



Aerial photo – a view of LMYC – courtesy of the Essex Regional Conservation Authority



The Currents

LaSalle Mariners Yacht Club
2640 1/2 Front Road
LaSalle Ontario, N9J 2N1

May, 2012 Issue

From the Commodore...

With most of the boats in the water and our first Monday race finished, it feels like the club is starting to come to life. 'Shakedown' is this weekend coming and so far the weather sounds great. Join-in, it can be a great weekend in Put In Bay.

There are lots of projects left to do. The galley is almost there - some trim, paint and a new light fixture is all we need. Beach stone gravel has been spread around the front of the turn around to help stop the dust from the continuing traffic. Please try to use the parking lot when you can. We are still putting together plans for the Tiki refreshment area. That should prove to be a lot of fun over the summer. We are currently looking for places to put up the bat houses hopefully that will help with the mosquito problem.

We have purchased a 22foot sailboat for use as our Race Committee Boat. It will be fitted with all of our equipment, flags, marks and horn. After it is ready no one doing race committee will have to use their own boat. This will be a good test to having our own club boat without a large investment.

Hinnerk Weiler, or as we call him "the German Guy" will be leaving soon. To thank us for the hospitality he received from the club, he gave a presentation this past Saturday of his trip from Germany. He is a good story teller with lots of pictures. It was a great evening.

I would like to welcome our newest member Dave Torrents. Dave will be our 4th new member this year. – Bob Reaume



Commodore – Bob Reaume
Secretary – Tony Berends
House Director – Mike Tyler
Race Director – Tim McWilliams
Harbour Master – John Amyot Jr.
Regalia – John Treacy

Vice Commodore – Dave Nantais
Treasurer – Tom Smith
Social Director – Barb Pare
Cruising Director – John Murphy
Road and Grounds – Rob Ferguson
Newsletter Editor – Roger Renaud

- Upcoming Events -

The Shake Down Race – hosted by LMYC – Victoria Day Weekend – check the web-site for details

Blessing of The Fleet - Sat. June 2 - Arrangements have been made with Rev. Stan Fraser and also the Legion to take part again.



In support of Junior Sailing....

Sports help kids get involved in something active and provides the exercise that all of us need. Sports help children be apart of a group where they not only need to work hard to make themselves better but teaches them how to work to make their team better as well. Sports help children develop physical skills, make friends, have fun, learn to play fair and improve their self esteem. It teaches them about winning and losing. It can also help them realize that they can rebound from a loss to win the next time. Sports can help kids to tackle complex problems at an early age. It helps them develop a hard working attitude.

While I think all sports offer children a lot, the one that I believe offers the most is sailing. Sailing is a sport that is accessible to almost everyone. You don't have to be tall, large, or strong, although you can be. It is equally accessible to boys and girls. You find very young children and senior citizens sailing – it is a life time sport. It is a sport that uses physical skills but also your intellect to a much greater aspect than other sports. It is a sport that requires the sailor to take responsibility for himself/herself, his/her crew and for his/her boat. It is a sport that teaches you to be sensitive to nature and how to be more attentive to it. It is a sport that requires one to be attentive to changing conditions and how to react to them.

I have learned a lot about life through sailing. I have had to adjust my attitudes to take wins and losses more in stride, never getting too high or too low. Sailing has also taught me about the Corinthian Spirit.

The way in which junior sailors learn the rules of sailing and are very competitive in racing, but they never forget that sailing is also a sport to be enjoyed. You will face the same competitors again time after time in your life, so that treating each other like you expect to be treated is very important. It is about honor. It is about lifelong friendships. It is about continuously learning and helping each other. In other sports you shake your competitor's hand and leave but sailing is one of the few sports I've seen where you can work with your competitor to make you both better. - Hunter Farris

PS: Hunter Farris articulated this topic so well that a 'cut and paste' seemed appropriate – Ed.

Some history of Junior Sailing at LMYC

The early days....The LMYC minutes of a meeting held 1980-04-13, "Bob Clark reported that Gord Freeman was the winner of the Laser draw. There is approximately \$300 profit but more could have been attained if all 200 tickets had been sold. The next draw will be scheduled for Shakedown weekend. The expected revenue will be used to purchase a couple of boats for Junior Sailing." LMYC minutes of a meeting held 1980-05-11, state "The second draw on a Laser will not be held on Shakedown but is suspending until the fall or next spring". The money from the first draw was kept in a separate bank account for a number of years before being rolled into the general account.

Then fifteen years ago during the summer of 1997, RCSS Sailing Centre #6 (Sea Cadets) held a junior sailing course for the children of LMYC members. Lt (N) Shirley Beresford was Commander at the time. Many of our junior sailors were trained here and the juniors participated in regattas hosted by South Port Sailing Club. Early in the 2000's, some 10+ years ago now, LMYC hosted a 'strictly Laser' regatta which had S.P.S.C. and L.M.Y.C. juniors competing against each other again.

