



TORONTO HYDROPLANE & SAILING CLUB

Spar & Prop

AUGUST 2026

NUMBER 295

SAIL PAST – 75TH ANNIVERSARY



Sail Past Leader



Fire Boat Salute



Hydroplane



Saluting the Commodore



Toronto Hydroplane and Sailing Club Executive Board

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Calendar

August 2nd—B-Dock Brunch—10-12

August 8th—East End Challenge/Summer Blast
Regatta & Dinner—11 am-midnight

August 12th—Wednesday Night Racing Series III begins—6:30-9

August 15-16—LOSHRS Race 4—100 miler

September 5th—Bluffers Challenge Race—11-4

September 5th—Corn Roast—5 to midnight—AND COUNTRY FARE
SALE

September 6th—C-Dock Brunch—10-12

September 5/6—Reciprocal Cruise to FBYC

September 12/13—LOSHRS Races 5 & 6 Port Dalhousie

September 19th—Frost Bite Race—11-4 + Summerville (with ABYC)

September 13th—Female Fleet Regatta

September 23rd—Delehaye Cup—6:15-8:45

September 28th—TH&SC Elections—7-9

October 10th—Cradle Placement—9-4

October 10th—Thanksgiving Dinner—6-11

October 17th-18th—HAULOUT—

November 7th—Awards Night—5-12

November 15th—Kid's Christmas Party—11-2

December 6th—Budget Meeting—1-4

EAST END CHALLENGE TH&SC PODIUM RESULTS

Div. II 1st—Iggy—Vaughan Passmore

2nd—Blue Magic—Brooks Robitaille

Div. III 2nd—Emrys—Lee Rixon

Div IV 1st—Take Five—Alan Jones

2nd—Poppins—Calo Albany

3rd—Pathfinder—Steve Loeffen

Overall Flying Sails—Iggy—Vaughan Passmore

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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Martin Osborne

WITH so many great things going on in around the club it was a difficult task to narrow my message down to a few paragraphs, but here we go and I will try to keep it short!



I would like to start out by thanking everyone for their generosity at Sail Past. As a club we collectively gathered and donated more than a hundred and twenty pounds of dry goods and a cash donation of one hundred dollars. I took this to the Red Door Family Shelter on Carlaw Avenue, and they simply were overjoyed and couldn't thank us enough for our kindness and generosity.

While I am on the topic of Sail Past, I also want to thank everyone who collectively made it an amazing day both on the water and on shore it was an incredibly well-organized event and very well planned. I would list all the people responsible but would surely miss someone so I will collectively thank all as a group and please know that your efforts to go above and beyond were greatly appreciated by everyone in attendance.

Also, as part of Sail Past we made a reconnection with our Hydroplane racing past and I see this continuing into the future with an ongoing interaction with both the Canadian Raceboat Hall of Fame and the Toronto Outboard Racing Club. We have already accepted two crew additional hydroplane associated crew members, and I suspect that we might see more in the future. I was honoured to be invited to the



Canadian Raceboat Hall of Fame Summer Gala in early July. It was very humbling to walk in and see our burgee and one of our prestigious trophies on prominent display. I highly recommend a stop in to see the display if you are up that way one day.

I continue to be amazed by

everything happening around the club in respect to Racing, Cruising and just overall activity in general. We really need to give ourselves a pat on the back as a club for what we accomplish for such a small club in overall size compared to most clubs in the GTA. Wednesday night racing on average twenty boats out on the line every week, with at least four people on most boats, not to mention the weekend racing that is taking place, it's really a testament to who we are and why the club is staying so vibrant.

I would like to add that Cruising is alive and healthy too with what seems like a reciprocal cruise nearly every weekend, our boats going out and visitors coming in and what's extra nice is the visitors all commenting how much they enjoy visiting us!

As I close, I'd like to remind everyone that 2026 is the International Year of the Volunteer. What better place to give your time than somewhere as special as TH&SC.

With the new volunteer portal, it's easier than ever to find opportunities that match your abilities and count toward your work-hour total. Imagine what we could accomplish if each of us gave just a little more than our required sixteen hours. Let's continue working together to make TH&SC an even better place for everyone for now and into the future.

