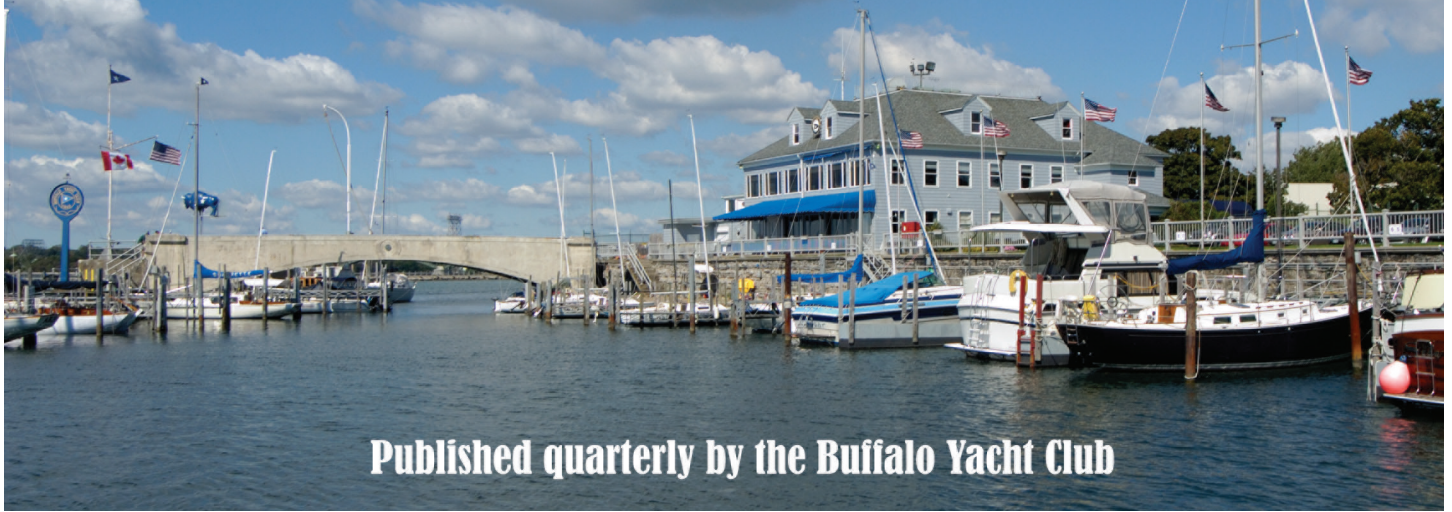


The BINNACLE



Published quarterly by the Buffalo Yacht Club

Vol. CV No. 1

Buffalo Yacht Club

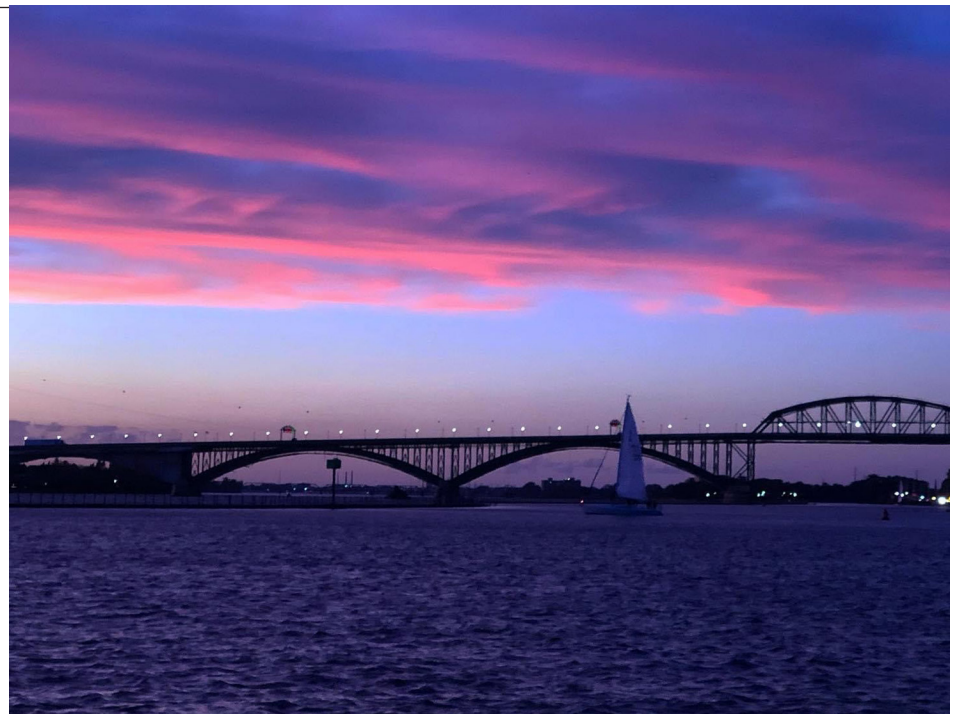
October 2020



Commodores comments

The days have dwindled down leaving us with only the memories of a most unusual summer highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic continuously looming in the background. But in true BYC spirit, the members and staff all rose above many obstacles thrown at them, making the most of an unusually difficult situation to leave us only fond moments of summer bliss to remember.

Weather wise one could not have asked for a more glorious hot summer. Most everyone's boating season took on a new face this year with some adorning facial masks. Despite these challenges most everyone was able to enjoy this unusual boating season. The much-anticipated Queen City regatta got a new look



this year with Porter hosting the event in it's own backyard instead of the typical sailing adventures at our Point Abino station. Our Jr. Sailing Program received a big boost in attendance and activity this year largely due to the enthusiasm of our Program Coordinator Leah Trow, her staff, plus a little of help from Covid by not allowing many of these Juniors into Canada this year. High School sailing also took on a new look, the Spring season had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions, but this Fall season is turning out

to be most successfully attended. The Adult Sailing program saw its largest number of participants thus this giving us a great avenue of introduction to the Buffalo Yacht Club.

As Americans we may have been locked out of Canada for this season, but I can proudly say it has been managed capably by Captain Ruth Sparks. Between her and the telecommunications received from our Rear Commodore Doug Bienko many items received a fresh coat

COMMODORE — continued on page 2



THE BINNACLE
BUFFALO YACHT CLUB
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Buffalo, New York 14201-1097
<http://www.buffaloyachtclub.org>

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Point AbinoRuth Sparks
Boating Education.....Jonathan Johnsen

