

Sail and Paddle

Newsletter of the Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club

August 2007

Editor: Al Schönborn



Commodore Kozak reports: TSCC Strategic Thinking

2007 is turning into a good year for the TSCC - maybe even better than 2006, which was our best of the decade (revenue and membership some 60% ahead of the turn of the millennium). Even though we are troubled by a lack of participation in sail racing activities (a problem shared by most sailing organizations and other clubs around the lake), we are thriving in the areas of our sailing school, sail racing team, recreational canoeing and kayaking, outrigger canoeing and dragon boating.

This pluralistic approach to club development is consistent with our history: we were once the world's largest canoe club. TSCC has often been at odds with a trend in diversification of activities away from water sports that has been followed by other sailing clubs. For example we don't have tennis courts, swimming pools, a health club spa or fine dining. Consequently the Board of Directors at the TSCC seems to have reached a consensus that the success of the club will be based on low cost water sports. We see ourselves as a small-boat club. While the revenues possible from large keelboats are tempting, the 30-foot

and under crowd are going to be central to the club. The cost of dockage and dredging, the need for weather protection and the large capital source needed to establish these things all seem to be prohibitive given the current model the club runs under.

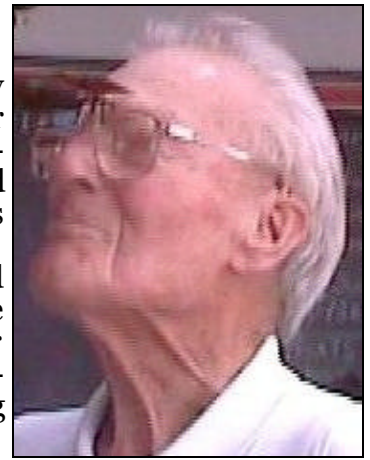
But to be a small-boat club, we have to be very careful in the mix in membership. The club does not have the infrastructure (washrooms, parking access, real-estate) necessary to exist on any one category of non-keelboat membership. For example, we could not exist solely as a canoe club or a dragon boat club or even a sailing dinghy club. The membership fees we could charge in these areas and the limited numbers we could attract in any one of these categories wouldn't be sufficient to run a club, so we have to be conscious of keeping a good keelboat presence. The secret to a strong TSCC in the 21st century is going to be in the mix of our membership.

To use our 2006 revenues as a guide, 26% comes from Senior Membership, 12% from canoes and kayaks, 12% from Dragon
continued on page 3



The 2007 Queensway Audi Icebreaker Regatta

To start this event, again sponsored by Queenway Audi and hosted by TS&CC, a reception was held at the Boulevard Club, honouring former Canadian Olympic sailor, Paul Drake. Among those attending were representatives from Audi, supporting sailing clubs, CYA, Ontario Sailing and other local sponsors. Former ISAF President, Paul Henderson served as Master of Ceremonies and he certainly put on an excellent commentary. May 18-20 then brought our 38th Icebreaker (and 14th ISAF-sanctioned Olympic Classes) Regatta (see *Derek Griffiths photo on page 1*). The event was again successful with 83 dinghies and keelboats racing on four separate courses on Humber Bay and Lake Ontario. In spite of light, variable winds, the four race committees were able to provide good racing and complete enough races to meet sailing instruction requirements.



Thanks to the following for providing both volunteers and equipment to help our club put on this event: Royal Canadian YC, Boulevard Club, Ashbridge's Bay YC, Etobicoke YC, Outer Harbour Centreboard Club, MXC, Port Credit YC, Ontario Sailing and the Canadian Yachting Association.