Finally, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the executive with suggestions, concerns, or offers to volunteer. Your support helps keep our club the best on the lake.

Fair winds and following seas,

Martin Osborne



OOD MANAGER

Peter de Jong van der Halen

A big thank you to the 10 members who responded to the blast calling for Officers of the Day to fill 4 vacant shifts on the August long weekend.



A SHOUT OUT TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO DO SHOW RESPONSIBILITY AND PUT IN 100% IN THEIR SHIFTS AS OFFICER OF THE DAY.

THERE ARE STILL SOME VACANT SHIFTS TO BE FILLED IN AUGUST AND IN SEPTEMBER. Please sign up on the OOD schedule on the clipboard (left side) inside the OOD cupboard.

The new south washrooms (vanity) and the renovated north washrooms (wicker basket) now have storage for some paper towel rolls and toilet paper. This makes it more convenient for both an OOD or a member to replace rolls as needed. Additional supplies are still available under the stairs with backup supplies in the office.

The four wooden bunkers are well used for garbage, recycling and collection of beer/wine containers for the charity bins. Emptying the full/ almost full bins is the duty of each Officer of the Day. However, it must be noted that the OOD is not responsible for cleaning up/emptying recycling, charity and garbage bins on the patio or at the coffee station after their shift. Those attending formal or informal events, such as watching a FIFA soccer game in the evening are responsible for their own emptying of bins as the need arises.

Everyone should be willing to pitch in and help. Sometimes it will take two people to lift full bags out of the bunkers and lift them up and into the big metal containers by the gate.

Be sure the handheld VHF is turned on to 68 and with you at all times. Monitor and respond. You can check to ensure you are receiving by using the fixed VHF in the clubhouse.

OODs: Remember to return the clipboards to their designated hooks so subsequent OODs can find the clipboards in the expected location.



HARBOUR MASTER

Peeter Leppik

ATHIRD kayak rack is now complete in response to an increased interest from the kayak crew. Numbered tags are now on all racks



including the original dinghy rack. There are five kayak slots available and five dinghy slots. In the past we have not assigned slots to members, but now that the kayak/SUP crew desire designated numbered slots, we will extend this system to sailing members with dinghies as well. Stay tuned.

Concrete blocks have been poured to top up our annual inventory necessary for dock maintenance.

If you have your cradle set aside from launch to be worked on, please complete this as soon as possible. This area needs to be cleared out and weeds cut.

All members must have their boat name, bow and stern clearly PAINTED on their cradles. This is absolutely necessary for when we set out your cradle in the yard preparing for Haul Out.

Our pump-out was out of service for three days. As it has remained an ongoing inconvenience for several years now, despite John Edwards' valiant efforts to resuscitate it periodically, it will probably be sent out over the winter for either a complete overhaul or refit. I expect better performance in the coming years.

Winter cover frames are still lying around unidentified. Club policy is for members to remove frames from the property. Property and Harbour are working on a more orderly system to keep things in place which may include cover frames but until then, remove all winter cover frames from the property. Most members do. So should you.

Members are also required to have marine grade shore power leading to their boats. "Hardware store" garden extension cords are not permitted and pose a significant safety hazard.

Please secure your halyards and back your boat away from the dock if your anchor/bowsprit overhangs the main dock walkway.

Dock maintenance continues with no major issues. However, B-Dock finger #5 is torquing and unstable. I have determined that it was caused by last year's ice damage and subsequent repair, resulting in a flexing steel beam. This will require welding surgery in the fall.

The Dock Power Pedestal Committee has created, reviewed, and approved a very technical Request for Quotation to be sent out to five electrical contractors specializing in marina electrical installations. I expect replies by late August. This phase of the project is for D-Dock only.

Special thanks to Mike Wheatstone for putting together a detailed ten page technical document.

Slips are available for a couple of 9-10 foot beam boats and several 8-foot positions. Do you know any potential new members?

The weed harvester is now being used every Wednesday to clear weeds.

Wednesday dock crew is still ongoing. Everyone welcome. Get your hours. Best to arrive before 10 am.

Hot dogs, Philly Cheesesteak Sandwiches, Pizza... Sign up online or just show up and I'll sign you up.

Every sailor has a star to guide him home.

