



On Dec 13 our Club Steward/Membership Chair Bob Magill witnessed the wonder of Canada Geese walking on water. Inset shows their little feet actually on the surface.

Look for us
www.fyc.on.ca

Newsletter submissions
Editor: oldgoldt@gmail.com

From Sue's Kitchen Table....

Hello and best wishes everyone for this brand-new year 2020!

I missed an issue recently and do apologize for that. Sometimes you need to spend time with your family when things are not going well. I spent a lot of time with my sister this past year. As well, Rick and I also had the opportunity to spend two plus months traveling to Australia, Tofino and Vancouver BC. The sole 'on the water time' was spent on ferries (when not weather delayed) and dare I say it...motor boats...for tours. Experienced fires, 40 plus degrees (whew), beautiful scenery, wonderful people, a lot of rain, snow, gorgeous beaches and forests and amazing dinners out. Now we're home. But tomorrow is a wonderful dinner out with you guys at Shelley's!



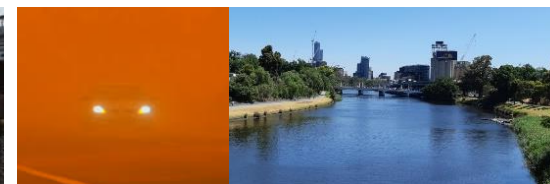
Now at FYC, we have a wont to sometimes mutter about the quality of our lake water but we don't have the only issue! The picture right was on the Thames River last year. Still, we are somewhat free of other issues we saw as we travelled. Granted, our body of water is a tad smaller but it was interesting to see other problems water enthusiasts endure.



At Bell's Beach AU where world championship surfing takes place - we saw the remnants of their red algae bloom (pink on the wave curl). In 2016 the red algae totally dyed the beaches in Sydney red.



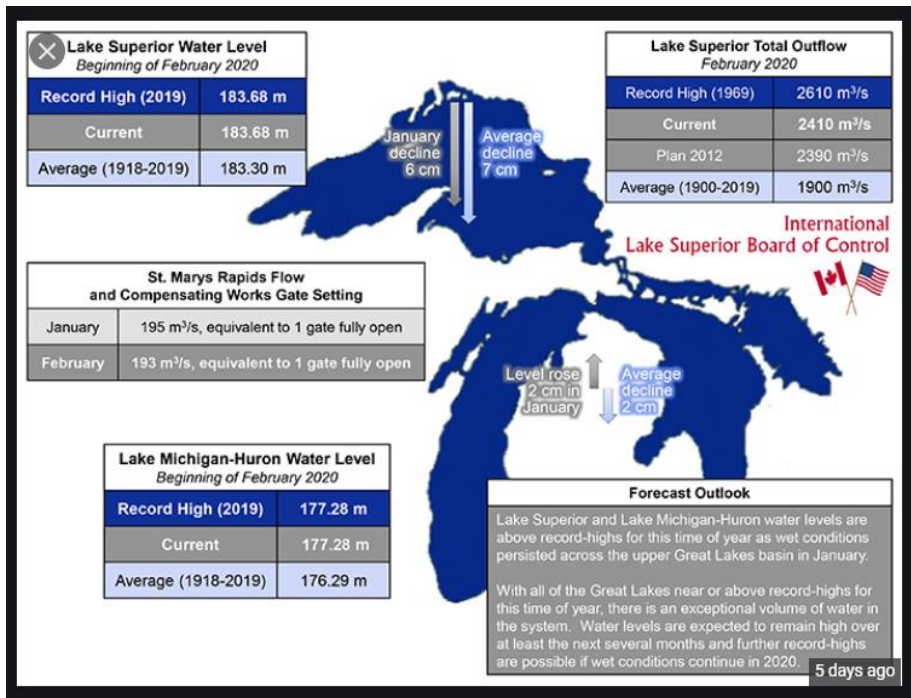
Lots of sea foam on Cox Beach in Tofino when we walked there in January...thick and churning like a wash machine. The foam coated rocks, cliffs and tree branches as the wind blew. It's a product of microbes in the water.



The Yara River in downtown Melbourne turned red after we left. The strong winds blew the red dust of Australia over the city just as the rain began resulting in little mud splats all over cars and homes. The fires this year have bared more land and the winds have been unusually strong. The result is that after rain, cars, driveways, boats, homes, patios, everything needs to be washed. We saw the typical dried spots of soil on our daughter's car after a rain when we visited. Even the water reservoirs around



the cities were red ... can you image a red Fanshawe and mud-spattered boats? The right photo is the Yara as we saw it from the floating pub in December.



Lastly, I was checking the Great Lake levels because a lot of Fanshawe sailors and paddlers do appreciate a trip to waters afar and found the level are expected to be higher this summer than last. Good to watch because last years levels did close some marinas and clubs on the shoreline and created shoreline hazards not there before. Here is the current statement

December 2019 Water Level Advisory

Monthly Bulletin prepared by the Canadian Hydrographic Service Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Water levels for Lake Superior, Lake Michigan-Huron, Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and Montréal Harbour are above their all-time average for this time of year and are above the level of Chart Datum.

