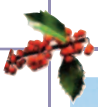




LONDONLINE



NEWS & VIEWS OF THE
LONDON POWER AND SAIL SQUADRON

DESTINATION: SARNIA

Parrot Head Weekend 2009



Even though our boats are nestled all snug on the hard, it's never too early to plan your next destination cruise!

Now is the ideal time to break out those charts, review your TVMDC and 60D = ST formulae and begin to chart your next course while dreaming of the sunny days to come .

Whether you boat from the north shore of Lake Erie, Ontario's west coast, the Lake St. Clair area or even east of the Bruce Peninsula, Sarnia is a cruising and sailing destination worth considering. Located at 42° 58' 50"N and 82° 24' 41"W, Sarnia Bay Marina is an ideal summer destination. Owned by the City of Sarnia and managed on their behalf by Bridgeview Marina via the St. Clair River Conservation Authority, this marina is as well appointed as any major marina anywhere.

The marina is a short walk from several excellent eateries and pubs, as well as Sarnia's Centennial Park, home of world famous Bayfest and Sarnia's own rib festival. The Marina also hosts many events for their seasonal boaters as well as visiting boaters alike. This past summer we cruised down from Bayfield to attend their annual Parrot Head Weekend, 2009. This event was hosted by the Parrot Heads On The St. Clair with all proceeds going to the St. Clair Child and Youth Services. *con't on pg. 3 ...*



**COMING
EVENTS**

December
2009

DECEMBER

- 1st - Submission deadline for London Line December Edition
- 6th - Commander's Levy @ HMCS Prevost. Details on page 5.
- 8th - Squadron Bridge meeting @ 1900, HMCS Prevost, London

FEBRUARY

- 1st - Submission deadline for London Line February Edition
- 9th - Squadron Bridge meeting @ 1900, HMCS Prevost, London

JANUARY

- 7th - Courses resume
- 12th - Squadron Bridge meeting @ 1900, HMCS Prevost, London

FOR LOCATION OF HMCS PREVOST SEE MAP ON PG 7.



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Paul Neve 473-0296

Port Captain - FanshaweRalph Smith, AP 472-0453**Events**Alan Sargent, P 433-2736**from the helm**COMMANDER
DEB HUGHES

Well – that time of year has arrived! Most of us have safely tucked our boats away in some form of winter storage, or made arrangements to travel south where the climate allows us to extend our boating season. My husband, Dale, and I had the opportunity to travel with our grandchildren to Florida this year. They had a great time at Disney and we took the opportunity to carry on further south – just the two of us – to Key West. Although boating was not in our plans this time around (unless, of course, you consider Pirates of the Caribbean or Splash Mountain to be in this category) – we met at every turn people who enjoyed boating from all over the US and Canada. From sail boaters, power boaters, paddle boaters, etc – it seems that we are a community that shares a common bond of being on the water; enjoying the wind and the waves in a manner that is personal to each of us.

I met a chap from Oakville on the plane ride down, and we spent the entire trip sharing boating stories. He was on his way to spending time with a friend cruising the coast of Florida on a boat he leaves south for just such occasions. He was quick to say that he proudly displays his CPS flag every where he goes. Right on!

On a squadron level – LPSS enjoyed a wonderful 60th Anniversary Gala Event at HMCS Prevost Nov 7th with around 100 in attendance. We celebrated with great food, dancing, and a large dose of camaraderie. Once again – I would like to thank the organizers Al Sargent, Alice & Nick Baratta, Paul Neve and all who helped out for putting on a great event.

I also had the opportunity to represent the London Squadron at the CPS National Conference in Sherbrooke, Quebec this past October. There were lots of opportunities to attend seminars ranging from administrative updates to

training and marketing initiatives. One key area is a focus on membership retention and ways to get more interest in our organization. If you have any suggestions on things that you would like to see happen within our organization that would spark an interest – please let us know! Remember - students successfully completing the CPS Boating course or the Pleasure Operator Card (PCOC) exam receive a one year complimentary membership with access to member benefits, so spread the word!

Did you know that the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron are on Facebook and YouTube? You'll find lots of info and video's available about our organization on these sites, with valuable tips on boating, courses, and safety on the water. The London Power and Sail Squadron also has a presence on Facebook that we will be building on in the future. Look us up!