Peeter Leppik
416-565-0487 Cell
Harbour Master TH&SC 



FLEET CAPTAIN CRUISING

Mike Smith

The busiest cruising month in recorded history (or at least in the memory of your genial cruising captain) has ended.



And it has to be said that all three cruises – to Lake Shore Yacht Club, Queen City Yacht Club, and Etobicoke Yacht – were enormous successes.

On the patio of LSYC, Commodore Martin Osborne and the delightful commmadorable, Susan, prepared a meal fit for kings and queens for the crews of ten vessels, as well as a couple of landcruisers.

Great turnout!

Those who have visited LSYC know that their delightful patio can sometimes be a bit toasty in the afternoon sun, so kudos to Marie Evans for rigging some impromptu sunshades, which allowed the assembled sailors to chow down in comfort.

The Queen City cruise, the first to the Toronto Island venue in years, had a smaller attendance,, owing to wildfire smoke and the threat of tornadoes. After a rainy morning, the crews of six vessels gathered on the QCYC patio in a strong northerly breeze and watched the city across the harbour.

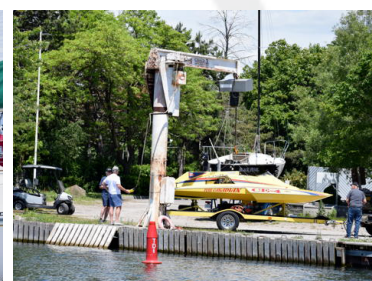
Hosts Keith Fraser and Dorothy Williams (with some help from your genial cruising captain) prepared kebabs from Mr. Greek (TM) that were quickly demolished, as England crushed France in the background.

The traditional cruise breakfast had to be abandoned because QCYC has limited facilities for cooking, but several crews had brunch in their lovely lake-side restaurant.

The last cruise in the busy month of July took us to the friendly confines of Etobicoke Yacht Club, where Rear Commodore Helen Rigler played host to racers and cruisers. EYC is always a popular destination and this year was no exception, with ten vessels staying overnight and several others just taking part in the race part of the event.

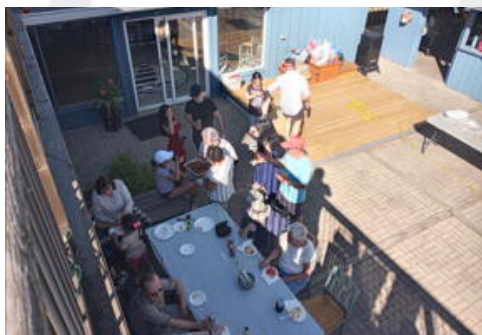
The final cruise of the year – to Frenchmans Bay Yacht Club Sept. 5 and 6 – is now open for sign-up. And we still need a host for that event. Your genial cruising captain is awaiting applicants. 

SAIL PAST 2026 – 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF TH&SC



PIG ROAST

A large turnout made short work of three roasted pigs. A perfect day at TH&SC ▲



PAST COMMODORE

Terry Pasieka

WE have reached that point in the sailing season when the club is in full swing. The docks are busy, the evenings still offer time for a sail, and there are plenty of chances left to get out on the water. But as every sailor knows, the season moves quickly. Now is the time to take advantage of the club while the boats are rigged, the weather is inviting, and the clubhouse is alive with activity.



Mid-season is a good moment to pause and ask: have you used the club as much as you hoped you would? Have you gone racing, taken a guest for a sail, attended a social event or simply spent an unhurried evening at the dock? If the answer is "not yet," there is still time – but the best way to enjoy the rest of the season is to make a plan now.

Whether you race, cruise, crew, volunteer, or come down to enjoy the view, the club offers something for every member. Mid-season is the perfect time to get involved again: sign up for a race, arrange a casual sail with another member, check the calendar for upcoming events, or bring family and friends to experience the club atmosphere. The more often members show up, the stronger and more welcoming the club becomes.

A successful club depends on more than boats and fair breeze. It depends on volunteers organizing events, getting to know new members, maintaining facilities, mentoring new sailors and making everyone feel welcome. If you have not volunteered yet this season, consider signing up for a race committee shift, a social event or a work party. Every contribution strengthens the club.