Mariners should exercise extreme caution throughout the entire system, especially during periods of strong winds when water levels can rise or fall significantly in a short period of time.

<https://www.waterlevels.gc.ca/C&A/bulletin-eng.html>

Now on to the business of everything FYC and sailing... Warm days are coming!
Sue Goldt, Dockside Scuttlebutt editor

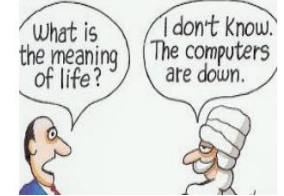


2020 Membership Renewals – some hiccups

Below is the recent notice re membership renewal that you received from Bob via club email. Since that came out, the Checklick site has **not** been up and running.



Bob will be snail-mailing paper application forms to **all the current membership** and the **deadline date will be changed** to allow more time to get these forms in. watch for a new notice!



The technology of Checklick has been really helpful to generated lists and to reduce the amount of work that Bob needed to do when he hand-entered everything. Technology, you love it then you hate it!

Believe it or not, in spite of the cold and snow, the days are getting longer and it will soon be.....SAILING SEASON!

This year UTRCA is giving us a full season of high water and your director board has planned a great year of exciting events. So, let's get those membership applications in.

There has been a bit of confusion about how our online signup system has been working this year but I think it should be ok now. If anyone is having a problem with the Checklick signup system, John Kabel will be at the next Dinner at Shelley's to help.

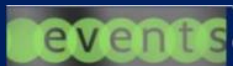
Alternately, I can send you a good old-fashioned paper application via an email attachment.

Just contact me at: magillb@rogers.com

See you on the water
Bob Magill
FYC Membership Chairman

Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing — absolutely nothing — half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats. Simply messing... about in boats — or with boats. In or out of 'em, it doesn't matter. Nothing seems really to matter, that's the charm of it. Whether you get away, or whether you don't; whether you arrive at your destination or whether you reach somewhere else, or whether you never get anywhere at all, you're always busy, and you never do anything in particular; and when you've done it there's always something else to do, and you can do it if you like, but you'd much better not.

Kenneth Grahame, Wind in the Willows



2020 FYC Events Calendar (tentative)

You will receive email notices of upcoming events and any changes in times or place will be noted in the emails and on the club web calendar at www.fyc.on.ca.
If you are interested in adding an event or changing an event, please contact

February

Mon · February 3 Board of Directors Meeting 7 - 9 PM
Wed · February 12 Winter Night Out 5:30 - 8:30 PM

March

Mon · March 2 Board of Directors Meeting 7 - 9 PM
Wed · March 11 Winter Night Out 5:30 - 8:30 PM
Wed · March 18 General Meeting 7 - 9 PM

April

Mon · April 6 Board of Directors Meeting 7 - 9 PM
Wed · April 8 Winter Night Out 5:30 - 8:30 PM
Sat · April 18 Work Party: Spring #1 9 AM - 3 PM
Sat · April 25 Work Party: Spring #2 9 AM - 3 PM

May

Mon · May 4 Board of Directors Meeting 7 - 9 PM
Sun · May 17 Annual Sail Past and Commodore's Reception 1 - 8:30 PM
Wed · May 20 Informal Sailboat Racing 6:15 - 8:30 PM
Sat · May 23 Annual Open House 10 AM - 4 PM
Sun · May 24 Annual Open House 10 AM - 4 PM
Wed · May 27 Informal Sailboat Racing 6:15 - 8:30 PM

June

Mon · June 1 Board of Directors Meeting 7 - 9 PM
Wed · June 3 Informal Sailboat Racing 6:15 - 8:30 PM
Fri · June 5 Potluck Bonfire 5:30 - 9 PM
Wed · June 10 Informal Sailboat Racing 6:15 - 8:30 PM
Sat · June 13 June Bug Regatta 9 AM - 4 PM
Sun · June 14 June Bug Regatta 9 AM - 4 PM
Wed · June 17 Informal Sailboat Racing 6:15 - 8:30 PM
Wed · June 24 Informal Sailboat Racing 6:15 - 8:30 PM

July

Wed · July 1 Informal Sailboat Racing 6:15 - 8:30 PM
Fri · July 3 Potluck Bonfire 5:30 - 9 PM
Mon · July 6 Board of Directors Meeting 7 - 9 PM
Wed · July 8 Informal Sailboat Racing 6:15 - 8:30 PM
Wed · July 15 Informal Sailboat Racing 6:15 - 8:30 PM
Wed · July 22 Informal Sailboat Racing 6:15 - 8:30 PM
Wed · July 29 Informal Sailboat Racing 6:15 - 8:30 PM

