



The Rudder

July 2006



Port Hope Yacht Club

www.porthopeyachtclub.com



Fireworks and Torrential Rains Mark Canada Day Weekend

The Port Hope Yacht Club is a great place to watch action on the harbour. Several members and their families got a ring-side view of Canada Day fireworks as they soared into the sky high above the centre pier. Those of us who are there were not even sure they would happen as they were preceded by a substantial downpour. As the composite photo above shows, they were well worth the wait.

But the rain on the night of July 1st was paltry compared with the storm of July 3rd. Late in the afternoon a funnel cloud reportedly touched down between Port Hope and Cobourg, and those of us having dinner under the canopy of the clubhouse watched as solid sheets of rain slammed down and strong gusts of wind whipped across the harbour.

We all became alarmed when a large sailboat entered the harbour in the downpour, and then promptly went aground (see inside for more details on the issue of the lack of depth in our harbour). One of our members walked out to the harbour mouth in the storm, and talked the crew of two into backing up to the west wall, and then backing all the way into the inner basin. They then swung around to dock but were pushed sideways by strong gusts. Finally, several PHYC members were able to secure their lines and invite the frightened couple into the clubhouse to dry off.

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BROCKPORT WEEKEND IS BACK ON AGAIN!
August 5th, 6th. More details inside.

The couple was from Montreal and spoke limited English. Fortunately several of the people in the clubhouse spoke French, which really made them feel welcomed. For the woman on the boat, this was her first sailing trip, and she was quite shaken by the experience. The incident proved once again that PHYC members have a big heart, especially for fellow sailors.

July 2006

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August 2006

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
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September 2006

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Schedule of Events

Ladies Night Chat and Sail - Friday evening(s) beginning in July. Let Jan know if you would like more information

August 20th - Come and join us for a day of fun, even silly, activities at the club and on the water including a balloon race and the spittoon contest.

August 26th - Charity Steak 'n Sail

September - Euchre Night

Calling All History Buffs

PHYC will be 45 years old next year, and to mark the occasion, several activities are planned throughout 2007. Members are asked to consider volunteering for a 45th Anniversary Coordinating Committee at the Fall General Meeting.

BROCKPORT WEEKEND IS BACK ON AGAIN! August 5th, 6th.

BYC Harbour entrance has about 4.5' in their marked channel. Approach from the east, close to shore, stay south of the green turning mark, pass "Morgan's Pier", pick up channel markers, turn south into the channel. As always, help will be available to guide us in. Pythagoras will be there! A rough chart of the approach is available on our bulletin board in the PHYC club house.

If that's not enough water for you, please consider driving around for the best party of the year! BYC Social Chair, Mike Coffey assures me you won't be disappointed! For those driving, you will be billeted on BYC boats or in BYC member's homes. I do know that a pig roast is planned for Saturday, August 5th. More details will be provided as they become available to me, Please plan to attend! The party's not over yet!

Sign up sheet will be available on the events board by Wednesday. As always, please sign up early!

From the helm, June/July/August 2006

Due to space constraints, "From the Helm" didn't make the final edit. Below is a condensed version with updates for this month. I applaud the efforts of the "Rudder" editorial staff and appreciate their hard work!

Thank you all for the perfect Sail Past. The grounds were great despite all the rain all week prior to the event. March Past, Flag Raising, Escort to Pythagoras and Piping Aboard were extremely emotional for Donna and I. When you are in the clubhouse take a good look at the plaque we were presented with by the Navy League it is truly beautiful. There was a great spread put on by the membership with the help of Social, thanks. The winds were almost too much when we first anchored out and it took a bit to get the anchor to set but once it did and the fleet came out of the harbour we were a little jealous that we were on the hook and unable to enjoy the sail. As usual the winds were a bit fickle and the last half of the fleet struggled to sail past but each and every boat managed by with grace and agility. Even *Weeble* wobbled by under sail! As my guests and I inspected the fleet we had great discussion as to the prettiest, most spiffed-up/dressed-up boat. Our decision will be announced at the Commodore's Ball in November and the winner will be the recipient of a new trophy donated by Past Commodore George Powell.

