



Water Rat Sailing Club Annual General Meeting 2009

Chief Rat Report 2009

Agenda

1. Call to Order

2. Announcements

Safety

Every winter, a couple boats blow over or off their trailers. For safety and to minimize damage to your boat and surrounding boats, please take your masts down for winter, flip the boat upside down and secure to trailer or dolly. I would suggest that for the cats that they are anchored to the ground as well as Lasers. The wind down here in the winter can be very strong, the outerharbour marina weather station has a highest winds recorded this year as 98.3 knots, that is 182km/hr which is faster than most of any of driven our car and just recently in October it was approaching 70knots

Christmas & Awards Dinner

Saturday December 12 2009, 6:00 pm

ABYC Coxwell and Lakeshore

Tickets: \$30 each.

See Julie when the meeting adjourns for tickets. The club partially subsidizes the event and it is a great event to come out and share an evening with your club members in. Unfortunately I will not be attending again this year, as I will be down in Sarasota for the month of December

Election of Executive

The strength & efficiency of the club's operations stem from the excellent work done by the good people who comprise the Executive and the work of other dedicated members who aren't scared to take the initiative and make

things happen. Unfortunately this year we have been severely understaffed and need a treasurer, Social Rat and a club secretary.

From what I've seen and heard during my past 4 years as Commodore, we are one of the most efficiently run boating club in Toronto with a strong focus on maximizing our enjoyment of being outdoors and more specifically on the water. We are the first in the water at the beginning of the season and the last club that is out, in fact there are some crazies (will use the term loosely) that are still racing on Sunday's and there are several of us heading out after the meeting today

However the club always need an infusion of energy, and without out the commitment and dedication of the executive our club would not exists the way it is today. I want to remind everyone that we donate a huge amount of our time to make Water Rats happen. Between now and Agenda item 6, I urge you to consider becoming getting involved in the running of the club if you are interested. It's a great way to get the most out of your membership. Any full member can run for any position except Badger.

3. Commodores Report

External Affairs

Outer Harbour Sailing Federation

The federation continues to be run under Paul Chandler, "Commodore" of the OHSF with meetings throughout the year. Current activities include

- Insurance review – cost savings to be realized here through elimination of overlap between OHSF coverage and club coverage and group insurance for things that used to be done individually such as D & O.
- Active voice with the TWRC (Toronto waterfront revitalization Committee) in order to have our say in articulating our needs to the restructure of the surrounding the park development
- Lease negotiations with the City & TPA where applicable.
- Shared costs of toilets garbage and road maintenance
- Unified voice to lobby various levels of government and developers of our needs and place in Toronto and the water.

- A one stop communications place so that any special events taking place in the area such as Tri-athalons, marathons or bridge construction can communicate with us so that we can inform our members

Property tax crisis and a brief update of Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Project

Tobin Young who is the current chair and his final year of the council of commodores will bring you up to date on what has transpired since our last AGM after my report

Lease Update

Old lease expired 31 March 2005. We have paid our rent invoice for 09/10. We are waiting for a revised lease.

Naturally, the lease in question is the lease negotiated by Council of Commodores designed as a template for all boating clubs leasing land from City of Toronto. OHSF will request term of lease to run for the remainder of twenty years (2005 + 20 years).

Internal Affairs

Status of Club

Membership report

- Consistent membership numbers we are down by 5 compared to last year at the same time that the report was done, however there have been a few Lasers added by Heinz and a few paddlers added by Kate in the fall that are not included in my numbers
- If you own a cat and a Laser you are counted as a cat member.
If you own a laser but do not own a cat you are a laser member.
If you own a monohull but do not own a cat or a laser you are a monohull member.
If you own a kayak and no other type of boat you are a kayak member.

Member breakdown

Laser /Monohull Members	114
Cat Members	49
Paddlers	49
Other	2 members with no boat listed
Total	214

Members who did not renew 29

Paddling	8
Cat	1
Monohull	20

New members 19

Paddling	11
Cat	1
Monohull	7

Boat inventory

Lasers	101
Monohulls	44
Canoe/Kayak	94
Cats	49 +2
Total boats	288

Plus 2 cats that have been donated to the club in lieu of past due membership that we will be selling to generate revenue for the club, if anyone is interested in purchasing them let me know. There are a couple of boats that are on the property that have not paid for 2009 and a Snipe that we cannot trace the owner of it.