August

Sat · August 1 Private Event 10 AM - 12 PM
Sun · August 2 Private Event 10 AM - 12 PM
Wed · August 5 Informal Sailboat Racing 6:15 - 8:30 PM
Fri · August 7 Potluck Bonfire 5:30 - 9 PM
Mon · August 10 Board of Directors Meeting 7 - 9 PM
Wed · August 12 Informal Sailboat Racing 6:15 - 8:30 PM
Wed · August 19 Informal Sailboat Racing 6:15 - 8:30 PM
Sat · August 22 Summer Open Regatta 9 AM - 4 PM
Annual Corn Roast 5 - 8:30 PM
Summer Open Regatta 9 AM - 4 PM
Sailing School Youth Regatta 6 - 10 PM
Informal Sailboat Racing 6:15 - 8:30 PM
Sailing School Youth Banquet 6 - 10 PM

Sun · August 23
Tue · August 25
Wed · August 26
Thu · August 27

September

Wed · September 2 Informal Sailboat Racing 5:50 - 8 PM
Fri · September 4 Potluck Bonfire 5:30 - 9 PM
Sat · September 5 Plywood Classic Regatta 10 AM - 4 PM
Wed · September 9 Informal Sailboat Racing 5:50 - 8 PM
Fri · September 11 Dockside Airshow Viewing 5 - 7 PM
Sat · September 12 Commodore's Cup 10 AM - 4 PM
Sun · September 13 Commodore's Cup 10 AM - 4 PM
Thurs September 17 Board of Directors Meeting 7 - 9 PM

October

Fri · October 2 Potluck Bonfire 5:30 - 9 PM
Sat · October 3 Pumpkin Regatta 9 AM - 4 PM
Sun · October 4 Pumpkin Regatta 9 AM - 4 PM
Mon · October 5 Board of Directors Meeting 7 - 9 PM
Sat · October 17 Work Party: Fall #1 9 AM - 4 PM
Sat · October 24 Work Party: Fall #2 9 AM - 4 PM

November

Mon · November 2 Board of Directors Meeting 7 - 9 PM
Sat · November 7 63rd Annual Banquet 5 - 10:30 PM
Wed · November 25 General Meeting 7 - 9 PM

December

Mon · December 7 Board of Directors Meeting 7 - 9 PM

FYC MEETINGS

Board meetings: Held the first Monday of each month. If you have a comment, question or item for the meeting, please email our Commodore, Bonita Magill, a few days prior to the meeting to have it on the agenda.

General Meetings: Notice of general meetings will be sent out with minutes of the previous meeting and agenda via club email. All sailing members are welcome to attend. This is your best opportunity to see how the club functions and to make your own suggestions, ideas, concerns known.



Sailors can be social!!
Winter Wednesday dinners
Please join us on Feb 12

Winter Wednesday Dinners have become a tradition for our club to keep our boating enthusiasts in touch over the non-sailing season.

Many thanks to Mike Morris for once again making all the arrangements and for us to be seated together. So appreciated.

Here are the dates for your calendar – Feb 12, Mar 11, Apr 8

Shelly's London is located in The Best Western Lamplighter Inn.

Hours of Operation:

Every Day from 6:30am - 10pm

591 Wellington Road
London, Ontario, N6C 4R3
Restaurant: 519-691-3402
Lounge: 519-691-



3428Email: shellystapandgrill@lamplighterinn.ca

All I can say is.... No cooking dinner for a night! Good Company!!



FYC General Meeting - March 18

The details so far are as follows:

DATE: March 18,2020
TIME: 7PM
LOCATION: London Public Library East Branch
2016 Dundas St E, London, Ontario, N5V 1R1

There will be a club email as always with agenda and minutes of the past meeting.

This will be an important meeting as the 2020 budget is presented (somewhat later this year than in the past) and the 2020 Board of Directors and Contributing Positions will be presented for approval. Please plan to attend to share ideas and thoughts about matters of importance to the club. You will receive a club email closer to the date.

From our Dapper Fleet Captain – Need Carpeting!!

Calling all renovators:

While we can get some carpet from installers waste through dumpster diving and phoning around, we are asking if you are undergoing any renovations where carpet will be disposed of please give Rick a call 5194731966 or email: oldgoldt@gmail.com to let him know how many metres length of carpet you can provide. Ideally widths of no less than 1.2 metres (and not much wider) are preferred. and we ask that you hang on to the carpet and supply it to the dock work parties in April. Rick will also pickup about then if you have no means to transport.



We need almost 150 meters length to cover the tires along the main dock in 2020.



There's a new fleet in town! Radio controlled sailing!

When we travelled Oz, we walked around Lilydale Lake on a few occasions. On Sunday mornings, there is a group of dock sailors who meet to race their remote-control sailboats.

In summer 1017, Rick Goldt purchased 2 RC Lasers which have been out racing in our moorings and beyond. Then we checked out John Burgess' RC sailor that he was in the process of riggering. Finally, this winterin comes a challenge that sounds like this.....

Hi Guys

Just thought I'd give you fair warning.

I have taken delivery of the fastest boat to sail on Lake Fanshawe next year.

-I hope

I think we have a total of 4 now. We need to set up a day for an official regatta.

Our race guy John is thinking of getting one as well.

Let's do it.

