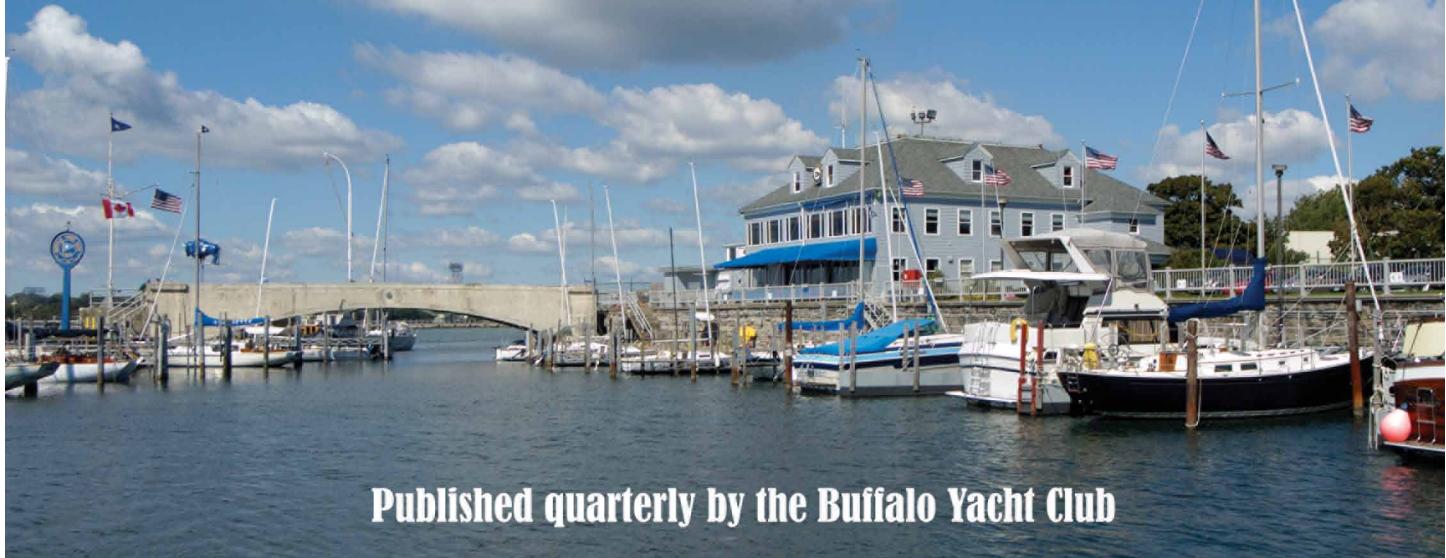


# The BINNACLE



Published quarterly by the Buffalo Yacht Club

Vol. C, No. 4

Buffalo Yacht Club

December 2015



## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

As the year comes to a close we have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to in the coming year.

### *On the "thankful" list:*

- BYC members supported the club and we achieved solid financial results in the past fiscal year.
- BYC Directors received unanimous approval of historic constitutional changes to allow Social and Intermediate members to serve on our Board.
- The new floating docks in Point Abino met all of our expectations during the 1st year of use.
- BYC Committee volunteers once again showed their dedication and commitment to improving our club.
- BYC staff worked tirelessly to keep our ship on course and in calm waters.
- Memories of many successful BYC events this year have proven that our club is a wonderful place to be.
- The Point Abino "Ice Boom" was installed ahead of Mother Nature's fury. Bring on the snow & ice "Mom"!

**COMMODORE** — continued on page 2



2016 Bridge (left-right) Vice Commodore Roswell Park, Rear Commodore Charles Obersheimer, Immediate Past Commodore Daniel Ward, Commodore James Kondziela and Fleet Captain Michael Barry.

## KONDZIELA TO LEAD BYC IN 2016

The newly constituted Board of Directors elected James P. Kondziela Commodore for the ensuing year, following the November 19th Annual Meeting and Election of Directors. They also elected Roswell Park as Vice Commodore, Charles G. Obersheimer as Rear Commodore and Michael T. Barry as Fleet Captain. David M. Straitiff will remain Secretary and Michael DeHart was elected Treasurer, replacing current Treasurer Barry.

## FIRST SOCIAL MEMBER ELECTED A DIRECTOR

In accordance with a change made to the BYC Constitution at the Club's Spring Meeting in May, a Social Member was elected to the Board at the November 19, 2015 election. The new director, elected to a 3-year term, is Jason Dziadzio, who has been a BYC member since 2009.

Also elected to 3-year terms on the Board were James C. Franzek and Stephen C. Munschauer. Re-elected to the Board for 3-year terms were Peter C. Godfrey and James Kulwicki.