On Sunday afternoon, right on schedule, prizes were awarded to the following competitors:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Laser: | 1. Greg Douglas 2. Colin Van Schoor 3. Greg Clunies |
| Radial: | 1. Victoria Crowder 2. Isaac Bussin 3. Kryslyn Hope |
| 29er: | 1. Sophia Erdhal 2. Michael Blumer 3. Alanna Foscarini |
| 49er: | 1. Billy Gooderham 2. Brian Blumer 3. Murray McCullough |
| Int'l 14: | 1. anonymous 2. Haywood 3. Andrew Yates |
| Bytes: | 1. Brenda Bowskill 2. Samantha Rea 3. Taylor Cada |
| 2.4m: | 1. Allan Leibel 2. John Finch 3. Jerry Wendt |
| J24: | 1. Peter Wickwire 2. Ted Bartlewski 3. Tommy Wharton |
| Soling: | 1. Manfred Kanter 2. Tom Michael 3. Ken Davy |

George Blanchard, OROC Committee Co-ordinator



Steve, Christine and Sarah, have joined the ranks of the club's new Tanzer 22 owners.

**BOAT
FOR
\$ALE**
MAGAZINE
THE BOAT BUYER'S AUTHORITY

Canada's Largest Selection of
new & used boats

1000'S OF ADS EVERY ISSUE

AVAILABLE ON LOCAL NEWSSTANDS
OR BY SUBSCRIPTION

Looking to buy? looking to sell?

1-800-BOAT ADS

www.boatforsale.net



TSSC Strategic Thinking *continued from page 1*

Boating, and 22% from rentals. (Rentals refer to fees paid predominantly by keel boaters for winter boat, trailer & cradle storage, moorings and crane. Senior Membership is made up mostly of keelboaters and dinghy members.) Sailors now contribute about half the revenue, while at the beginning of the decade they made up over 90% of revenue. The difference in altering the mix of membership between 2000 and 2006 is that we have increased revenues (and albeit, costs) without increasing fees. That has allowed us to improve the club substantially. We have some new asphalt, a sailing team, updated washrooms (for the ladies) and the main clubhouse, in-season cleaning staff, and we have substantial improvements in motorboat maintenance. We also have increased the membership from just over 100 in 2000 to 300 in 2006 (these numbers ignore the ancillary memberships like crewing). The result is a bar operation that now contributes 8% to revenues. For those counting, the remainder comes from the sailing school, event revenue, special items and grants (for hiring students).

This financial success has raised concerns that sailing programs have not been given enough attention, so we are doing a number of new things in 2007. We have decided to invest in our sailing school and develop an Opti program for children between 7 and 12. There seems to be very high demand for summer camps to take care of children in this age and we can charge fees that allow the program to break even or even recover the capital costs of boats - something we are unable to do with a regular sailing school program. Adult sailing schools are run as a source of new membership and rarely break even. However, they too, have enjoyed success recently with many of the members in other sections also exploring sailing. Thanks to Brian McLennan, our sailing manager, who is doing a lot of work running the programs, and to Tom and Anna Wharton, Rob Logan and Heider Funck who were instrumental in getting the children's sailing programs going.

The outrigger canoe community is now well established in an

annual event at the club held in the second weekend in July. The Toronto Outrigger Challenge draws about 100 paddlers from around North America. It involves doing two 23-km trips around Toronto Island, once as a group of six in a traditional looking Hawaiian Outrigger and once in an individual race. In previous years, they would also hold sprint races for the finale, but as we are all getting older, they found a fair number of participants were begging off the sprints. (It's nice to know the outriggers are human after all). Special mention should go to Lee Barker, Kathy Pedwall and Martin Heppner as the core founders of the event. We should also mention the success of our Dragon Boat teams. The club has limited the number of boats to three and the maximum number of teams to six. Last year, in the penultimate Club Crew World Dragon Boat Championships held on the new course in August, they won all nine of the masters events (for those over forty), winning the men's, women's and mixed races in the 200m, 500m and 2000m distances. Apparently, home field advantage is quite important. The club has put a lot of pressure on the Dragon Boaters to conform to club rules and fee structures, leading to the loss of a few teams and a couple of boat owners. Congratulations to Nancy Hamilton and Sue Mitchell who were able to restructure and come up with new sponsorship and new teams.