See you

Bob



This then is followed by another text reading:

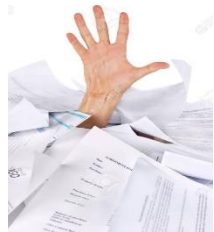
Nephew Colin says very cool!! He says don't put the steering wheels on as the main sheet can get caught in them!

He has a Victoria RC boat as do my brother Ed and his son Jacob. Richard King has a Victoria kit still to be assembled this winter!

Cheers
Carleen

So, a new FYC class is born, the fleet now only needs to meet on the dock, plan the courses and scoring and set up the summer racing schedule. I will be sure it is posted for the fleet and everyone is welcome to come with their lawn chair and cooler to spectate and commentate.

2019-2020 FYC Paperwork



We have all been in this position before and sometimes it just needs to be done. It is a lot of time-consuming work.

The FYC Constitutions, By-Laws and Policy have been revisited. All non profit incorporated clubs need to be able to provide information on their purpose, management, and bylaws. We are definitely out of date and over time, with amendments and such, things got lost in the heap.

Some definitions:

Definition of constitution. a: the basic principles and laws of a nation, state, or social group that determine the powers and duties of the government and guarantee certain rights to the people in it. b: a written instrument embodying the rules of a political or social organization.

Bylaw definition is - a rule adopted by an organization chiefly for the government of its members and the regulation of its affairs.

policy definition: a set of ideas or a plan of what to do in particular situations that has been agreed to officially by a group of people or organization

A standard **operating procedure** (SOP) is a set of step-by-step instructions compiled by an organization to help workers carry out complex routine **operations**. SOPs aim to achieve efficiency, quality output and uniformity of performance, while reducing miscommunication and failure to comply with industry regulations.

The new official FYC By-Laws had been emailed this past winter to all the sailing membership to read through and ask questions. These will now set the basis of the club. It may not be everything to everyone but is a good base. Amendments can always be heard and voted on at meetings as needed.

Refer to the document "Frequently asked Questions About the New FYC By-laws v. 191215 that was emailed out to you via the club email this winter.

The new formalized document entitled "Schedules for Fanshawe Yacht Club" was last updated (as was the last Constitution/ By- Laws) in 2002. This defines the Roles

of Board of Director Members, Supporting Roles, needed Policies, Membership and other clubs using the FYC facilities. Both documents were voted on and accepted at the Decmber 19 2019 GM.

Many thanks to our current Executive for taking on this task and for all the time done researching and preparing the document. A lot of consultation was done with an OSA rep who assists clubs with these matters, legal advice and members (esp. long term members!)

Next will be the start to a compilation of Standard Operating Procedures i.e. setting and removing moorings, managing hydro and water at the club, garbage removal, safety boat operation, use of the defibrillator...and so on. This will be really useful in passing the torch on from year to year but also for the safety of people in the club.

UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Fanshawe Conservation fees for 2020

The conservation are will re-open on May 1 2020.

Friday, May 1 to Sunday, October 18, 2020

DAY USE FEES	NO HST	HST INCLUDED
Vehicle Day Pass	\$12.39	\$14.00
Season Pass Mirror Hanger	\$110.62	\$125.00
Non Vehicle Day Pass	\$7.08	\$8.00
Bus Day Pass	\$106.19	\$120.00
WATERCRAFT FEES*	NO HST	HST INCLUDED
Motor/Sail Boat Launch (includes vehicle)	\$25.66	\$29.00
Motor/Sail Boat Day Pass	\$13.27	\$15.00
Motor/Sail Boat Season Pass	\$101.77	\$115.00
*Vehicle admission not included		
NIGHTLY CAMPING FEES	NO HST	HST INCLUDED
Reservation Fee	\$11.50	\$13.00
Change Fee	\$13.27	\$15.00
Cancellation Fee	\$17.70	\$20.00
Daily Site Electric	\$43.36	\$49.00
Daily Site Non Electric	\$34.51	\$39.00
Weekly Site Electric	\$284.96	\$322.00
Weekly Site Non Electric	\$226.55	\$256.00
Additional Vehicle Pass (per day)	\$12.39	\$14.00
SEASONAL CAMPING FEES	NO HST	HST INCLUDED
Seasonal Site Premium 30 amp	\$3,323.01	\$3,755.00
Seasonal Site 30 amp	\$2,451.33	\$2,770.00
Seasonal Site 15 amp	\$2,358.41	\$2,665.00
Seasonal Site Waterfront Non Electric	\$1,792.04	\$2,025.00
Seasonal Site Non Electric	\$1,725.66	\$1,950.00
Swipe Card Additional Vehicle Season Pass	\$106.19	\$120.00
STORAGE FEES	NO HST	HST INCLUDED
Trailer Storage (includes shed/deck)	\$265.49	\$300.00
Shed/Deck Storage	\$137.17	\$155.00
Boat Storage	\$154.87	\$175.00
SEWAGE DISPOSAL FEES	NO HST	HST INCLUDED
Weekly Disposal	\$548.67	\$620.00
Bi-Weekly Disposal	\$274.34	\$310.00
Single Request Disposal	\$44.25	\$50.00
Unscheduled Disposal	\$88.50	\$100.00
Non Camper Disposal	\$44.25	\$50.00
Book of 5 Sewage Disposal Tickets (valid for current year only)	\$132.74	\$150.00
PAVILION RENTALS	NO HST	HST INCLUDED
Day Use Shelter**	\$79.65	\$90.00
Watson Porter Wedding***	\$1,946.90	\$2,200.00
Watson Porter Inclusive****	\$884.96	\$1,000.00
Watson Porter**	\$340.71	\$385.00
Lakeview Wedding***	\$774.34	\$875.00
Lakeview Inclusive****	\$575.23	\$650.00
Lakeview**	\$225.66	\$255.00
**Conservation Area entry fees are in addition to rental fees		
***Includes 2 day access to pavilion & all vehicle entry fees		
****Includes entry fees for vehicles		
EQUIPMENT RENTALS**	NO HST	HST INCLUDED
Canoe / Kayak - half day (less than 4 hours)	\$32.74	\$37.00
Canoe / Kayak - full day (more than 4 hours)	\$41.59	\$47.00

