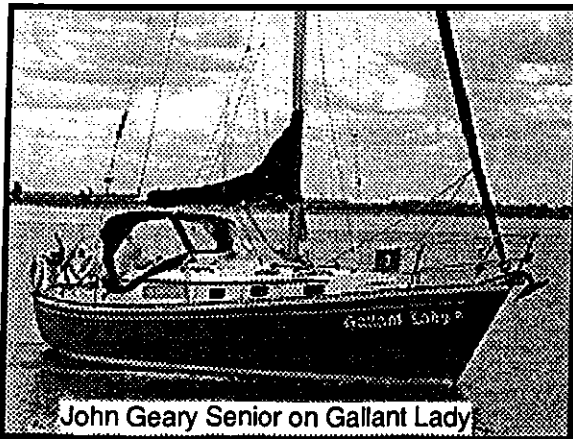
The Blessing of the Fleet Festival Committee under the direction of Bob Henson has now started planning the 1999 Blessing of the Fleet Festival after the great success of the 1998 festivities. The Blessing of the Fleet is a LMYC event not to be missed! LMYC invites you to join the Blessing of the Fleet Celebrations in 1999.



Reverend Fraser and Commodore Bingham



RCAF Branch 364



John Geary Senior on Gallant Lady



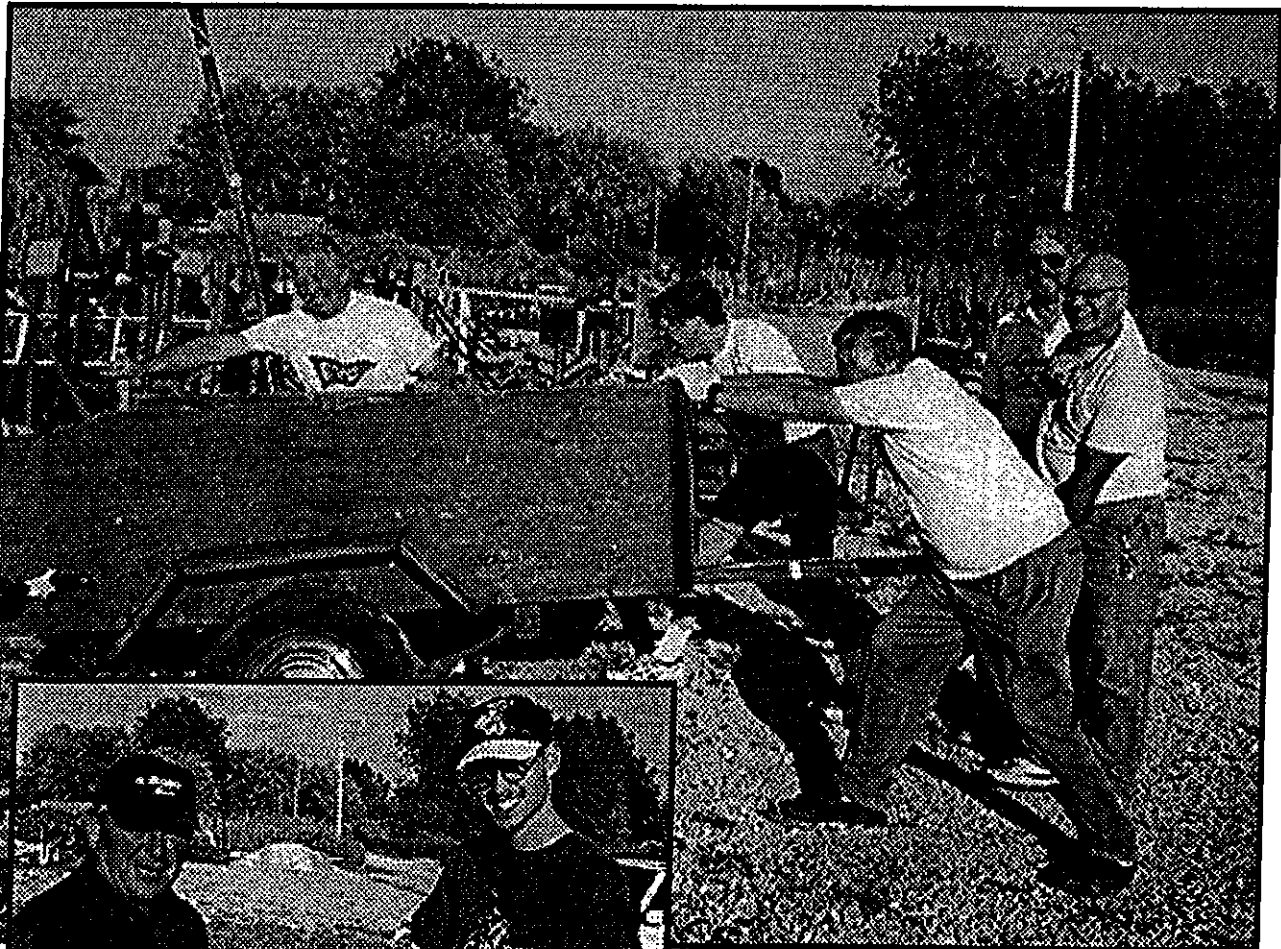
LMYC Work Party

LMYC has had its first official facelift this season. The first official work party for 1998 was held on Tuesday June 2, 1998. The turnout was small but the workers who showed up were enthusiastic and hardworking. All sorts of work was performed around the club. Litter which hides under the snow all winter was removed. Grass was cut, trimmed and rubbish around the club was cleaned up. The back area where cradles are stored is now in pristine condition. All in all the club property is in outstanding shape.

If you didn't participate in the Tuesday Work Party and are looking for a way to actively participate in keeping LMYC beautiful, and fulfilling your work hours, don't despair. Don't let 'SPRING' end your desire to participate in this aspect of Active Living, organize a work party anytime you see the need!



Bob Reaume



Top- Ralph Kepran, John Amyot Senior
Juergen Hendel, Bob Bingham, Ralf Fiedler
Left - George Mooney, Donald Beneteau



Watch Out Boys,

That "Lady" May Be A Pirate !

Not all of history's pirates were men. Just like Geena Davies character "Morgan Adams" in MGM's 1995 film "Cuthroat Island", female pirates were something to be truly feared. Mary Read and Anne Bonney were two of the most notorious and bloodthirsty pirates of the early 1700's. They sailed together with "Calico Jack" throughout the waters of the West Indies. The two women were first-rate pirates, never shirking battle. In 1724, in his book "General History of the Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pirates", Captain C.A. Johnson wrote that "...none among the crew were more resolute, ready to board or undertake anything that was hazardous".