Strength of Water rats

- Strong and Solid Financial Position – compared to other Toronto clubs we enjoy a balance sheet that will allow us to fund some potential capital projects that I will touch on later that we would not have to charge assessments to
- We enjoy a key location with multiple access points to the water, ample parking, and is easy to get to
- We have very active members and some of our members are world class sailors competing in international sanctioned events
- We have a stable membership roster with an annual turn over less than 15%

- Our club is recognized as an ideal place to join and we enjoy a wait list of potential new member across all categories. Don and Kate can attest how eager some people are and willing to do anything to join. Some of the new members this year have been on the waitlist for several years.
- We have an extremely low membership rate that gives our members many included benefits such as year round storage, BBQ's, racing not to mention one of the best beaches in the city

But have some challenges

- Security continue to be an issue, we had 2 break ins which they broke in to Toad Hall and made a mess of the place and then got into the boat house as the door was not locked properly. Only item that was stolen was splash jacket and 5 cases of beer
- Our Club house is not safe health wise and truly is not functional, Our boat house is in very bad shape
- Property tax issue is a major item which I will elaborate later on

2009 Season

Work or Pay We are in to the second year of this rule I would say that this is a success as the club grounds were very clean throughout the year and had positive feedback from many members in expressing that their work went noticed and equal participation from their fellow members. We also had a very effective clean up day with lots of participation as most stayed for the duration of the day. We had 2 cleanup days in the season, the bulk was done in May but we had help throughout the year as people kept our beaches clean which is a never-ending task. As soon as we have a west wind our south beach gets tons of litter and seaweed. An eastern wind litters our north beach. Other help people participated in were the BBQ's and some of the regattas. We started listing a jobs board on our website letting people what we need help in. We have used some of the funds from last year to employ an individual to regularly cut the lawn and do the entire trimming. Most of you will agree that our grounds this year looked great.

I have the completed chits and cheques and if you would like to have it back, see me after the meeting, all unclaimed cheques that are signed off will be shredded.

Party Rat we desperately need someone to run this task and organize the membership for help so that they are not doing this single handedly but rather acting as a supervisor. Unfortunately no one took the role in 2009 and eventually fell back on me to run the BBQ or have an active role in it. After the cancellation of the June BBQ due to no volunteers we finally had some in the membership take

and active role and help organize the remaining 3 BBQ's in July, Aug and Sept (thank you Richard Samborin, Patrick Mullin and Phillip Fotheringham. I urge someone from the membership to take on this important club tradition role.

Late Fee's We continued for the second year the process of administering late fee's and made the membership deadline a firm one, there were far less annoyed members this year as most are now used to the process and well aware of the deadlines. We were able to take care of this yearly arduous process in a timely manner as there was definitely a call to action by our members to avoid these fees. While this was not a revenue-generating scheme, it serves to ease the job and streamline it for our Body Rats as it gets the members to take action and sign in quickly. This will enforcement will continue indefinitely.

Beer We have followed the lead from the other north shore clubs on strong recommendation by our insurance broker that we turn our clubs in to a 'dry' club in that we do not serve nor sell alcohol beverages. The liability to the club and its officers is just too great and it would not be smart for anyone to subject himself or herself to such a risk. This has become a hot button especially for the insurer ever since that accident in Muskoka when 3 of the 4 teens drowned in their Audi after being served at a golf club. The insurance company is going after all the directors at the resort including past officers. Alcohol will not be banned at our club as it would leave us also liable if they can prove that we are not enforcing it so instead it will be a BYOB and everyone is responsible for their own actions. We can serve alcohol at club functions such as regattas and BBQ if we get special events permit and have someone trained in smart pour

Property tax As most of you know especially if you are a homeowner, this year MPAC the Ontario agency reassessed all properties and have hit hard on almost everyone. Especially hit hard were the sailing clubs around Toronto. Our parcel of land that we share with the other north shore clubs has jumped to a land value of \$136,926,000 from \$6,527,000 in 2005 (perhaps they are not telling us that below our land are oil reserves, or platinum and gold deposits!). After years of never being charged property taxes the city moved to a nominal charge around year 2000 and in 2009 it became our single largest expense increasing by 710% or approximately \$7500 from last year. We expect even larger increases over the next 3 years as this is a phase in structure and it will double what we are paying in 2009 for year 2010. We have joined in with the OHSF to fight this as a single group and hired a consulting company that specializes in re-assessment. This will be a long and drawn out process and will have to share the cost with the other clubs which will be about \$2000 each. Unfortunately I don't have good news yet and right now this is a significant hit on club and will be even more over the next couple of years. While our tax has increased by 710%, RCYC has an assessment that is 4000% higher. Tobin will elaborate more in his report