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### OFFICERS—2015

Commodore .....	Daniel F. Ward
Vice Commodore.....	James P. Kondziela
Rear Commodore.....	Roswell Park
Fleet Captain .....	Charles G. Obersheimer
Secretary .....	David M. Straitifff
Treasurer.....	Michael T. Barry

### DIRECTORS

P/C Robert P. Stelianou

Douglas Bean	Douglas P. Bienko
Michael DeHart	Peter Godfrey
Cristen Gregory	James Kulwicki
Joseph O'Donnell	John C. Tracy

### MANAGEMENT

General Manager.....	Timothy J. Connelly
Executive Chef .....	David Miller
Banquets & Dining.....	Christine Storfer
Front Office.....	Laura Kerrigan
Dockmaster .....	Paul Van Voorhees
Accounting.....	Joette Baumgarten
Point Abino .....	Ruth Sparks

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**COMMODORE** — continued from page 1

#### On the "look forward to" list:

- BYC members are supporting the Board's initiative to ensure financial results in the coming year.
- BYC Officers and Directors are very well positioned for a smooth transition to their new roles in 2016.
- BYC committees are forming their plans for the next year of upcoming accomplishments.
- BYC staff has charted their course to continuously improve on last years' success.
- More new docks will be floating in Point Abino in time for our May re-opening!



Dan and Kathy Ward receive the gift of a framed limited edition print of the historic Clubhouse and basin at the Commodore's Ball.

- Plans to enhance our Porter Ave. club-house and deck are on the drawing boards for the upcoming season.
- The future looks bright, in the eyes of the BYC Future Planning Committee and their potential projects.

The message here is quite simple. Your club had a really good year, the members who used the club regularly had a very memorable time doing so, and we fully expect further improvement on this success. By engaging regularly in BYC events you'll be assured of a great time, with great people, in a great venue on the Buffalo waterfront! So please look forward to using your club in the year ahead. Better yet, sponsor a new BYC member and do your part to expand our membership base next year!!

It has been a great honor and privilege for me to have served as the BYC Commodore in our 155th year! As the 3rd oldest Yacht Club in the United States, the BYC's legacy and traditions stand tall among any other club, anywhere on the planet. For this we can all be proud. For me personally, I can only be humbled by the extremely warm reception and sup-

port that I received at the recent BYC Commodore's Ball. This was an event that I will always remember, as will my wife Kathy and my family, friends, and guests who attended. I am most grateful for all of the efforts by BYC members, Directors, and staff who made this a tremendously successful event, and especially for the amazing organizing efforts of PC Bob & Carol Stelianou, incoming Commodore Jim & Sandy Kondziela, along with the exceptional decorating and floral talents of Sandy & Jeff Vogel and the team from Williams Florists. The Buffalo Yacht Club shined bright on this night, and we really impressed the visiting VIP dignitaries from the seven other Yacht Clubs who attended to represent Western New York and Erie, PA. Please accept my sincere thanks for a great and memorable BYC Ball in my honor.

My closing wish is for each of you to have a wonderful holiday season and a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year. Fair winds and calm waters in 2016!

Dan Ward  
 — Commodore 2015



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## VICE COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

2015 is winding down at the Buffalo Yacht Club and I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve as Vice Commodore this year. It was a great year and we're all looking forward to another successful year in 2016.

The clubhouse is beautifully decorated thanks to our staff and all of the volunteers who attended the decorating party on the last day of November. A special thanks to Sandy Vogel for all of the beautiful flowers and coordinating the decorating activities. If you weren't there this year, you really should mark this on your calendar for next year. It's always a good time.

Speaking of good times.....A great time was had by all at the Commodore's Ball which was held to honor our outgoing Commodore Dan Ward. The band was smokin' and the Commodore's new "Shot Ski" certainly helped the bartenders to efficiently serve the guests at the bar! The tree raising party the following week was another success and we're all looking forward to New Year's Eve and the Installation of Officers in January.

It has been a year of changes and progress with our new General Manager Tim Connelly, Banquet and Dining Manager Christine Storfer and Chef Dave Miller. New, exciting menus are in place and will be refreshed several times during the year to reflect the seasons. Don't forget the specialty cocktails and the expanded list of draft beers available at the bar.

## MEMBERSHIP

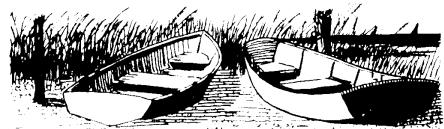
The following changes in membership occurred since the last issue of The BINNACLE: changing classification were: *Active* to *Social*: Brian & Kathy Celmer; *Retired Active* to *Honorary*: Roy Pusateri. Reinstated to *Active* membership was Joseph Gelsomino Jr. Resignations were accepted with regret from Paul & Janice Rickhold, Barry Muskat, Eric Vieth, Deborah Rapp, Nicole LaRusch and Michael McCartney. We mourn the deaths of Milton J. Striebel, Michael Markarian and Past Commodore John L. Hill.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ASSIGNED

Incoming Commodore Kondziela has announced the chairman assignments for 2016.