Wow! Wednesday, June 14th race. 10 boats! Congratulations all! With winds steady above 10 knots gusting to 15 it was a drag race from the start gun. It took a while to find the first mark but what a super sail! I can't remember the fleet ever to be so closely matched. We got a little spread out on the last leg but no one got left very far behind. Well done! Starting June 21st, we will be having a bbq after the race to brag and tell lies of the evening's race. Racer or not why not join us for an evening at the club, buy a burger from "Chef Dirk" to help pay for race marks and have some fun. (We continue to have great turn-outs & the burgers are great!).

The Summer ahead will be full of activities so please check the events calendar found elsewhere in this edition of *The Rudder*, and plan to join us often. You and your guests are always welcome at any and all events. It's *your* club, enjoy it.

Lots of events have happened so far this year. The Centennial Cup had no surprises as Cobourg Yacht Club once again out maneuvered us to the finish line. The lobster dinner was wonderful though so we don't feel too bad. We had a super turn out for the "Tubby Graham" to Newcastle & back and the 1st finishing boat was Darren Shaw single-handing Mystry. The Ken Bates Memorial was held this past Sunday and Geoff Boon was the 1st finishing boat. Lady Skipper race was to follow however the winds were a little powerful so it was decided to postpone the ladies' race until the fun day in August.

Brockport Weekend is ON AGAIN! It seems that our friends on the south side of the lake have found a channel into their harbour and although depths are not great, up to 4'6" can be found if you follow their channel markers in. You must approach from the east at "Morgan's Pier" nearly to the west jetty then sharply south thru the markers. Lots of help will be on hand ashore should we need any assistance. Pythagoras will definitely be making the trip! If anyone has any qualms about sailing over then be sure to drive around. They will put us up on boats in the harbour &/or we will be billeted in some of their member's homes. Don't miss this weekend!

If you are out cruising as Donna and I plan, heading east after Brockport, spread the good name of PHYC and have a fantastic summer!

Fair Winds & Calm Seas,

Bob

Crossing the Lake: US Customs

By Commodore Bob

Our favourite method for clearing US customs is to check in at a harbour which has the Videophone clearance system. The attraction for me is that in the past few years I have not had the opportunity to cruise extensively in US waters and a maximum of 2 crossings per year is allowed using this method. Although it may be inconvenient to enter at a videophone equipped port, it is a free service and does not require that each passenger have their own I-68 card. Simply pick up the phone and be instantly connected to immigration. As long as you have the usual information at your fingertips, you will be issued a clearance number which will be all the documentation you will require during your stay. Any other questions about the videophone and where it is located at Oak Orchard (closest to Brockport) may be directed to me at work, 905-697-3336, home 905-987-2095 or mbe259ho@nexicom.net.

The information you will be required to produce is the same as if you were crossing the border by car. Driver's License, maybe a Birth Certificate, or a Passport if you are not a Canadian Citizen must be on hand to hold up to the phone camera should you be asked to do so. You can expect to always be asked for place of birth, how long you will be in the US, what you are bringing anything into the country, etc. Once the boat owner/skipper has been cleared, pass the phone on to the next crew member to provide their own info. Make sure birth dates, names of crew, boat name, registration numbers, etc. are readily available to you to ensure quick clearance.