On behalf of all of the members of the London Squadron's 2009/10 Bridge – I would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming courses and events in 2010!

LONDONLINE

London Line is the official publication of the London Power and Sail Squadron (a unit of the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons) to inform and advise members and students.

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'The one thing I remember about Christmas was that my father used to take me out in a boat about ten miles offshore on Christmas Day, and I used to have to swim back. Extraordinary. It was a ritual. Mind you, that wasn't the hard part. The difficult bit was getting out of the sack.'

John Cleese

from Pg. 1 ... The weekend featured several different bands each offering their own interpretation of Jimmy Buffet\Caribbean sounds for the listening, dock partying and dancing pleasure of boaters who travelled from both sides of the border.

Many boaters decorated their boats, as well as themselves, with colorful Caribbean style decorations and clothing. When combined with perfect warm sunny weather, a tasty rum and coconut concoction, Caribbean music and friendly people, a stroll along the docks made you feel like you were much further south! Boaters participating in the weekend were also treated to a two-hour St. Clair river cruise aboard the newly restored Duc d'Orleans, complete with live music, dancing on the upper deck and plenty of cool libations.

The event organizers also hosted two dances, a tiki bar as well as a barbeque, featuring some of the best hamburgers and baked beans north of Texas. Operations Manager Paul Churchill said the 2009 event was 'hugely successful' and the marina is planning a repeat of the annual event during the last week of June 2010.

The Marina also hosts seasonal and transient boaters for the two weekends which comprise Bayfest. Churchill indicated that the marina would be taking reservations for those weekends beginning the third week of November, expecting to be fully booked by Christmas time.

Board member Dave McPhail of BoatCan.com says 'there are no bad boating days in Sarnia. If the lake is rough, the river is usually fine'. The opposite is presumably true as well. Considering the marina's great location, the many amenities it offers boaters and the excellent events which it hosts, Sarnia makes a great sailing and cruising destination no matter where you boat from!

Ralph Lembcke

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Operations Manager Paul Churchill



Local Colour at Parrot Head Weekend 2009



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3

Meet The Members

If you'd like to submit a member or yourself to be profiled, respond to the same questions you see below (or be creative!) with a suitable photo and send them to the editor by email. This month's candidate is the London Squadron's Event Officer, Alan Sargent.

How and when were you introduced to boating?

When I was growing up, my father was a commercial fisherman on Lake Ontario and Georgian Bay. Boats and the stories of the crew and his boats as they battled the wind and waves and fog and ice of the lake is part of my D.N.A. My first memories of boating activities were when my father moved his commercial fishing business from Bronte on Lake Ontario to Britt on Georgian Bay in 1949. I didn't go through the Trent Canal System and over the marine railway with him and his two boats but I could write a book about the adventure. A big part of Alan in those years from 1950 to 1966 was when my

father owned Mink Island as his fishing base. This was a 40 minute boat trip from Snug Harbor out past Franklin Island to near Red Rock Lighthouse in Georgian Bay. Being a seven year old kid and taking the wheel of the J.C. or the tiller of the Dalton was the best of the best. It was such a great feeling that I could never understand why my father seldom took the wheel and always let one of the crew or his boys steer. However on those days when the wind and white caps and the motion of the boat were enough to make the hair on the back of my neck stand up, father always took the wheel and it made mother and everyone on board feel better.

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How and when did you get involved with the power and sail squadron?

After a life full of adventure that included just enough boating to keep me on an even keel, I decided to make boating a bigger part of my experiences. In Jan. 2003, I signed up for the boating course. The quality of that experience from the value of the course material to the amazing dedication of the instructors, proctors and examiners lead me to want to get involved with this great group of volunteers. I have continued to benefit from additional courses and an association with such dedicated volunteers.

What are your present boating activities?

The only boat I have ever owned for a time was a canoe. I chartered a Trawler from C.Y.C. in Gore Bay for a week two summers ago and cruised a bit in the North Channel. It was a great application of my power squadron courses and a fantastic time. Fishing has always been a prime purpose or excuse for boating for me and over the years from canoeing Algonquin or local rivers, Salmon Charters on Lake Ontario or outboards on remote lakes in Northern Ontario, I have been able to nourish that part of me.

What are your future boating plans?