As required in the By-Laws, the House Committee is under the chairmanship of Vice Commodore Roswell Park, the Point Abino Committee is under Rear Commodore Charles Obersheimer and the Basin Committee is under Fleet Captain Mike Barry.

The Future Planning Committee will consist of PC Robert Stelianou, Howard Hain and Steve Munschauer serving 3-year terms and Immediate PC Dan Ward as Board Liaison. Peter Godfrey will continue as chairman of Boating Education, Douglas Bean will continue heading the Marketing Committee with Cristen Gregory; Doug Bienko will continue heading the Regatta Committee and Mike Jordan will continue chairing the Dock Implementation Committee. The Membership Committee will be chaired by James Franzek with Joseph O'Donnell's Canadian backup. Mike DeHart will chair the Finance Committee, with Mark Pagano and Jodi Osinski appointed to 3-year terms on the Committee. The Facilities Committee will be under Jason Dziadzio and a Technology Committee will serve under David Straitiff's chairmanship.



I'd like to thank all of the members of the House Committee for their participation and hard work through 2015. I'd also like to thank the entire Board of Directors and of course our Commodore Dan Ward for his strong leadership.

I hope you all get a chance to enjoy the BYC over the holidays. Have a great holiday and a happy new year.

Jim Kondziela  
—Vice Commodore 2015

## DEHART APPOINTED

Following the November Annual Meeting, Past Commodore Robert Stelianou tendered his resignation from the Board, and retiring Director Michael DeHart was appointed to fill his unexpired term for the balance of the year.

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## REAR COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

This is the season to count our blessings. In fact as I write this (late again!), it's looking to hit 70! I'm seriously fantasizing about grabbing a J/22 and throwing it in the water. And if you are a Point Abino boater, you have enjoyed a particularly blessed year.

Let us count the ways: Let's begin with the addition of 28 new floating docks. You have to see these babies to believe them. Suffice it to say, they're nice. What's more, we're protecting this investment with an ice boom, which is now officially in place. There might even be some photos elsewhere in this Binnacle. Next year, count on us installing something like 16 more of these docks on our north side.

Capt. Ruth Sparks has just completed dredging the north side of the basin. And to ensure that Monkey Island will not leech back into that North Side, we will dig a massive trench between Monkey Island and the North side, later this winter. We know this is a Sisyphean effort, because, sooner or later, things want to even out down below, but we intend to create a true boundary. This time, no turning Monkey Island into a beach—those weeds are our friends. Plus, the duck eggs are free and make lovely omelettes....



*Here's a summer view of some boats on the North Dock at the Point Abino Basin in the year 2000 from the cockpit of Ye Editor's Catbird2. Identified from left are Bud Jordan's Pat C, Tony Daily's Reel Time, Bill Courtney's Court-Ship, Carl Hensler's Pamdemonium, Homer Fay's Glissando and Dick Wiesen's Sea Shanty.*

You'll also note that the grounds are better tended. One reason is because Mike Kraft, Bill Flagor and Howard Hain tackled the irrigation problem. Now, we can water most of the lawn in front of the houses. That soil is not so much soil as it is sand, so when it gets hot, the grass wants to turn brown. Now, it will have no choice but to persist as a luminescent emerald green.

So, these are the improvements of this year and the forthcoming year. Our Point Abino station is emerging as the jewel of Eastern Lake Erie. Our members are enjoying the quality that they deserve as members of the Buffalo Yacht Club. Your elected directors and staff seek to realize the

Club's stated mission to be known as Lake Erie's leading yacht club. And I sincerely believe we're getting there.

Such success couldn't happen without the hard work of dedicated people. Mike Jordan and the Floating Dock Committee were simply invaluable. So were the stalwart members of the Point Abino Committee. And don't get me started on the ever-intrepid Captain Ruth Sparks, the Dredgemistress. But, fundamentally, what makes Point Abino special is two elements: Point Abino itself and you the boaters who appreciate it. Thank you all for this year.