BINNACLE EditorDoug Bienko

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COMMODORE — continued from page 1

of paint/stain. The pool and houses may have been closed due to Ontario restrictions, but it was reported by our Canadian slip holders who were able to use the facilities that the grounds were beautiful this year. Here at Porter our House Committee has adapted to the ever changing Covid-19 restrictions placed on them. They have worked tirelessly through the limited capacity in the dining room, mask protocol, and social distancing restrictions providing us an outstanding dining room experience. New dining room chairs have arrived after years of needed replacement giving our clubhouse a new fresh look. A constantly evolving condensed menu with specials, has given us an outstanding and stable array of food selections. And the food-it's consistently amazing! Thank you, Chef Dave! Although I feel we have provided our members with a safe place to dine, take out continues to be well received by many of our members who choose to be cautious. We have continued to offer many memorable social events, including the Cotter & History Cruises, virtual Food & Wine Tastings, Family Movie Nights and Bills Game gatherings. This year we have done our best to provide you with the safest dining experience we possibly can, still giving you those breathtaking sunsets. Most of all, I thank the Board members, their committees, our management team, the BYC staff and you, the members for your support during these trying times. We have all been through a lot, no matter how you cut it. Both Merrily and I find it hard to take anything for granted these days—from good health to a place to call home to simply seeing and being with our BYC family. We've come this far; I'm remaining optimistic that we can make it to a more hopeful 2021! Stay well! Stay safe! Stay vigilant!
James Kulwicki
Commodore

Membership

The following new members joined the Buffalo Yacht Club since the last issue of the BINNACLE:
Social: Robert Hoak, Cecelia Kohlmeier.
Crew: James Downing.
Junior: Zaid ElNasser, Joseph Marynowski, Colin Woodrow.

Reinstatements accepted from:
Social: Ronald Hortman.
Pt. Abino: Stephen Casey.