Alternatively, there are two other methods of clearing US customs in a boat - I-68 cards or Nexus cards. I-68s or US immigration cards for recreational boaters are available at some border crossings, including the Ivy Lea Bridge at Gananoque, the Rainbow Bridge at Niagara Falls or now at US Customs at Pearson International Airport. An I-68 card is good for free passage into the United States by boat for recreational purposes (I stress each member of your party must have their own unless they are under 21 and are of your immediate family living under your roof.) To obtain an I-68 card, you will be photographed, finger printed and be charged an annual fee of \$16, with a family cap of \$32. A family is defined as "a husband, wife, unmarried children under 21 years of age, and the parents of either husband or wife residing at the same address." For more information, see the US Customs and Border Protection website at: http://www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/travel/pleasure_boats/cbbl.xml

Information from the Brockport Yacht Club website on the Nexus program is as follows:

- NEXUS is a new joint program between Canada and the U.S. to expedite border/Great Lakes boat crossings.
- The Nexus card can be used in place of an I-68 to cross the Great Lakes by boat.
- The Nexus Card is valid for 5 years.
- The cost for a NEXUS card is \$50.00 for the five-year period.
- It can also be used to facilitate crossing the bridges at northern border crossing points with a special NEXUS car lane.
- Everyone (no age restrictions) on board the boat must have a NEXUS card or an I-68 otherwise you must go to a videophone.
- The processing time for a NEXUS card is 2 to 3 months (background checks will be done on all applicants).
- The applications are in the booklet or can be obtained on the Internet
- Mail your application in or send it via the Internet. You will receive notification when and where to report to pick up your NEXUS card.

Boaters returning to Canada need to call the Canada Border Services Agency at 1-888-226-7277 upon docking. Procedures for returning to Canada in a recreational boat can be obtained from the Canada Border Services Agency website at: <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel/canpass/privateboat-e.html>

Update on Harbour Entrance

By Chris Woodill

We have had several incidents where boats have ran aground in the middle of the channel coming into the harbour. Gary and myself are now experts on this: we have run aground ourselves several times! Based on our experience, here are some tips for those who are new to the area:

1. Avoid the problem: the problem is in the middle of the entrance to the harbour. **You will now notice that there are now bright red markers where the water is low.** The best advice to avoid the problem is to hug the west wall and go straight in without crossing the channel until well into the area where there are boats moored. The depth within the marina area is much better than the channel so moving around in the marina should not be a problem.
2. Getting off the ground: in our first hand experience, the ground is quite soft but kind of sticky (like a fine sand). If you run aground, we have found that you can usually power your motor and get off the sand bar. In addition, if you rotate your motor so that you are effectively spinning in place this will help dislodge the keel if its stuck in the mud. For smaller boats (like ours), leaning heavily to one side also helps. Just be careful if you're using the motor at full power that once you're free you power down quickly as you've only got a foot or two on the other side to recover before reversing back into the concrete wall.
3. Call for help: there are almost always people around and someone on duty at night. Radio for help if you need assistance. If people see you caught, they can run up on the west side by foot and help give you guidance as well.

Below, you will see an update from the Port Hope Recreation and Culture department. Please feel free to contact them to get a further update.

From: Eugene Todd [mailto:ETodd@porthope.ca]

Sent: Monday, July 17, 2006 2:10 PM

Thank you for your e-mail. On behalf of the Municipality I apologize for the inconvenience caused by the depths of the Harbour entrance. We are making every attempt to try and rectify the situation (both with the depths and the signage) as soon as possible. As you may not know, we do not own the Harbour. We manage it on behalf of the Federal Government. The Feds do not have a dredging budget so any material cost is borne by the Municipality plus we are the one's that must undertake the task of getting all the approvals. As soon as the approvals are received we will be cutting a channel along the west side. The approvals do take some time and hopefully we will receive them soon. Our contractors are on standby.

I hope this clarifies our situation and, at least, puts the situation in perspective from our standpoint.

Kindest regards,

Eugene Todd

Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture

Port Hope Yacht Club

Port Hope Yacht Club
PO Box 103, 203 Hayward Street, Port Hope, Ontario L1A 3V9
www.porthooneyachtclub.com

Phone: (905) 885-9694

Editorial Staff:
Gary Woodill
woodill@sympatico.ca

Christopher Woodill
cwoodill@hotmail.com



Listening to Rob's Stories at the Tubby Graham



Darren Loves His Lobster



Start of the Tubby Graham



The Centennial Cup is Presented to CYC Fleet Captain



BBQ in Newcastle!