The Voice of the Membership survey is now open and will close on August 20, 2026. We ask all members to participate and to use this opportunity to give feedback to the Board, share what is working well, and offer ideas for improving the club. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey before the deadline – your input helps shape future decisions and your ideas can improve the club experience for everyone.

There are three positions to be filled on next year's Board: Vice-Commodore, Treasurer, and Harbour Master. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please reach out to me

and let me know. Serving on the Board is a meaningful way to support the club, contribute your skills, and help guide our priorities for the years ahead.

Before long we will be talking about haul out, storage, and the end of another season. Until then, let's make the most of what time we have. Come down to the club, get out on the water, support an event, reconnect with fellow members, and enjoy the season while you can. ▲

RACING CAPTAIN

Bryan Pelkey

W HOA! Summer is flying by and East End Challenge is days away as this is being written and likely in the rearview as you read. So a massive thank you to our Race Committee volunteers, Dave Steenbergen from next door who lent his many years of experience and knowledge to guide the EEC race committee team, Richard Coutts and Peeter Leppik who support all our races including the EEC, signal and mark boat crews, Helen Rigler, John Stevenson, Rob Clark and Alex Turner, and Andrea Barkley, delivering timely results for me to shout at you all season long.



Another big thank you to the planning crew and events volunteers who made sure there were smiles on all faces before and after the race. In no particular order, Helen Rigler, Andrea Barkley, Sue Osborne, John Greenham, Deborah Steward, Lisa Alexander, John Edwards, Justin Heeley, Kelly Kime, Peter Fuller, and no doubt others.

And of course, shout out to Mr. Paul Lewis at the center of the EEC whether he likes it or not.

Upcoming! Be sure to note in your calendar that the Female Fleet Regatta has been changed to Sunday, September 13th to accommodate the fact that many of our racers and boats will be doing the LOSHRS Race 5&6 on September 19th and 20th. Frostbite Race will remain on September 19th as it is a combined ABYC race. Watch for any other updates in the Tell Tale emails.

Ladies, be sure to get your crews ready and come out to support the Female Fleet Regatta. This is an important race to promote. It shows the current and next generation of female sailors that not only are they capable of racing in a dedicated female crew race but they can compete in any fleet and show the old farts what's what on the race course!

Best rest of season everyone! ▲

IT'S been a fantastic summer and season at the club, and I want to start by thanking each and every one of you, the grounds and facilities are looking as good as they have in years, and that's a direct result of the care, pride, and hard work our members put in every single day. Whether it's tidying up after a sail, reporting a maintenance issue, or simply treating the club like it's your own—which it is—it shows, and it's appreciated more than you know.



We still have several projects planned and approved in this year's budget, and we're making steady progress.

Upcoming work includes:

- D-Dock – repairs and upgrades
- Garage Roof – planned repair / replacement
- Clubhouse Siding – work will continue this fall

As always, project timelines depend on weather and volunteer availability. If we need an extra pair of hands, we'll be sure to find you.

One of our top priorities over the coming weeks is a thorough cleanup of the yard. As the season progresses, equipment, gear, and general clutter naturally accumulate. A clean, organized yard not only looks better but also makes the club safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

We've sent several reminders asking members to identify and relocate belongings stored in the yard. In the near future, we'll be gathering any unclaimed items into a designated area so members can retrieve their gear and arrange for proper storage. Please watch for more details in the coming weeks.

If you're able to lend a hand during the cleanup, it's a great opportunity to give back to the club. As the saying goes, many hands make light work.

- In the meantime, please remember to:
- Label your gear.
 - Store equipment only in designated areas.
 - Remove any items you no longer need from the yard.

None of this would be possible without you. The club looks and feels as good as it does because of the commitment and pride of our members. Thank you for everything you've done so far this season, and let's keep the momentum going through the rest of the year.

I look forward to seeing you on the water and around the club.

John Greenham 🌊

D-DOCK BRUNCH

Glen's Diner



D Dock kept the party going the morning after the memorable Sail Past to celebrate the 75th anniversary of THSC.

With diner booth seating, a soda jerk serving banana splits and ice cream sodas, a wise cracking cook with ciggies tucked in his sleeve, a retro menu, and 50s music and a small but dedicated team of enthusiastic D Dockers, guests were well fed and entertained!