2020 UTRCA Special Events

Additional events may be posted on
the Fanshawe, Pittcock and Wildwood Conservation Area websites.

February

February 10 & 11 – **Fanshawe Nature Adventure Day Camp** (Fanshawe Conservation Area)

February 11 – **Nature in the City: Predator – Prey Interactions** (Central Library, London)

February 18 – **Nature in the City: The Coves: A Neighbourhood Environmental Success Story** (Central Library, London)

February 20 – **UTRCA Board of Directors Annual General Meeting**, Watershed Conservation Centre

March

March 24, 2020 – **UTRCA Board of Directors Meeting**, Watershed Conservation Centre

April

April 28 – **UTRCA Board of Directors Meeting**, Watershed Conservation Centre

May

May 1 – **Fanshawe, Pittcock & Wildwood** Conservation Areas open for the season



May 26 – **UTRCA Board of Directors Meeting**, Watershed Conservation Centre

June

June 23 – **UTRCA Board of Directors Meeting**, Watershed Conservation Centre

July

August

August 25 – **UTRCA Board of Directors Meeting**, Watershed Conservation Centre

September

September 29 – **UTRCA Board of Directors Meeting**, Watershed Conservation Centre

October

October 18 – **Fanshawe, Pittcock & Wildwood** Conservation Areas close for the season

October 27 – **UTRCA Board of Directors Meeting**, Watershed Conservation Centre

November

November 24 – **UTRCA Board of Directors Meeting**, Watershed Conservation Centre

Working to reduce blue green algae in the Thames watershed

Slag Filter Phosphorus Reduction Project

The UTRCA, in collaboration with Bluewater Pipe Inc. and McCutcheon Farm Drainage, is testing the feasibility and practicality of using slag, which is leftover material from metal refining, to filter water from agricultural field tiles. The project goal is to reduce phosphorus loadings into local streams and rivers. The design being tested was manufactured locally at a cost that is reasonable for farmers to consider installing.

The slag filter is being tested on a 25 acre field, which is cropped with a rotation of corn, soybeans and alfalfa. The field has been systematically tiled, with perforated horizontal pipes installed underground throughout the field to collect excess water and move it to a nearby stream. The farmer follows a nutrient management plan when spreading manure and commercial fertilizer on the land. However, heavy rain and melting snow can carry these nutrients into the underground drainage tile and then into the watercourse.



A control box (in the centre) diverts water from the underground field tile into two filter units of different sizes, to test their ability to remove phosphorus. The water is sampled before and after the filter units.

The project is testing two sizes of filter units. Each unit is comprised of a large diameter vertical plastic pipe with a removable slag cartridge. Water from the field tile enters from the bottom, seeps up through the slag cartridge, and then returns to the tile line. The cartridge contains clean pea gravel and slag, which has been approved by government as a low-risk substance.

The project is funded by the Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Collaborative.

Contact: [Craig Merkley](#), Conservation Services Specialist

2020 UTRCA Boating on Fanshawe Reservoir

See current flows and water levels in
Fanshawe Reservoir (Fanshawe Lake) and the Thames River.

Boating

Power driven vehicles are prohibited at Fanshawe CA, except for:

- Battery powered electric propulsion motors
- Watercraft with 10 hp or less

THAMES RIVER CANOE ROUTE GUIDES

- North Thames River Canoe Route - St. Marys to Delaware
- Lower Thames River Canoe Route - Delaware to Lake St. Clair

<https://www.fanshaweconservationarea.ca/>



The 2019 FYC Annual Banquet

Thank you so much to Bonita and Bob Magill for the successful organization of our year end banquet and night of entertainment.



We enjoyed our cocktail hour with the Wheeling Minstrel, Wayne MacDonald (right) who describes his gig as a “left of centre” mix of eclectic songs. Wayne played at our banquet last year and the 2019 Commodore’s Reception. Delightful.

