

# **Ripples**

December 2005



## From The Bridge Deck

I truly did not expect to be writing a *Ripples* article as Commodore for another year. By the end of the November organizational meeting of the Board of Directors, I somehow ended up being named Commodore once again. The good news regarding the new

Board is we have many people returning to the same roles, giving us consistency throughout the Flag Officers and other Board positions. The familiarity each individual has with their responsibilities should allow us to give a lot of focus to the consultant recommendations and hopefully do some creative things this year. The bad news is you are stuck with reading my articles for another year.

Those of you that were able to attend the annual meeting saw that we finished the fiscal year 2005 on a positive note. Membership numbers are up, we had a small profit for the year, and we paid down a significant amount of debt. We have some much needed stability going into 2006 with our house concessionaire excited about building on what they learned in their first year. Our focus in 2006 will be on continued membership growth, providing activities of interest to all membership categories and getting more people involved in waterfront activities, both on and off the water.

One specific item you will hear a lot about in 2006 is the celebration of the Youngstown Yacht Club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This is an exciting milestone for our special place on the Niagara River, and we want to make sure we give it the recognition it deserves. The celebration will start with the New Year's Eve party, chaired by Jim and Donna Huggins. Jim's fireworks will be the official kickoff to YYC's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Come down and join us; it's always a great way to ring in the New Year, surrounded by YYC friends. Members are welcome to bring family and friends, so put a table together and join in the fun. The Bob Volkman Band always gets the crowd dancing, and there will be plenty of champagne at midnight.

We need the help of all members in order to have a successful year. More volunteers create new ideas and lighten the workload for all. There are many ways to get involved. If you are interested, contact Josie at the YYC Office or me directly and let us know how you would like to help.

Thank you for your continued support; I look forward to a successful and productive year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## Club Members Elect New Board Revise Key Bylaws Hear Plans for Club's Future

At the Club's annual meeting on October 28th the voting members filled seats on the Board of Directors, revised key bylaws, and learned of plans for the Club's future. Four Board seats were filled on the new, nine member Board of Directors.

Board members serve a two year term starting in November. Seven candidates were fielded for the 2005-06 Board, reduced from eleven Directors as prescribed by last year's bylaw revisions (see the October *Ripples*). Paul Cannon, Don Finkle, and Tom Tomaszewski were reelected to the Board for another two-year term, and Bruce Matthews, last season's Junior Sailing Head Instructor, joined the Board.

Mike Banks, Mark Kirby, Vic Synder, PC Gary Tisdale, and Ray Volpe remain on the Board for the second year of their two-year term.

At its organizational meeting in November, the Board elected the following officers for 2005-06:

Commodore, PC Gary Tisdale Flag Officers

VC Fleet, Vic Synder VC Yard, Mark Kirby VC House, Mike Banks

Treasurer, Tom Tomaszewski

Secretary, Ray Volpe

Directors

Junior Sailing, Bruce Matthews Membership, Paul Cannon Publicity, Don Finkle

Club Bylaws allow for three additional directors to be appointed by the Board. Standing Committee chairs should be appointed by the Commodore, subject to the Board's approval, at the Board's first regular meeting scheduled for Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Following annual reports by the outgoing Board of Directors, members approved Bylaw revisions designed to simplify membership status, attract younger members, recognize bar charges when satisfying food minimums, ease payment of annual dues with monthly billing, and improve collections on delinquent accounts.

See Bylaws on Page 7



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#### **Restaurant and Club Hours**

The restaurant will be open Friday 12/16 and 12/23, and for the New Years Eve party Saturday, 12/31. The restaurant will <u>not</u> be opened Friday 12/30, and will be closed the month of January.

As always, the Club is available for private parties. To make arrangements call Clare Crawford: (716) 445-2846.

#### YOUNGSTOWN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 379 Youngstown, N.Y. 14174 Phone: (716) 745-7230 ~ Fax: (716) 745-7365 E-Mail: YYC@YYC.org ~ Web site: www.yyc.org

#### Flag Officers

Gary Tisdale Commodore Vic Snyder V.C. Fleet Mark Kirby V.C. Yard Michael Banks V.C. House Tom Tomaszewski Treasurer Ray Volpe Secretary

#### **Board of Directors**

Paul Cannon Membership Bruce Matthews Junior Sailing Don Finkle Publicity

Youngstown Yacht Club Auxilliary Laurie Hugill President

**Ripples** is published monthly and distributed to eligible Club members and to subscribers. To subscribe, please contact Josie at *josie@yyc.org.* 

News about Club events and members are always welcome and highly encouraged. E-mail articles and photos to <u>LibertaT37@verizon.net</u> or drop them off with Josie in the YYC Club Office.