Blue Magic's Lake Ontario 300 Adventure

Blue Magic took a full crew on the Lake Ontario 300 this year, sailing 370 nautical miles to a 300 mile course. For three sailors of the five on board this was their first LO300! Along with our fearless skipper: Brooks Robitaille, and our first mate Elias, who'd done the LO300 together before; there was Mason, Sydney and Liam joining the crew from BHYC.

We had a wide range of wind conditions on the new course this year taking us through Hamilton, Grimsby, Gibraltar, Ajax, Main Duck Island, and back to Port Credit.

A shifty close reach start the first day had a wide range of wind speeds and a big shift going into the first night. Light to becalmed into the second day, there were a lot of fast boats who were parked in the middle of the lake, the second day saw a lot of retirements. Lucky we had Elias' fresh crepes to lighten the mood when we were bobbing.

Midday the third day, and we finally had a fresh breeze to take us downwind around Main Duck Island. We saw the whole buildup of a big fetch along the lake for our long beat all the way back to Port Credit, all 100 miles of it!

From our downwind run, the wind built from 15 up and up to as much as 33 knots, and an average firmly above 20 all the way until we got back to Gibraltar at the Toronto islands. That was the leg that took us furthest from shore, and with it beautiful full starlit nights.

We kept ourselves going with boiled eggs and Red Bulls. I'm very proud of our crew, and grateful to our skipper Brooks for inviting us onboard for this adventure. It was an incredible experience.

Speaking for the crew, I think we all learned a lot in a hurry. Brooks had the boat set up beautifully with a very enviable sail locker, we had no shortage of options to employ to the diverse conditions of the race.

We finished 4th in our division. An early setback stalled us up in Grimsby, while our competitors had one long close hauled tack back across the lake, we had a beat into dying wind. I know we can do better, I think we all sailed well.

It's a result we may be aiming to beat next year. For a race with 22 retirements, more than half of the 41 boats entered, our finish was all the victory we needed. More than that, we had a ball! The

mellow crew was the perfect company in close quarters to chat with to pass the time in the doldrums and debate when to tack.

The 300 is a fantastic race, you should try it! It does take some effort to set up a boat for a category 3 race, though perhaps a bit more effort to set yourself up for it. It's a long, tough race that tests your skills, grit, and sometimes patience. So much so that merely describing the task to friends and family may elicit cries of utter confusion: "Why would you do that?"

But it's well worth it. This long distance racing, it hooks you like nothing else. If you really want to learn how to sail, race. Then try racing for 93 hours straight, you'll forget that you used to avoid sail changes, you'll surf some waves because it feels right. You'll forget that you can sail a boat without racing it. Maybe, these are just the ramblings of some crazy greenhorn...but I know for my part, I can already feel an itch that will need scratching at least once per year.

Fair winds and following seas,
Liam
Junior Assistant to the Cook, *Blue Magic* 🚩



Blue Magic



THSC BOATS ENTERED IN EAST END CHALLENGE

Division I

Split Second
John Greenham

Division II

Iggy
Vaughan Passmore

Blue Magic
Brooks Robitaille

Narbit III
Brian Pelkey

Calimari
Martin Osborne

Break Free
Paul Lewis

Division III

Emrys
Lee Rixon

Expresso
Grant Britchford

Division IV

Take Five
Alan Jones

Poppins
Calo Albany

Pathfinder
Steve Loeffen

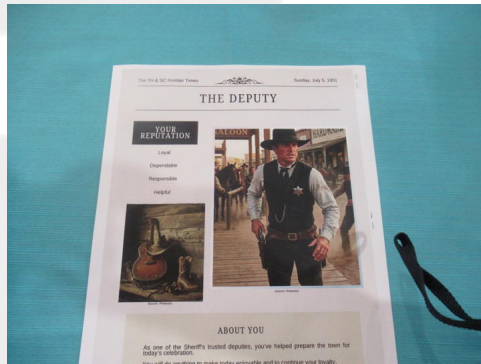
Skookumchuk
Richard Taylor

Gingersnap
Alex Tchikalov

Press Gang
Mike Smith 🚩



A-DOCK BRUNCH



B-DOCK BRUNCH