Dinner at the Forest City Golf Club was absolutely delicious which keeps us coming back to the venue along with the wonderful staff who made the night so fine.

Following dinner and a few talks summing up the past season on the water, The Ukulele Choir treated us to a sing-along. Their ad:



The Marietta Ukulele Choir is an instructional choir. All that is required is a ukulele, music stand, and a willingness to practice. Vocalists and percussionists are also welcome.



This well-known strummer (right) is our own Mark Anderson who not only is a large part of the choir but also builds ukuleles. So, if you want to learn and play, Mark is your [go to](#) sailor for song!





2019 FYC General Meetings Summary

Excellent minutes by Andy Turnbull, FYC Secretary are available online with all the detail. In fact, at www.fyc.on.ca, you can go back to see **past minutes** by going to the calendar and clicking on the current General Meeting. This brings up the information for the meeting including the agenda and previous minutes. At this spot you can move forward or back through the minutes.....takes a while but you can go back quite a long way.

**For
Your
Info.**

November 27 Annual Budget Meeting (19 in attendance)

Changes in **membership categories** were discussed:

- The Associate membership includes Sailing and Crew members
- A new membership category for owners of hand powered craft e.g. canoe, kayak, SUP, is being discussed (not sailing)
- Terms of an Honorary Membership were discussed.

The **2020 draft Budget for FYC** and the Sailing School was presented by John Kabel, FYC Treasurer, and discussed at length. Changes will be implemented and the audited budget will be brought forward in the new year.

December 11 General Meeting (30 in attendance)

The By-Laws and attached Schedules for FYC dated December 2019 were presented as amended by the Board of Directors. After discussion, the motion to accept and enact these documents was passed.

Fees for the club are not included in the 2019 FYC By-Law and Schedules. These are determined separately. Fees are being discussed with each of the groups – Affiliated Users (LDBC) and Licensed User Groups (charitable and not-for-profit groups: Rowbust, Abilities in Motion and Woodeden)

Executive Positions

- There are vacancies on the Board and in supporting roles
- A General Manager for the club and a Sailing School Manager were discussed as paid positions. The job requirements are being written.

This meeting was followed by a Christmas social



CURMUDGEON'S OBSERVATION

I found that I have been happier since I changed from coffee in the morning to orange juice. My doctor explained that it's the Vitamin C and natural sugars but I really think it's the Vodka.

The Adventuring Sailors from FYC!



Since last May, Brian and Nathalie Hurst have been living aboard their 46 ft yacht, Timmies Run and blogging their adventure. They began in the North Channel and in the late summer, headed down the inland route to the Caribbean.

As of this week, our second sailing couple packed up their gear and headed off, boat in tow, to the deep south and beyond Carleen Hone and Jim Mackenzie are now on the way to sail Thunderstruck in the Bahamas for the last months of our winter.



I can't possibly include much of their blog but will select bits and pieces.



From Timmie's run

Nathalie has posted a few ideas about living aboard such as food provisioning and a video on making the bow bunk...tight quarters indeed! The provisioning follows with a few tidbits from late January – February

Nov 27,2019 - Fort Pierce FL – Food and water provisions

Today was a good prep day for the Bahamas. We bought 4 more 5-gal diesel jerry can, filled them and the boat tank. Very happy that we used only 10 gallons with our passage and making water. We did our provisioning run and now need to find storage space. By the way, we still need to pick up veggies and meat. We took the labels off the cans and wrote the contents on top. In warmer countries, bugs seem to like the glue from the labels. We also removed as much cardboard and recyclables as we could. Our final preparations will be in Lake Worth as we wait for a weather window for the Bahamas.



Nov 29 – Dec 2 – Lake Worth FL

We have been slowly prepping and have been relaxing on Timmies-run while waiting for the correct weather window opportunity for the Bahamas. As of now, it looks like it might be on the 4th.

Rock Sound Eleuthera Bahamas.

January 15 at 1:20 PM ·

Yesterday while making water our Generator shut down unexpectedly. It turned out to be a faulty magneto. The bearing had heated up and seized. We've ordered parts and will be in Rock Sound until they arrive. Shipping anything in the Bahamas is crazy. 190.00 us for an 8 lb box. Getting other things done while we wait. Solved our alternator problem on the main engine and fixed our wind generator which hasn't worked since October.

Rock Sound Eleuthera Bahamas.

January 27 at 7:07 PM ·

After a really frustrating 2 weeks waiting for our parts, they finally came in. I was an absolute bear all week so I owe Nath big time for putting up with me. It would seem to be difficult to have a terrible time in such a lovely place but it was frustrating to see cruising friends come and go while we spent hours on the phone with the shipper and customs. In the end our parts cost 570.00 US, shipping 191.00 us and taxes 147.00 us for a grand total of 908.00 us. The same part on Amazon is 69.00 Canadian. But Amazon does not ship to the Bahamas.

Staniel Cay.

January 29 at 9:27 PM ·

Today we visited Thunderball Grotto with Stephen and Sandy from s/v Lark and snorkelled into the cave. There was quite a current so I was the only one that entered. After that we went to the local pig beach. Wonderful day with good friends and an amazing place. Enjoy this quick movie. The Barracuda at the end swam under our dinghy.