Change of classification accepted from:
Social to Non-Resident: Michelle Andersen.
Intermediate to Social: Jennifer Klock.
Crew to Intermediate: Shawn Jordan.

Resignations accepted with regret from:
Active: William Collins, Tom & Sharon Hauser.
Social: Victor Peterson, Jonathan Mitet, Laura Carpenter-Wolf, J. Gerard Green, Gary & Karen Neumann, Elaine Grant, Justin Sanderson.
Associate: Christine Kent.

We mourn the deaths of: William Rogers and Betty Stanbro.

**Accounting and HR Manager
Michael Sheid promoted to
Comptroller!
See back page for story.**



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Vice Commodores comments

Fall is here. What a different summer, with masks, social distancing, and capacity limits. We opened up the lower deck, however there is no standing or seating allowed at the bar. We tried opening on Sunday's from 12:00 to 4:00, then adjusted to 4:00 to 8:00, with marginal success. On September 27th we started Football Sunday at the BYC. Chef Dave put together a nice menu and we had a good turnout to watch the Bills beat the Rams. We continue with lunch and dinner Wednesdays thru Saturdays, with Bills games on Sundays. Since we have a more limited capacity due to social distancing, we started off restricting our dining to members and guests. We have now opened up dining to members of our reciprocal clubs, but ask our members to please make reservation, to insure they will have a table.

Chef Dave has introduced weekly pasta specials, Thursday specials, and is working on a fall menu to include lots of comfort food items. Please come by and try everything out. The feedback on the various menu items has been fantastic.

We have new dining room chairs set that were delivered in mid-October. The current/old chairs will be offered to the membership at \$25 each. We anticipate the potential of adding new carpeting and painting of the walls to enhance the overall look of the dining room.

Stay tuned. Additionally on the facilities side, we will be getting fibre optics installed that will provide us with a desperately needed new phone system, significantly upgraded wifi, and TV service, including a sports package, that will not be subject to weather outages we experience with our current Direct TV dish.

Covid 19 has had a major impact on our ability to have events, parties, weddings and our normal array of festivities. We are anticipating holding some variation of events for the annual, Tree Raising, the holiday decorating night, and New Year's Eve. Details are being worked out.

As the fall season moves in, our ability to serve outdoors will come to an end. Please be assured that the safety of our members and staff is of the utmost importance to us. Our dining rooms are arranged for the recommended social distancing and the staff is diligent about cleaning and following all the Health Dept. protocols. For those who are still a little hesitant about indoor dining, please take advantage of our ongoing take out service. All the items on our menu are designed to travel for takeout dinners.



Above: silver bowl center bottom shelf was graciously donated back to the club by Bob White of Washington, PA. The trophy was won by his Great Grandfather, Mr. Shep? and given to his mother, who once lived in Buffalo.



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Rear Commodore Comments

What a great summer I had. Except for the shortened racing season. Oh, and not being able to go to the Point with the new boat. Or anywhere else for that matter. But still great, sailing a lot on Invictus, what a fabulous boat, very comfortable. Meanwhile enjoying some outstanding meals at the clubhouse, Chef Dave and his crew doing very good work in the kitchen, and our wait staff doing their best to keep us safe and happy in the dining room. Stop in if you have not been here, you will be pleased. Speaking of Point Abino, what a shame it was so empty this year, hopefully back to at least some form of normal next season. Ruth Sparks and her team have done their normal fine job with the grounds (judging from the photos I have seen). Sorry the pools were closed this year, we have signed a contract to have them painted early next season by a new vendor, who is warranting them for 10 years. That is about 7 years longer than we have seen in recent history. Hope we do not have to make a claim. Here in Buffalo, the electrical project is progressing smoothly, with the conduit all run, and the trenches on the berm being filled tomorrow, with the grinding of the whole surface and topcoat soon to follow. We are hoping to have the Guide posts for the new docks installed this fall,

to take advantage of the lower water levels, as well as warmer water – makes a difference to the guys putting them in. All of the fixed docks on the inside of the berm have been removed also, Kropf is manufacturing those new docks soon, for an early next season install. The Basin will certainly have a much different look, and will be safer than ever with the new electrical system, as all of our boat connections will have ground fault circuit interrupters, which is electrical code compliant.