Editor: Ray Volpe Copy Editors: Judy Volpe, Melanie Tisdale

# **YYC Ripples**

## YYCA Elects New Officers Make Plans for the New Year

The fall began with monthly meetings in September, October, and November. First on the agenda was the election of new officers. They are as follows:

	5
President:	Laurie Hugill
Vice President:	Kath Morrison
Treasurer:	Gina Hughes
Secretary:	Nancy Wallace/Karen Noonan

Next on the agenda Sheila Kalm presented an overview of the Club's gardens and proposed several changes and additions for the future. Many thanks to Sheila and Mike Kalm, and Harry Collins for their dedication to making the Club's gardens beautiful both from land and sea. Volunteer gardeners are always welcome!

YYCA also made plans for conducting the 20th annual Wassail Bowl that was held Saturday, December 3. Members worked to decorate the Club the week prior to the event. Volunteers are always welcomed you need not be a YYCA member to volunteer. For details contact Katherine Morrison by calling (716) 754-8606.

Fund Raising projects like clothing sales always create lively discussion. Another project for this year is having a sketch of the YYC printed and made into note cards. The drawing was by Judy Grainge and the note cards are now on sale at the club. Tickets are being sold for the framed original. Many thanks to Karen Noonan and Rosemary Dawdy for organizing the details of this project and putting it together.

On October 2 several YYCA members willingly donated their time to hosting the Open House for the Tall Ships. Thank You! It was a great day.

The YYCA is not all work and no play. On November 9 approximately 13 women enjoyed dinner theatre in Port Dalhousie. After a great meal we laughed through *I DO I DO*. We had a great time and hope to make dinner theater an annual event.

New Club members are encouraged to join our group. We work together and have lots of fun and friendship at the same time. Laurie Hugill, President.

For those of you receiving Weekly Waves and the digital, full color verison of Ripples, please notify us if your e-mail address changes so that you don't miss any issues. Email your new e-mail address to <u>yyc@adelphia.net</u> and Josie will make the change.



Larry Cummings passed away recently, and that was a sad day for those of us who knew him well. He cruised extensively with his late wife Dee on their various Pearson sailboats. After Dee died, Larry kept his zest for sailing and could often be seen sailing with only his Airedale as crew. He frequented the north shore clubs and could tell you which club had the best meals at the best prices on which nights of the week. Larry was a friend to everyone and was a very active member. We liked his stories about growing up in the Irish ward in South Buffalo. He had fond remembrances of which pubs were the best places to go for food and drink and for events that happened there. Only his failing health in the last couple of years took him away from YYC.

Harv Kolm has shipped his J/100 Mosquito to his winter sailing grounds in Punta Gorda, where he intends to race until bringing the boat back to YYC in the spring. Just spoke to Harv and he won his first two races, sailed main and jib, beating a Soverel 39 boat for boat in the first race and finishing only 10 feet behind in the second! If all goes well he may be taking Mosquito to Key West Race Week in January.

Emily Paxhia and Marc Gitto were engaged last week. They met while attending Skidmore and currently live in Boston where Marc is finishing his MBA. Future plans involve a move to the NYC area where Emily plans to attend grad school to become a psychologist.

Jordan Paxhia competed in her first marathon in Philadelphia recently. A tri-athelete when she is isn't working as a special ed teacher near Boston, Jordan has been competing with success in various running, cycling and swimming competitions.

John and Lori Simon are moving from Phoenix to Billings Montana, where Lori will take over as State Director for the March of Dimes. Their children, both YYC junior sailing graduates, are doing very well. Charlie is starting nose tackle on his high school football team in Arizona, and Chelsea is on the varsity sailing team at College of Charleston. She just placed second in the B division of the Freshman East Coast Championships.