February 2 at 9:09 AM ·

We had a sleepless night with boats dragging in the high winds. One trawler dragged his anchor by at least 5 boats. Morning is still windy but at least we can see what is happening.

February 2 at 10:32 PM ·

This is what happens when you leave your anchor watch on and you go to a Super Bowl party. I think we dragged.



From Thunderstruck

Our neighbours are on the move. We return from close to 2 ½ months of travel and 2 weeks later.....Thunderstruck is on the move for 2 months. Have fun guys!!



Prepping for The Bahamas and Prescient Rodents!

Posted on February 2, 2020 by Carleen&Jim

Planning for a cruise usually begins months (or even years) in advance. This winter, we are planning to spend a couple of months cruising The Bahamas with our 31'

trimaran Thunderstruck. Our winter is a great time to dream about slicing through turquoise waters and soaking up the warmth of the tropics.

So, it's Groundhog Day in North America and our various weather-predicting rodents here in Canada seem to be divided as to whether there will be an early Spring. First out of the gate was Nova Scotia's Shubenacadie Sam. Sam apparently saw his shadow which means at least 6 more weeks of winter! Bummer for you Atlantic Canadians

But, both Fred La Marmotte in Quebec and Warton Willie here in Ontario failed to see their shadows...a harbinger of an early Spring! Who to believe? This "Upper Canadian" is going to go with Fred and Willie's call. Hopefully they are correct. ☺ In the past couple of months, we've been slowly preparing for a trip over to The Bahamas. We were waiting for my Teaching semester to be over (it is!!) and for one essential part to come in in order to fix our jib furler (picking it up tomorrow!). Another part for our water maker is also on its way. So, once these parts are installed, we can start packing the boat.

Jim also tried to fix an issue with one of our main sheet blocks. We have a 12:1 purchase on our main because there is no winch to grind the sail in. One of the blocks has a sticky ratchet so Jim tried to loosen it in various ways...no dice. You'll see it and some of the main sheet (the red line used to pull in the sail) in a pot on the stove in the pictures below. It's not a real safety issue or anything so no worries.

My jack of all trades even felt the need to sew up a cockpit cushion one day! Impressive! This led to the rather rapid construction of what I refer to as his "Man Bag" though he seems to think it is a tote. We also sewed up a filler to go between the Dodger (shade cover with windows at the front of the cockpit) and the Bimini (shade cover at the rear of the cockpit). The filler is also blue Sunbrella outdoor fabric and will be used when we are at anchor or at a dock.

I decided to license our inflatable dinghy with the Canadian government so that we are legal in Florida! We've heard that they can be sticky on boat registrations in that state. So, I printed our official numbers and drew them onto the dinghy with a sharpie! So easy.

Other things we have to prepare are lists and copies of important documents as well as an inventory of what we have aboard.

It feels like a lot of work sometimes but over the years, getting ready for a cruise has actually gotten easier. If you are going for two weeks or for two months, the prep is just about the same. Stay warm everyone!

It works!! **Posted on February 9, 2020 by Carleen&Jim**

When we rescued our F31 Trimaran in the Bahamas, it had a small Watermaker installed. We never powered it up during that adventure so we never knew if it worked.

Jim did a little work on it this winter and finally got it going. It seems to work and we are so excited!

You see, a Watermaker is a reverse osmosis machine which will remove the salt from seawater and turn it into fresh, drinkable water. This machine runs on 12 volts and is supposed to produce 6 Litres (1.5 Gallons) of water per hour. It can even be used manually if for some reason you run out of power, though we do have good solar power and we carry a tiny generator too....just in case.

This little R-o machine, if it works as it should, will allow us to stay at anchor longer without having to worry about going into town to buy water. Now all we need to do is learn how to fish and forage for greens in the Bahamas!!

Until next time, Fair Winds friends.



DIY Repairs to boats

So, as I was cruising through some of our London boat suppliers, I discovered that NovaCraft Canoe has some DIY videos for canoes that would be most useful on sailboat hulls too You can find these at

<http://www.novacraft.com/category/blog/>

HOW TO: INSTALL SKID PLATES HOW TO: REPAIR COMPOSITE HULLS HOW TO: GELCOAT REPAIRS

There are interesting talks and tips for those kayak/canoe/sail folks in our club too. Good read on a cold winter's day.

A really nice Canadian Canoe Culture video is on their homepage too!

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Sailors, with their built-in sense of order, service and discipline, should really be running the world."

- Nicholas Monsarrat



Boating Treats – Sailboat fine cuisine

The Dockside Scuttlebutt has something for everyone. Anyone have some good boating cocktail or fine cuisine recipes? Send them along!!!

1. Boat Spiders

- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 2 cups chow mien noodles or pretzel sticks
- 1/2 cup peanuts

Melt chocolate chips and peanut butter in a saucepan over low heat, stirring until smooth. Gently blend in remaining ingredients. Drop by the spoonful onto waxed paper. Chill until firm.