While we could mention several sailing regattas and cruises scheduled for the summer plus a list of club improvements (including rebuilt canoe racks) the heart and soul of our club belongs to our everyday heroes. They are the members down at the club, most of them retired, who fill in when things go awry, providing last minute safety boats or finishing skills or some of the back breaking labour. So please, when you see Fred Black (our Harbour Master), Roy Kobayashi, Ted Lacelle, Dwayne Shannon and of course, George Blanchard, at the club, shake their hands and mention how much you appreciate the things they do. A lot of club wisdom comes from these everyday heroes, too. By the way, George, heading into his 94th year, says he would prefer hugs (especially from the ladies).

For Sale: Contessa 29, dark blue hull, 1971. Only 2 owners. Hull # 16; New main sail used only a few times. Currently on land at T.S.C.C. 905 274 3194. This is an ocean-worthy sailboat: the class is used in the North Sea for training purposes because of its superb heavy weather capabilities. If you are ever considering a trip off shore, this might be the kind of boat for the job. Full keel, lovingly maintained in ship shape by expert helmsman. It is a true classic yacht. Pristine condition.



TS&CC Calendar 2007

Aug. 28	Club Race start time moves to 6:10 PM
Sept. 8	Around-the-Island Race
Sept. 20	Final Club Race of the 2007 season
Oct. 20	Haul-Out Day

Reminder: Members are reminded that oars for the tenders are to be stored in the locker room just inside the door. This way the oars won't keep 'disappearing' and the tenders will be available when needed.



Some Bright Ideas? Declining costs of technology are rapidly changing the way water sports are watched and analyzed. Here are a few ideas that are looking for champions to try to implement. They need further study and a better idea of costs involved but with enough enthusiasm from someone, they might turn out to be very beneficial to the club. They would also be great work-hour projects for the technically minded.

1) GPS tracking and analysis of either sail boat or outrigger canoe racing. Relatively inexpensive specialized GPS trackers exist, such as Velocitek's S10 and Garmin's or Magellan's explorer units keep track of position in one-second increments for hours at a time. The data can be downloaded and replayed using software such as Google Earth. The software allows you to see the strategies employed by all competitors. An excellent training and learning tool. In places, this data is posted for review of regatta results. At the TSCC this could be useful for one design fleets such as the Wayfarers on race nights and during their weekend regattas. Everyone likes to know how the winners do it so handily and about errors of the less fortunate. It could become a training tool for our racing team and may be a competitive advantage for drawing students or competitors into our programs. Other areas of usefulness would be in our keel fleet for around the island type races, or even the outriggers for their Toronto Outrigger Challenge. There are obstacles to be overcome to make this technology acceptable, some organizational, some technical and some monetary. But persistence and some innovative thinking could make this a winner. It would also make the TSCC a local leader in this area.

2) A weather station (something like the Edmund Scientific ones) could be based on the watercourse break wall and transmit back to the club, eventually this could be posted on the net to allow monitoring of wind and weather conditions. Alternatively, the weather station could be put on our Mark 5 on the race course. This would be useful for two reasons: one to recognize light weather sailing conditions before coming down to the club or going out (especially for the beginner sailor) and allow sailors to match sail setup with wind speeds. A lot of learning about sailing from a racing perspective is to match sail rig organization and tactics to weather details, a process that can take years. Using data gathering techniques can make that process go a little faster.

If there are any takers for the above projects please contact the Commodore Peter Kozak. Cheers, :) *Peter Kozak*



Learn to Sail

Our Children and Youth Learn to Sail summer camp program is more popular this year than ever. The addition of the new Optimist Learn to Sail program has helped to make Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club the best sailing school available in Toronto. Thank you to all of the volunteers, members, and parents who support our Learn to Sail programs. *Brian McLennan, Sailing Director*