#### **John Goller**

I've known three John Gollers. This is about the one in the middle. The one married to Kathy. When he was a young man John owned a 26 footer named Kagey. He dominated the fleet in which he raced, seldom losing a race. After he sold that boat he crewed for others. As good a helmsman as he was, he was an even better sail trimmer. Whatever boat John stepped on, suddenly went faster and sailed smarter. John crewed for many of our better skippers, Butch Cannon and Jay Rabow come to mind. At the time we raced under the I.O.R. handicap rule. Boats were rated in feet of measurement. A foot of measurement was worth about thirty seconds a mile. Rabow would say of John, that he was the only one he knew that was worth a couple feet of rating. A high compliment indeed!

John has always been a quiet fellow with that enigmatic, Mona Lisa-ish smile, but don't be fooled. Beneath that docile exterior there beats the heart of a yacht racing tiger. John Goller is one of the best this club has ever produced. Skip Doyle



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#### LYRA AGM

The YYC delegation of Rick Lohr, Pat Whelan, Gary Tisdale and Don Finkle recently attended the LYRA Annual meeting at the Port Credit Yacht Club. The highlights of this excellent meeting are as follows:

- LYRA's has a new and enhanced website (www.lyrawaters.org) where all regatta dates, entry forms, SIs, and NORs may be found.
- Rick gave a report on the successful 2005 LYRA at YYC.
- The Richardson Cup will be held on Lake Erie in 2006, and on Lake Ontario in 2007.
- 2005 LYRA Boat of the Year is Silver Bullet, a Beneteau 40.7 from RYC.
- 2006 LYRA Junior Regatta will likely be held at RYC in conjunction with their Junior Olympics.
- Future LYRA regatta locations: 2006 Sodus Bay YC; 2007 ABYC; 2008 either Whitby or PCYC. 2006 LYRA race schedule:
  - Aug 1 Centennial race, RYC to SBYC
  - Aug 2 Freeman
  - Aug 4-6 Course race

Each class has the option of requesting either 2 or 3 day course racing

The Freeman Long Course:

SBYC, west to a day mark, to weather buoy off Prince

Edward Point, to Ford Shoal, then back to SBYC. The Freeman Short Course:

SBYC to Pultneyville to Ford Shoal to SBYC Don Finkle was re-elected LYRA VP.Don Finkle

#### Scuttlebutt from page 2

Chelsea Simon, a YYC junior sailor who is now competing for the College of Charleston, finished up very well in the fall series. She and her skipper, Manton Paine, have moved up to sail in the "A" fleet and were third overall (out of 15) in the SAISA/MAISA this past weekend. Not bad for two freshmen!

A gang of YYC sailors raced in the Beneteau 36.7 Mid-Atlantic Championship recently in Annapolis, aboard a borrowed boat named Amritha. The crew consisted of Gary Tisdale, Morgan Paxhia, Travis Finkle, Scott Walter, Mark Schimley, Kristen Schimley, Mike O'Connor and skipper Don Finkle. Starting off with a 5th out of 20 boats in the distance race, they then won the first course race rather handily. Things didn't go so well after that and they finished 7 of 14, breaking a spinnaker pole and the boom vang and tearing a mainsail along the way! Nevertheless it was a great time, with some close racing and lots of fun ashore.

## **New Year's Eve Party**

YYC will top-off our celebration of the holidays with a New Year's Eve Party on Saturday, December 31.

This year's party will start with a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 pm. Seating for dinner will start at 7:30. Following dinner the Bob Volkman Band will be playing favorite dance music.

Dinner will begin with Prosciutto-wrapped Asparagus. Entrees are a choice of Surf & Turf with Lobster Pappardelle pasta, or pan seared Halibut with Lemon Ricotta ravioli.

Of course, our favorite YYC traditions will continue – dessert on the chart table, a champagne toast at midnight, ringing of the ship's bell (somewhat like the Royal Navy's tradition, but with our own color) and a special "illumination".

Cost per person is \$55 and includes dinner and entertainment. To make a reservation call (716) 745-7230, ext. 18.