2. Georgian Bay Bear Droppings

- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup blueberries

Melt the chocolate chips in a saucepan over low heat, stirring until smooth. Remove from heat and gently stir in blueberries. Drop by the spoonful onto wax paper. Chill until firm.

3. North Channel Specials

- 1 cup butter
- 2 1/2 cups icing sugar
- 1 1/4 cups crunchy peanut butter
- 2 1/4 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1 1/2 cups chocolate chips

Melt butter. Mix in remaining ingredients except chocolate chips. Press mixture in a 9" x 13" pan. Melt the chocolate chips over low heat and spread over the bars. Chill until firm. Store at room (boat) temperature for easy cutting.

4. Rocky Harbour Bars

- 5 cups crisp rice cereal
- 1 cup chopped peanuts
- 1 cup chopped dried fruit (cranberries, raisins, apricots, etc.; 1 type or a combo)
- 1 cup corn syrup or liquid honey
- 1 cup white or brown sugar
- 1 cup peanut butter

Combine first 3 ingredients in a large bowl. Combine remaining ingredients in a saucepan and stir over low heat until melted and smooth. Pour over dry ingredients and mix well. Press into a greased 9" x 13" pan. Chill until set.

UR Technology Section! Understanding Binoculars

Binoculars are essential for any cruising destination. Spotting potential water hazards, basic navigating and identifying points of interest along the shoreline or waterway are just a few of the many applications. There are a wide variety of sizes, models and focal lengths available. Prior to purchasing binoculars, you need to determine what type of binoculars you need for your particular boating activity. Listed below are a few pointers to help get you started in your purchasing process.

Magnification by The Numbers

10x50? 10 by 50 what? One of the first elements to understand about binoculars is the magnification. For instance, 10x50 indicated the subject will be 10 times closer than it would be with your naked eye. Magnifications generally range from 1x to 15x, providing a good selection for your application. In most cases 7x to 10x is appropriate for typical marine use on a sunny day. But there are exceptions. A wider 1x power may be appropriate if you're trying to navigate your boat with night vision binoculars (some manufacturers even offer a hands-free headset with eyepieces and different magnifications as an option).

Binoculars with a magnification more than 8x may start to become difficult to hold steady. In addition to natural breathing movements and hand-shake, the motion of the waves hitting the side of the hull alone just may leave you wishing you had opted for a lower magnification or at the very least, binoculars that have a built-in optical stabilization system that are offered on some models.

Sensitivity

Determining the range you need is only part of determining the right set of binoculars.

The amount of light gathered by your binoculars is another important consideration.

Indicated in part by the second number (i.e. 10 x 50), which measures the diameter in millimeters of each of the objective lenses (the large ones furthest from your eyes). For example, in the case of 10x50 binoculars, your objective lenses would be 50 millimetres wide. Comparable to an aperture on a camera, the wider the objective lens is, the more light passes through to the side where your eyes are. Even the difference of a few millimetres can make a huge difference. For instance, models that are 7x50 are potentially twice as bright as a 7x35. Although the difference is a mere 15 millimetres, the curved surface area of a lens makes a seemingly small change in lens diameter more significant.

When using binoculars during daylight hours, sensitivity isn't as large of a concern. However, if there is a chance of using binoculars during the hours of waning sunlight

in the evening or early morning, then a larger set of objective

lenses should be considered. In most cases, the trade off for improved sensitivity is a larger set of binoculars.

Another factor to determine is exit pupil, which indicates the amount of light that actually reaches the eye. For instance, the exit pupil can be calculated by dividing the objective number by the magnification (7x42 would be six). Therefore, as the human eye can dilate to approximately seven millimetres at best, any more light that is gathered will be lost – hence binoculars with a 7x42 are brighter than models that are 10x42 as they have an exit pupil of 4.2 millimetres.

Quality

One more factor to consider is the quality of the glass and coating. Most binoculars have at least one layer of antireflective optical coating to reduce the amount of light being reflected away from reaching your eyes. While multiple lenses are within each binocular, models with only one coating on at least one of the lenses are known as 'coated' binoculars. Binoculars labeled as 'fully coated' on the all lenses are coated with a single layer and offer higher optical quality are usually more expensive than 'coated binoculars. Binoculars with multicoated lenses have more than one antireflective layer applied on a few lenses. Most top-of-the-line models are 'fully multicoated,' and all lenses are coated with multiple layers and are generally the most expensive. Another coating that is used by many manufacturers is phase-shift coatings or P-Coatings, which are commonly used for porro prism binoculars. Most marine models utilize a porro prism technology. In addition to the objective lenses being offset from the eyepiece, the benefits include greater depth perception and generally a wider field-of-view.

Marine Ready?

Are your binoculars ready for the marine environment? If they are, then they should be waterproof – not water resistant. There is a difference. Water resistant models are sufficiently sealed to withstand a light drizzle, but can't withstand being submerged in water. Waterproof models can be submerged to a rated depth and will also resist changes in humidity and temperature to resist condensation.