I plan to charter a trawler and go from Sarnia to New Orleans via the Mississippi. I also plan to charter a trawler in the British Virgin Islands or Bahamas and explore some remote beaches.

What are your present non boating adventures?

My wife and I travel quite often and enjoy European river cruises and cruise trips to the Baltic, Mediterranean and Caribbean (does that still count as boating?) I am in a weekly hiking group with a great group of fellows. I still do a small amount of consulting in my area of Food Technology for a few clients.



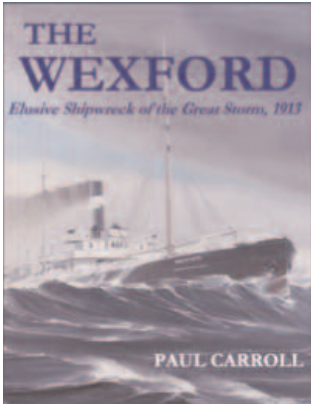
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Paul Carroll is a long time member of CPS, Goderich. His book, with new facts, photos and anecdotes, will be available in the Spring, 2010 through local book stores and Amazon.com

Lost in Lake Huron During The Great Storm of 1913

The Steamer Wexford, with her flared bow, tall masts, cabins amidships and her open, canvas-sided hurricane deck, charmed spectators as she carried cargo across the Great Lakes. The adventure and romance of her British & French history in the South American trade followed her. Along the docksides whenever they made port, her good-humoured young crew of largely Collingwood and Goderich boys offered friendly waves to admirers and shoreline visitors. Under newly-appointed, 24 year old Captain Bruce Cameron, her fateful final voyage was punctuated with opportunities to be saved from destruction, but Cameron persisted with his charge to complete the final voyage. With 16 year-old Orrin Gordon at the wheel, she fought for hours trying to make port at Goderich, but eventually fell victim to the storm.

She eluded many efforts to find her remains. Over the period of 87 years, she was said to be found and found again – in half a dozen different places. But she was finally discovered by sailor Don Chalmers when he caught her image on a simple fish finder as the pros searched the bottom further northward. Since then she has been visited by thousands, but sadly desecrated & plundered.

The story traces her history from her British origins in 1883, through the transition to become a 'Laker', her crew, the eventful storm, the 87 year search, her ultimate discovery in southern Lake Huron and the controversy over how she should be protected.



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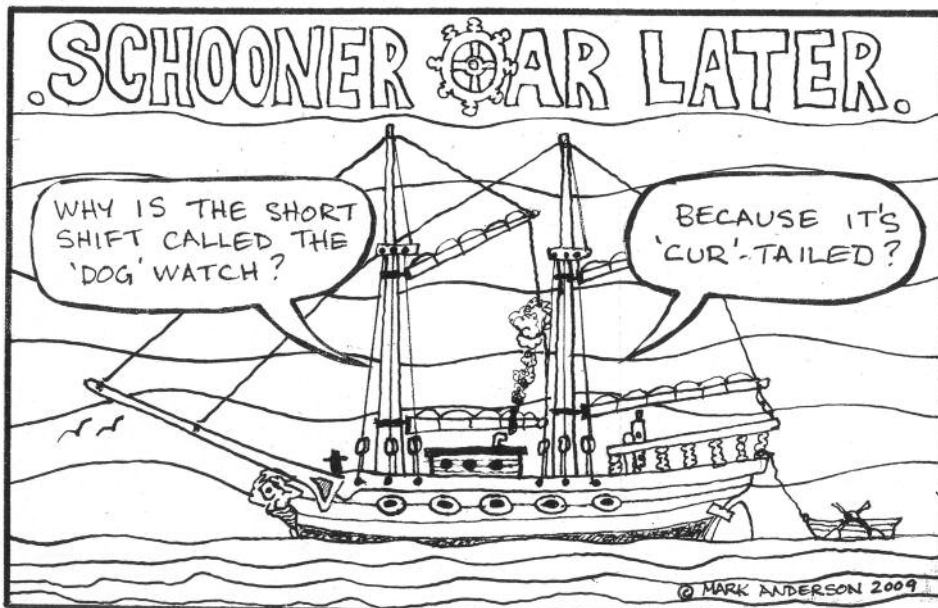
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No matter the storm, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Remember the Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals.

Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Things To Learn

Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.



For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

From Noah's Ark

Don't listen to critics: just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.



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