Mary and Anne's career ended in late October 1720 while at anchor off Jamaica's north coast. They were challenged by a privateer sloop commanded by Captain Jonathan Barnett who was commissioned by the Governor of Jamaica to take pirates. After a short but decisive action, the pirates surrendered. Captain Barnett later testified in court that only the two female pirates had put up much of a fight. Anne and Mary had fought like wildcats, using pistols, cutlasses and boarding axes.

Both women avoided hanging by claiming pregnancy but Mary died of fever before her baby was



Anne Bonney

born and Anne mysteriously escaped and faded from history.

So next time you're racing at LMYC and a sailboat comes abeam with a lady at the helm, look closely, she may have a wicked gleam in her eye and a cutlass at her side! (Image from early 18th century lithograph)

NAUTICAL SUPERSTITIONS

Although a great many of the old superstitions of seamen have been forgotten or ignored by the sophisticated sailor of today, some linger on. These superstitions initially owed their origin to the desire of mariners of ancient times to guard themselves against the unknown dangers of the sea.



Women aboard a ship were considered unlucky, an old belief that the sea grows angry at the sight of a woman. This superstition was also strongly held by fishermen, and up to the end of the 19th century in Scotland a fisherman would refuse to go to sea if a bare-footed woman crossed his path while on his way to his boat. Yet at the same time, many seamen used to believe that gales and high winds would subside if a naked woman appeared before them. It was for this reason that so many of the figureheads of ships showed a woman with a naked breast.