3a. Money Rat Report (Steven Hoke)

3b. Council of Commodores, Lake Ontario Park, Tax (Tobin Young)

3c. Race Report (Nigel Heath)

4. Other Business (put forth by the executive)

- Additional equipment for the club that we need to purchase
 - New Boathouse
 - New dock as the current one is on its last legs
 - New lawn member accessible lawn mower
 - New club house
 - Electricity
 - Membership fees will have to increase in order for the club to survive and maintain its operating budget. We enjoy the absolute lowest cost anywhere to keep our boats at an ideal and easy accessible location. Our membership cost has not gone up in over 15years yet many of our expenses have such as gas, food for the BBQ's, race committee fees, our lease, association fees, insurance, repairs and supplies have substantially increase since the time we established the annual cost of \$150 per member. In order to be responsible and set forth a future for our club we have no choice but to increase the rates so that we can absorb these tax increases I am suggesting that the rates for 2010 will be as follows:
 - Family membership \$225
 - Initiation \$150
 - Post September joining \$125
 - Work or Pay stays at \$100
 - Late fee stays at \$100

Even with these new rates we will still be the lowest anywhere in the GTA to have access to sailing and to be able to leave your boat year-round on our grounds, we will still continue to provide regular racing, monthly BBQ's and partial subsidizing of our Christmas

party. In other words none of our services will be cut and at \$225 annually you cannot find a better deal

I did an audit on other club fees and would be happy to share them with you

Outer Harbour Centerboard Club

Initiation \$190

Membership \$110

Summer storage \$110 x # of boats

Winter storage \$55 x # of boats

A senior member with 1 boat would be paying \$275 annually

Toronto Multihull Club (dry sailing only)

Senior Member \$400

Summer storage \$275

Winter storage \$250

Initiation \$500

10hrs work per year or \$30/hr

A senior member with 1 boat would be paying \$925 annually

Westwood Sailing Club

Senior member \$415

St Jamestown

Senior Member \$400

Student member \$385

Moordale

Senior Member \$485

Hanlan's Rowing club

Senior Member \$575

Boat storage \$200

Join after sept 1 \$290

ABYC dry sailing dinghy

Senior member \$525

Initiation \$100

Summer storage \$3.11x LOA x beam (a laser would be \$175)

Winter storage \$1.52 x LOA x beam (a laser would be \$85)

A senior member with a laser would be paying \$785 annually

EYC dry sailing

Senior member \$433

storage large dingy/cat >15' \$185

storage small dingy <15' \$139

30hrs work per year

A senior member with a laser would be paying \$572 annually

TSCC dry sailing

Senior member \$550

Initiation \$150

summer storage \$75

winter storage \$75

trailer storage \$75-\$200

A senior member with a laser would be paying \$775 annually

5. Questions and suggestions from the floor

6. Executive Elections

Any member who wishes to nominate them self to stand for election for an Executive position (except Badger) can do so.

Position	Incumbent	Running for 2009
Chief Rat (Commodore)	Steven Hoke	Steven Hoke / open
Money Rat (Treasurer)	none	open
Paper Rat (Secretary)	Francois Chartres	open
Body Rat (Membership)	Heinz Gebauer Dinghy's	Heinz Gebauer Dinghy's
Body Rat (Membership)	Don Coleman Catamarans	Don Coleman Catamarans
Body Rat (Membership)	Kate Lazier paddlers	Kate Lazier paddlers
House Rat (Grounds)	Marvin Coulson	Ben Friolet
Race Rat (Racing)	Nigel Heath	Nigel Heath / open
Sheriff Rat (Rules and structure)	Ken Quarton	Ken Quarton
Party Rat (Social)	None	open
Badger (Vice Commodore)	Tobin Young	previous year's Chief Rat
Web Rat (Publicity)	Ken Brown	Ken Brown
News Rat (Communications)	Julie Hughes	Julie Hughes / open

Thanks

- Anyone & everyone who has given back to the club in even the smallest way throughout the year and without this help our club would not exist.
- Volunteers – and I'm going to mention a few specifically
 - **Heinz, Don and Kate** for their a shared role of membership Rats to make renewal easier and less arduous
 - **Nigel** Heath for organizing the Spring War, and Fall War
 - **Joe** Van Rossem for being our mechanic at large
 - **Ben** our fix-it guy at large
 - **Marvin** for running another well organized Cat regatta
 - **Tobin** for guidance, continued work on LOP and CofC

7. Meeting Adjournment