## "CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE" Features Members Homes

Two of our members' homes were showcased in this year's "Christmas in the Village" (of Lewiston). The homes of PC Ross and Mary Alice Eckert (The Peter House), located at 175 South Fourth Street; and Ed and Diane Finkbeiner (The Barton Hill Mansion), located at 210 Center Street, were two of the six homes featured in the two day event. Other homes included the home of former YYC members, Skip and Pam Hauth, located at 205 South Fourth Street, the Lasher House at 300 Onondaga Street, the Lane House at 475 Street, and the Kerr House at 125 South Fifth Street. All six of the homes were decorated for the event by six well-known interior designers.

Sponsored by the Historic Association of Lewiston and in conjunction with this year's Lewiston Christmas Walk celebration, ticket sales from the event benefited the Historic Association of Lewiston.

#### Holiday Gift Ideas: World's Thinest Books

Things I Can Not Afford by Bill Gates My Wild Years by Al Gore My Super Bowl Highlights by Dan Marino



## **\$\$** Donations Needed for "Sun Screen" Replacement

If If you missed the Annual Membership meeting in October, you missed an opportunity to donate \$100 towards upsizing the Club's "sun screen" to a water-proof awning. Following outgoing VC Yard MaryAlice Eckert's report of achievements in sprucing up the Club this past summer (and it was a summer of significant accomplishments – thank you MAE), it was reported that no funds were budgeted for upsizing the porous "sunscreen" covering the patio area.

You say you didn't know that the green and while striped canvas patio covering was a sunscreen? Yes Alice, following many years of service protecting diners from summer down pours, several years ago the awning was downsized to the status of sunscreen.

It has been a dutiful sunscreen, carrying on the YYC tradition of volunteerism for the good of the Club. But in its heart of hearts, being downsized has been demoralizing – and dysfunctional. I'm sure that you can appreciate its predicament, don't we all remember years past when we were fully functional...?

Good news! Thanks to the "gentle" prodding of VC Yard MaryAlice and the entrepreneur skills of past Treasurer Pat Mackey, a window of opportunity has been negotiated with Ripples advertiser Custom Covers and Canvas for a bargainpriced face lift. Not just cosmetic, but a real restoration of all its youthful vigor as a rain-proof awning! So impressed were those attending the Annual Meeting that at Mike Kalm's suggestion (he's Canadian) the hat was passed around and over 30 spirited members pledged \$100 each!

Well, the word got out and we've been overwhelmed with inquiries as to how other members can share in the good vibrations (you remember the Mommas and Papas, right?) of helping to restore the sunscreen as an awning. So here's all you need do to be "groovy", call Josie at 745-7230 x10 or email <u>yyc@adelphia.com</u> and make a pledge. Not only will you feel good, but you won't need to wear a rain slicker when sitting on the patio this summer.....

# December 2005

# **YYC Ripples**

#### Andrew Lenkei: Immigrant, Inventor, Entrepreneur, Volunteer

"People have told Andrew Lenkei that he ought to write a book. After all, his story has all the elements of a thriller: false identities, midnight border crossings, internment camps. And it is also the American story of an immigrant overcoming adversity to head his own company."

That was how The Buffalo News began a July 6, 1986 article

describing YYC member Andrew Lenkei's escape from Communism. Andrew was born in Hungary, and fled the Iron Curtain to Italy, France, Canada, and eventually America. In 1973 he founded A. L. Design, which manufacturers what he calls the world's smallest load cells, electronic devices used to measure force.

Load cells may sound obscure, but they have a wide variety of uses. For example, "they are used in the dental industry [Andrew said] to test how much force dentures can withstand before breaking." They are also used for robotics: "a robot can't feel, so you have to tell it how much force to use, you don't want it to break an egg that it's picking up."

Andrew gets orders from all over the world because he customizes his designs to the specific needs of each customer. However, "I won't accept orders from behind the Iron Curtain," Andrew was quoted in 1986.

Andrew, then age 14, escaped Hungary in 1949 with his parents. Traveling with smugglers and the passports of deceased Polish citizens, they crossed into Czechoslovakia. "By paying off police officers and buying visas on the Black market, they made it to





France." Not long afterwards they found passage on a Swedish Hospital Ship bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia, and then found their way to Montreal in 1951.

Lenkei's family knew little about the new world. "My mother was worried about Indians... we only knew tales of the Wild West." The Lenkei's left Montreal in 1964 after a French separatist bomb went off in a nearbymailbox. After all that he had been through, Lenkei said he didn't want to die in a civil rebellion in Quebec between English and French speaking Canadians.