LMYC Pumpout



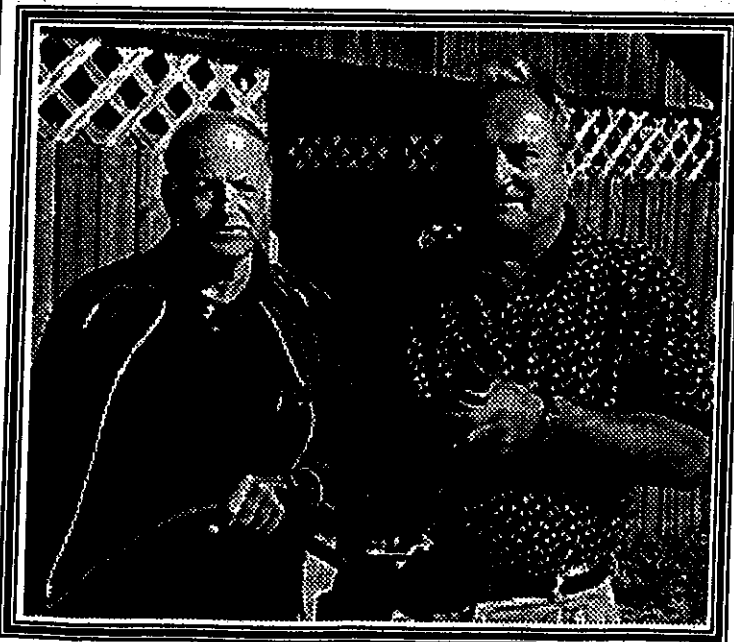
The first pump out at LMYC was started in 1978. It consisted of a round metal holding tank roughly 10 feet long and 6 feet in diameter. At this time the pump out was exposed to the elements as there was no building to house it. The first pump out was hand operated and was a one foot diaphragm pump. It took roughly 15 minutes to pump out your boat.

Three years later around 1981 Doug Kirkaldy, a club member made the mechanical connections for a motor. Howard Porter supplied the motor which was a one horse 110 volt. Since it was electric driven, the pump out time was reduced to about 5 minutes.

In 1988 John Metcalf the commodore at that time made the pump out his project. The pump, some say, came from a farmers milk machine, some say it was donated, whatever, this pump would become the heart of our modern pumpout



Manfred Albrecht pumping out Amigo IV



Howard Porter and Manfred Albrecht

facility.

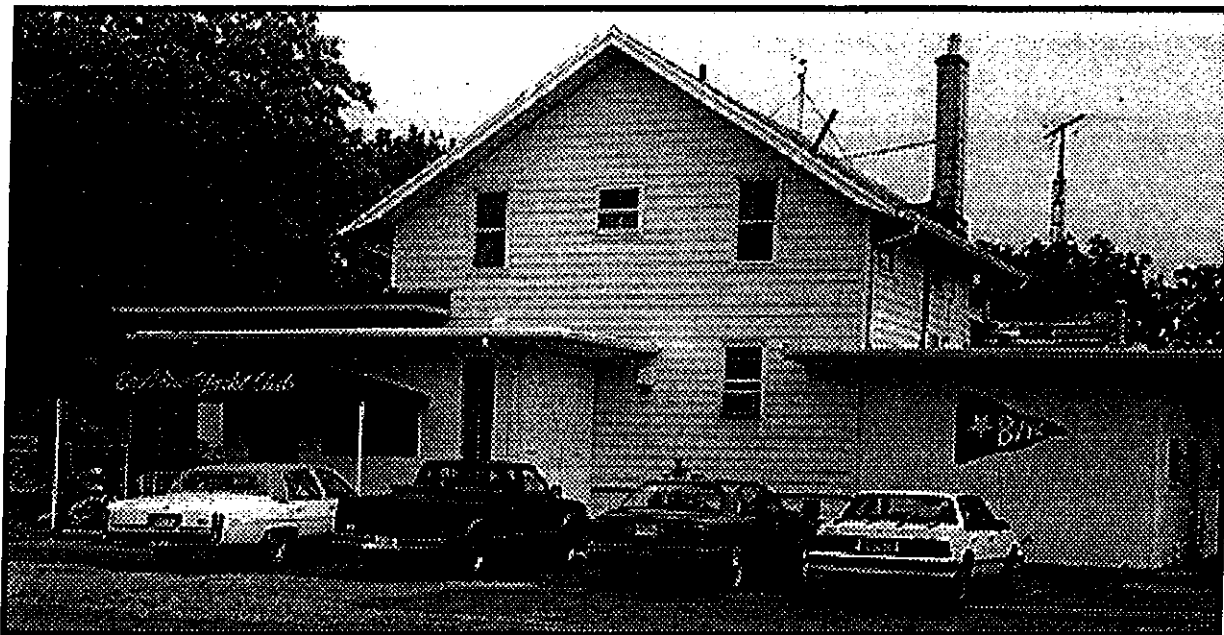
Manfred Albrecht took over in 1988 and designed the system we see today. Manfred spent approximately one year assembling the mechanics for the operation of the pumpout. This included the electric panel, the vacuum tank and all the other paraphenlia to make it operate properly and simply.