The 2008 club survey indicated the number one wish would be for the club to initiate a junior sailing program. The Board of Directors of 2008 decided, and through their race director Ted Popel, LMYC contacted Ontario Sailing to make initial inquiries about enrollment in the 2009 Boom Program. A junior sailing committee was formed. Members were Ted Popel, Jim Beaudoin, Ralph Allen, Keith Rowland and Brad Blackton. The spring of 2009 the dingy docks were refurbished and moved to their current location. That year the Board also approved additional funding to install paver stone for a ramp and dingy staging area.

In July of 2009 the first Boom Program was initiated at LMYC with 16 White Sail #1 aspirants. Since that first year no money has been required to advertise our program and it has been filled every year since and there is always a waiting list for forthcoming year. Previous participants are given preferential inclusion for the following year if they make their election by May 1st. Children and grand children of LMYC members are given preference.

The year 2012 marks the fourth year of the LMYC Boom Program. This year the program will be held August 13th through to the 17th. Registration fees (2012 - \$300) have always covered the Ontario Association expenses. Various fundraisers from Monday lunches to raffles have supported the growth of the Junior Sailing Fund. – Yvonne McRobbie and Jim Beaudoin





In support of Junior Sailing....

Beyond respecting the water and learning the fundamentals of the sport we love, Junior Sailing provides many life lessons and new relationships to all participants regardless of age. For our daughter, Grace, she not only learned how to sail, but also how to persevere and face fear. Junior Sailing did not eliminate fears, it provided a reference for her and us, that fear can be overcome within oneself, if one believes in oneself.

For member's children, I believe Junior Sailing introduces our children to LaSalle Mariner's Yacht Club and it's beautiful surroundings. We can only hope, that this introduction and experience will create lasting memories that will become the basis for cherishing, serving, and representing our club for many years after graduation. For non-members, LaSalle Mariner's Junior Sailing Program could and should be our best foot forward in not only the sailing community, but the community of LaSalle and all neighbouring communities that introduces good people, crew, and prospective new members to our club. – John Amyot Jr.

The Boom Program - an update

I'm pleased to say that all 2012 spots have once again been filled with no advertising required for the past 3 years. This speaks volumes to the quality of the program and the many hours the members have given to promote and deliver a fun filled week for the kids! This year, a total of 15 kids will have completed all 3 White Sail levels.



The volunteers that assist in the preparation of lunches, the early drop off and late pickup coverage, as well as, the hours spent supervising throughout the week...a big Thank You goes to out to many!

This will be our 4th year running this program and during this time we've seen many improvements. The dingy docks and the repaving of the area are examples that reflect our support and commitment to the Junior Sailing program.

The generosity of the Grey Duck has continually provided monies for lunches and snacks for the kids throughout the week, and it's much appreciated. I'd like to especially thank Jim Beaudoin, Ralph Allan and Brad Blackton for their continued support with the program!

Keith Rowland - Chair, 2012 Junior Sailing Boom Program

The week of August 13th is scheduled for the 2012 Junior Sailing Boom Program

If you have not already, do stop in and see what fun and learning the kids are enjoying from this initiative.



**LaSalle Mariner's Yacht Club
- Junior Sailing -**





On the topic of Junior Sailing...

I believe the highest honour you can bestow on our youth is to pass on the time honoured knowledge of those tenets that create life events correctly, safety, good fellowship and talent to tame the wind. Junior sailing schools have the correct culture to provide a curriculum, equipment, skilled instruction, a waterway, and sponsorship to pass on the basic knowledge to tame the wind and survive.

Our families are wealthy in the knowledge that sailing has been a healthy part of our recreation. An old salt once said "a boy or a girl goes sailing and encounters a storm--and a man or a woman comes back to the dock" . – Rob Clark



“Our juniors will have a lifetime positive memory of their first sailing experience and of LMYC.” – Jim Beaudoin



Cadet Sailing at LMYC

In 1982, LMYC voted to support the sea cadet sailing program and invited Sail Centre #6, under the command of LCDR Clark Dickson, to make its home at LMYC. From 82-88, Clark ran a program using 5 aluminum Petrels, 1 power boat and a small red trailer for storing equipment. 3 Echoes were added in 87, and a second power boat. During this time the boats were kept alongside a rickety wooden dock on the north side where the hoist is currently located. They were moved up every spring after the club launch, and hauled out every fall before the club haul-out.

From 1988-94, Cdr Rick Beresford was in command. The sailing program went from 1 time to 3 times a week. With all the practical experience and extra coaching, Agamemnon sailors became a force to be reckoned with in the province. They started placing in the top 6 in the province and going to Nationals as part of the Provincial Sail team. The staff increased and for the first time, ex-cadets who were CYA Sailing Instructors, came on to train the new cadets. Equipment soon included 3 Albacores and a Whaler. A larger trailer for equipment was purchased by the Navy League. The corps had a training, qualifying weekend every June, camping out on the front lawn for the weekend. The average number qualified for WS 1 & 2 was 30 each year.