Lenkei found an engineering job in Buffalo and put down permanent roots. In the 1970s he bought a small lathe at Sears that eventually led to starting his own business, A.L.Design. Besides electronic load cells, in 1986 Lenkei began experimenting with mechanical heart values designed to avoid crushing red blood cells, triggering unwanted clotting.

Andrew and his American wife, Eleanor, are avid travelers. Besides chronicling his trips as an amateur photographer, Andrew volunteers to entertain with his accordion before groups of all ages. Clearly all his travails haven't dampened his spirit.



SANTA CLAUS - ANDREW LENKEI

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#### ByLaws from page 1

#### **Bylaw Revisions Summary**

(See the October 2005 Ripples for more a more complete description of the proposed bylaw changes.)

To clarify class distinctions, eight (8) classes of membership were reduced to the following five (5):

- A. Regular
- B. Social
- C. Junior
- D. Non-Resident
- E. Honorary

In recognition that many Junior members are still in college at age 21, the threshold for Regular membership was raised from 21 to 23 years of age.

To clarify the status of Associate members, the Associate class was redefined as Social members twenty-three (23) years of age and older except those who maintain a boat larger than 18 feet on the Lower Niagara River.

The restriction that sponsors of new members may not be normally associated with the candidate in business or profession was eliminated.

To allow for the monthly billing of membership dues, the procedure for members wishing to change his/her membership status from Regular to Social status, or vice versa, was revised to require notification to the Secretary in writing and, once approved by the Board, the monthly dues, commencing with the next calendar month, will be adjusted to reflect the new dues rate per month.

The membership dues structure was revised to reflect age groupings. Dues were not increased by these changes.

Class	Age Bracket	Dues
Regular	23-34	\$300
Regular	35-69	\$990
Regular <sup>1</sup>	70 & up	\$800
Junior	10-22	\$55
Social	23-34	\$200
Social	35 & up	\$540
Non-Resident	n/a	\$150
Old Salt <sup>2</sup>	n/a	\$55

1 Includes previous Senior members.

2 The Old Salt class is no longer available; previous members of this category are grandfathered in.

The initiation fee for non-resident members was eliminated and their annual dues reduced from \$190 to \$150.

In recognition that most members plan their house-

hold budgets on monthly billing cycles, and to alleviate the burden of being billed for the whole year's dues on the heels of the holiday season, annual dues will be billed monthly commencing in October with the beginning of the Club's fiscal year. To bridge the transition to the new billing periods, this February members will be billed for the period starting in October 2004, and then monthly thereafter.

New members' elected prior to August of any given year shall billed by taking the number of months remaining in the Club's fiscal year and dividing it into the annual dues for that fiscal year.

New members elected on or after August 1 shall have one half of their dues waived for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The annual Service Minimum was modified as follows:

Junior, Non-Resident, and Honorary members shall have no Service Minimum.

All Regular and Social members ages 35 and older shall have an annual Service Minimum of \$275 per fiscal year, to include both bar and food purchases. Previously, bar charges, estimated to be one third or more of member's spending, were not applied to the minimum. According to this thinking, members should more easily meet their minimum, and those members favoring bar services will benefit from the inclusion of bar tabs.

The Service Minimum for new members joining after September 1 will be waived for the balance of the fiscal year ending in October.

Social members between the ages of 22 through 34, inclusive, shall have a Service Minimum of \$150.



# **YYC Ripples**

# December 2005







Beneteau 343

J/100

Want to go for a ride, sail or power? RCR has demonstrators in the water and we enjoy taking people out for demonstration rides. We have the 33 foot J/100 and 36 foot Beneteau First 36.7 sailboats on moorings right here in Youngstown. For those interested in power, we have the Back Cove 26, Back Cove 29 and the new Beneteau 42 Fast Trawler available for rides. Give us a call, we would be pleased to take you out, family and/or friends are welcome too. No obligation, no cost!

**Cruisers welcome**! There is always talk of racing at our Club, and with good reason because we have such an active program. But there are actually more sailors here whose interests lie not in racing but in cruising or day sailing. RCR has a very extensive line up of cruising boats available in a wide variety of sizes and price ranges. We offer both new and used, sail and power. Contact us with your thoughts and needs and we'll go to work for you!