If anyone has any content for the Binnacle, please send to me, articles, photos, or anything you think would be of interest to our membership, I will try to get it in the next issue. And thanks to all of the members and staff who have been very good with helping me fill out this edition.

Upper right: why there was no Labor Day reverse PHRF race
Right: please secure your furling sails every time - or this—→
Below: Mayors Cup crew smiling.

Opposite page electrical/dock project progress. Going to shine!




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Fleet Captain Comments

Thank You.

There's the old Chinese curse of "may you live in interesting times", and this has certainly been an "interesting" year so far. But thanks to everyone's cooperation we have managed to work through what has come our way.

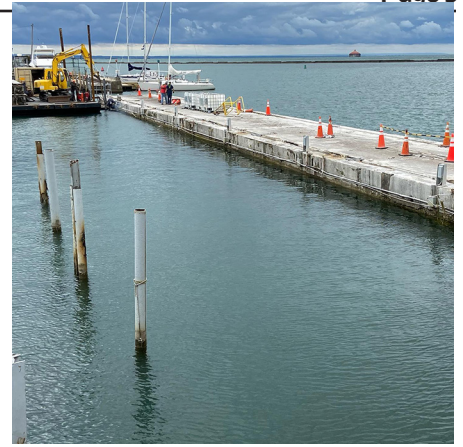
Covid has presented one set of challenges but we have managed to adapt and deal with the new normal and provide a safe place to enjoy what turned into a beautiful summer.

The loss of slips due to last Halloween's wind storm was a continuing issue, compounded by crossing the US-Canadian border being off limits for most. But again, the membership worked together to get through the slip juggling and all else that resulted and we had a full and lively basin to enjoy.

By the time you read this we will have gone through one more round of slip juggling as we approach the end of the season so that we can have the fixed docks along the inside of the outer wall removed and new guide rails installed in order that we will be ready to complete the process of replacing all of our fixed docks with floating docks. Along with this work, the concrete surface of the outer wall will be resurfaced and the on-going electrical upgrade project will be completed. The Porter Basin will certainly have a new look next year!

This year's boating season is winding down as the frostbiters get their last licks in and we work to get the basin ready to go into hibernation until spring once again arrives with the promise of another wonderful summer of friendship and fun on the water.

Thanks again for everyone's help, understanding and cooperation through what has been an interesting time.



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High School Regatta photos provided by Leah Trow. Great work by our star Program Coordinator! She really did a great job for the club this year. Well done!



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Middle Left: Service staff ready and able to serve you safely.
Left, top and middle above: new chairs are in and comfy, great new look for the clubhouse.
Above: Nathan and Brison after finishing Junior sailing for the year. More Juniors next two pages.**



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Michael Sheid promoted to Comptroller

It is with great pleasure that the Board of Directors and Management announce the promotion of Mr. Michael Scheid from Accounting and Human Resource Manager to Comptroller. Mr. Scheid has been with the Buffalo Yacht Club since August of 2015. Since taking on the role of Accounting & HR Manager, Michael has worked closely each year with our external audit team and corrected ongoing deficiencies since he began with us. Michael has also implemented new payroll systems for both our US and Canadian employees, which provides better access for all Club employees and those looking at these records for Financial oversight. This change was instrumental in assuring timely compensation to our employees across the border, particularly important in this challenging year.

Aside from his proven dedication to the BYC over the past five years, Mr. Scheid brings a natural talent to the Club that he attributes to a lifetime preparing him for this position. Michael grew up boating with his parents out of the Buffalo Launch Club, where his father and his Great Uncle had served as Commodore in 2009 and 1930-31 respectively. He has had the opportunity to cruise our waterways from Grosse Pointe, MI to Alexandria Bay, NY. Having the chance to visit numerous public and private ports along the way brings a unique perspective and understanding back to his role at the BYC.

Mr. Scheid is a graduate of Niagara University and Canisius High School. Mr. Scheid's hospitality experience started at River Oaks Golf Club where he worked as a server and bartender while attending college and by chance came to our club through his introduction there to our own Christine Storfer. For those of you who know Michael, be sure to congratulate him on his achievement. If you have not had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Scheid, he probably knows your name and would be thrilled to connect a face. Keep up the great work Michael.

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