From 1994-98, Lt (N) Shirley Beresford was in command. The Petrels were replaced with 3 new Echoes for a total of 5 DND, and 3 Navy League Echoes, and the Whaler was sent back to Trenton. A zodiac replaced one of the power boats. The Regional Sailing School in Trenton had finally decided to improve the equipment. The Navy League purchased a Pirate and a Laser. The program was still running 3 times a week and cadets were receiving some of the best training in the province. We were qualifying and sending our team to Nationals every year. In 1996, we won for Most Outstanding Sailing Centre for being the most proficient and best organized. Several of our Best Practices were adopted by the Sailing School. In 1998, 5 of the 12 Sail Centres in Ontario were commanded by ex-Agamemnon Cadets. I think this speaks to the quality of the training offered to and by Agamemnon over the years.

In 1999, Lt (N) Nick Kouvalis took command. Unfortunately, DND had decided to pull #6 out of LaSalle because we were only supporting one cadet corps. Dec 99 it was gone, and all that was left was the equipment owned by the Windsor Branch of the Navy League.

The Sail Centre staff was no longer required.

At this point, Mark Uttley and his son Brayden, a cadet, took over the sailing program for the corps. Because the corps staff worked at the corps from Sep – June, and several went to work at Cadet Summer Training Centres, the same kind of support and training could not be offered. Training dropped to once a week. The sail testing weekends in June continued, supported by former Sail Centre staff volunteering their time.



Cadet Sailing at LMYC con't...

From 2001-04, Lt (N) Shirley Beresford was in command of Agamemnon, and with the support of NCDT Brayden Uttley and the Navy League Branch, built up the sailing program again. In 2006, Cadet Andrew Byrne and his crew Nathan Deneweth placed 1st at Nationals. Andrew is now an officer with the corps.

Today, we have 6 Picos, 2 Fevas, 1 Pirate, 1 Laser, 3 Powerboats, 2 new motors, a larger trailer, (an investment of \$56,000 by the Navy League). Cadets are training once a week. The corps is required by DND to do 2 sail testing weekends at #9 Sail Centre in Sarnia which has been commanded by Lt(N) Rob Doiron for the last 10 years. Rob was trained here and was on staff of #6. The new Officer Commanding #9 is Lt (N) Maciej Konkolowicz, also trained here.

Shirley Beresford showed her appreciation - "On behalf of the Navy League Windsor Branch and all the past, present and future sailors from Agamemnon, I would like to offer thanks to LMYC members for their generous unfailing support. "



This is a video of the ferry (The Caribou) operating between Port Aux Basques, Newfoundland, and North Sydney, Nova Scotia. As you watch, remember that this is a ferry that carries 1200 passengers, with two vehicle decks holding 370 automobiles, and 77 tractor trailers.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1g-kldxCBA>

Welcome our new member...

A warm welcome goes out to our two newest members...

Micheal Peris who sails a Farr 272
and **Dave Torrents** who will be sailing a CC27

From the Race Director...

Welcome back to the racing season! There are a lot of events to look forward to and plan for throughout 2012. We already have one event done. That was the Cinco de Mayo fun Race that took place, can you believe it, on May 5th! We had 6 boats racing around Grassy Island in the clockwise direction. The weather was pretty amazing, nice and warm with a nice ENE wind between 6 -8 KN.

The next big event coming up is the 39th Annual ShakeDown Regatta over to Put-in-Bay Ohio. The weather forecast is looking pretty nice! Bring your sunscreen and your cooled drinks....it'll be a fun one!

We've also already had one full week of club racing on the river. A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers who are helping with Race Committee!

The first week proved to be a good shakedown of sorts for everybody. Some discovered the slightly lower water levels and bumped along the bottom, others shook the cobwebs out of the motor. Guy Meseck and crew must have thought they were sailing in the Southern Ocean tackling a powerboat wake T-5 seconds before their 1st JOG start....everybody had fun though!



Here's a list of some upcoming LMYC and sister club races. Consider getting out and participating in one of our fun races!

- Shakedown • May 19
- Sail for Cystic Fibrosis @ CIYC • June 16
- Couples Race • June 23
- TRY-SEA Regatta @ TRYC • June 30 & July 1
- Pelee Island Race & Cruise • July 7

If you don't want to race, maybe you can crew for another. If you can't crew maybe you can lend a hand with Race Committee, or with me planning one of these fun events. If you would like to help out in anyway, give me a call (519) 982-5335 or email me at: timothy.mcwilliams@sympatico.ca



I'm looking forward to seeing everybody out on the water! - Tim McWilliams 2012 Race Director

From the Editor



I found a new link I think everyone will enjoy. This new 'Ministry' is made for the senior sailor who enjoys a good toddy now and then. It is also a very appropriately named web-site....
<http://ministryofrum.com/>