Later in that year the building was built which enclosed the pump out.

Manfred has been maintaining the system faithfully for the last ten years and plans a new lubricating system controlled by an electric motor for the 1998 boating season.



PLACES TO VISIT THIS SUMMER



Bay View Yacht Club

Toledo is located on the west end of lake Erie and is one of the busiest seaports in the world. Much of the grain grown in the Midwest is shipped out of the port of Toledo.

When you approach Toledo, be sure to stay in the marked channel. There are shoals on both sides. There are cuts in these shoals, and you may see local boaters cutting out of the channel. Don't try it without some local knowledge.

The safest place to enter the channel is at the Toledo Harbour Light nearly nine miles out in the lake. This light is mounted on a fine stone keeper's house with an attached tower.

Two yacht clubs lie just inside the mouth of the Maumee River on the west bank in what is generally known as the Coast Guard Basin. This is the Toledo Yacht Club, the oldest club on the great lakes and Bay View Yacht Club.

When entering the Coast Guard Basin proceed slowly straight ahead. If you turn to port you will be entering the Toledo Yacht Club.

Continuing straight ahead and at the far end of the entrance channel is Bay View Yacht Club. This is predominately a power boat club, but is

very friendly. When you enter the Bay View Yacht Club channel stay to the left and proceed until you reach the gas docks right by the clubhouse. Next to the gas docks are the club's two guest wells. The water in this club is quite deep and you do not have to worry about running aground. This club has barbeques and a covered patio for your convenience. The clubhouse is very comfortable and has a dining room and bar. After docking at the guest well you should go into the clubhouse and register. There are excellent facilities at Bay View. Showers are excellent and a laundromat is available. Just a 1/2 hour walk from the club is a Boat US outlet for your convenience. Bay View Yacht Club is an ILYA reciprocal club which grants reciprocal days free. They have for your convenience, electricity, water, diesel, gas and a pumpout.

It is best to call ahead to let them know you are coming.

Phone (419) 729-0731

Monitors VHF Channel 16

An excellent club to relax for a weekend.



PLACES TO VISIT THIS SUMMER



Sandusky Sailing Club

Sandusky Bay is a 15 mile long, 2 mile wide body of water. The bay is entered between two thin points of land. On the starboard side when entering the bay is Marblehead and on the port side is Cedar Point Amusement Park. To visit Sandusky Sail Club you have to go all the way into the bay. This is a very busy channel and the bay is shallow. Staying to the marked channels or heavily-trafficked areas will help you avoid running aground.

Sandusky Sailing Club is located next to Battery Park in the Sadler Sailing Basin. When you enter Sandusky Sail Club make sure you follow the channel entrance markers and as soon as you enter the sail club turn right. This is a very busy club so be aware of traffic entering and leaving the club. Moving slowly, you will come to a long wall facing you. These are the guest docks. Usually there is enough room to dock at least 6, 30 foot boats. The club is very friendly, but it is best to arrive on a Saturday or Sunday when they have racing so you will be able to obtain a club pass card which will allow you entry into their facilities. During the week there is not much traffic at the

club and without a card entry is not possible.

There is a grocery store about 1/4 mile from the club and a water slide close by, if you are so inclined. Damon's Place restaurant is in Battery Park Marina which is a 5 minute walk from the sail club. Food is excellent and ribs are their speciality. Damon's is a popular establishment and unless you make reservations you will have a long wait.

Sandusky Sail Club is a reciprocal club and offers 7 days free dockage to reciprocal clubs. They have showers and barbeque facilities. From Sandusky Sail Club you are only about a 20 minute sail from Cedar Point Amusement Park.

If you are looking for an interesting club to visit, this could be the place for you.