Ros Park  
—Rear Commodore 2015

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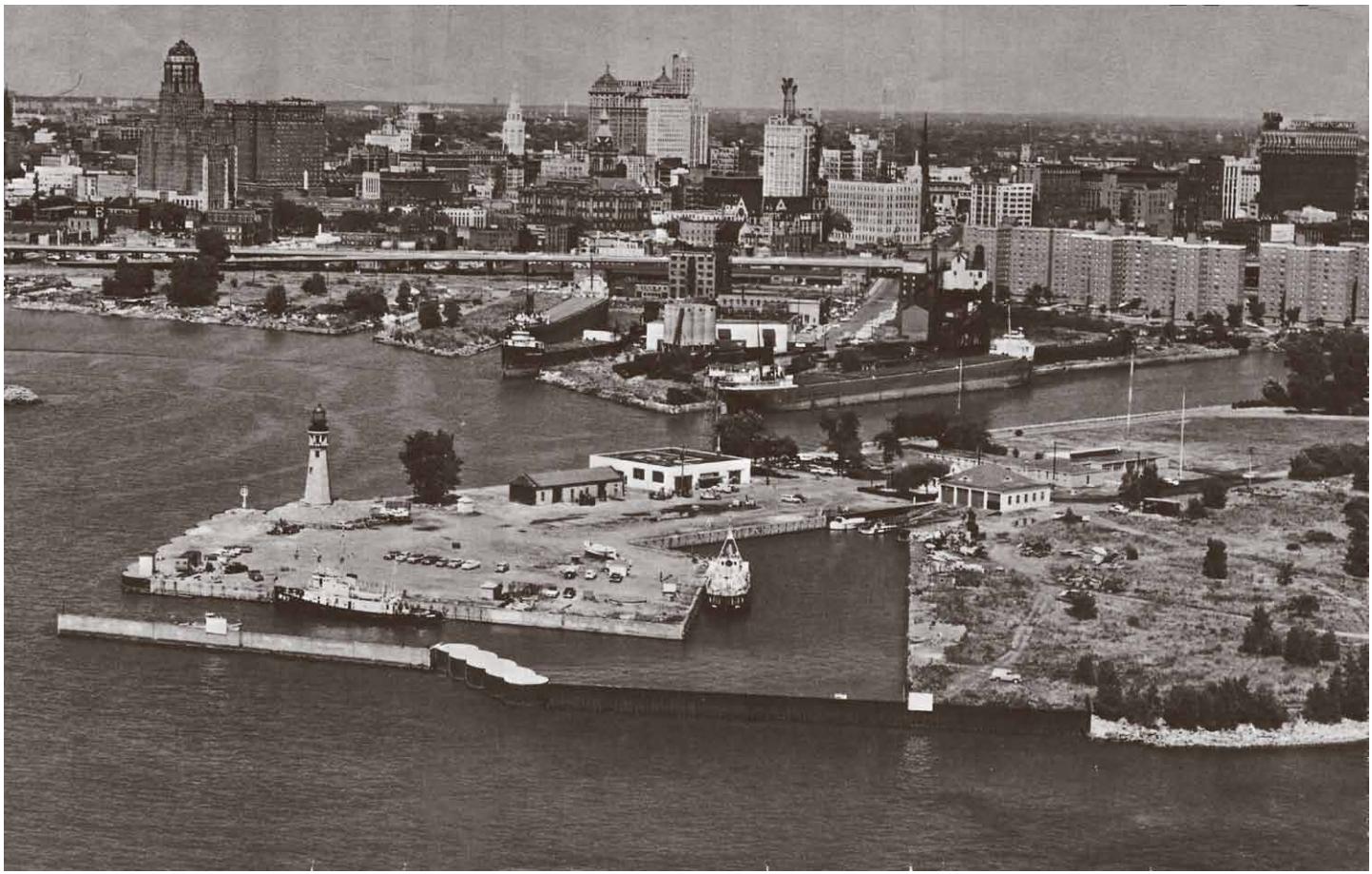
**mazda**



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# *The Old Photo Album*



The above photograph dates to 1965 and shows the Coast Guard Base and Chinaman's Light in the foreground, and behind it the Erie Basin. This was before the Erie Basin Marina was built, and a couple of lake freighter can be seen in the commercial slips. Note that Times Beach (front right) has been filled in, and the Coast Guard basin entrance has been moved, in comparison with the 1927 aerial photograph below.

The aerial photograph at the right dates to 1927, and shows Times Beach before it was filled in. Note the shipping activity. Up until the 1970s it was common to have lake freighters anchored inside the breakwater for the winter season. Some can be seen in this photograph.



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YEARS AGO**



## SAILBOAT RACING RESULTS

Skippers and their crews assembled November 14th for the annual distribution of Trophies and Awards to the winners of the summer races. Regatta chairman Doug Bienko presided, assisted by Tom Lewin. Doug's brother Ken Bienko took these pictures.

Tom Gaffney was the recipient of the James Rhoads Outstanding Member Trophy for his continuing support on the race committee. The Cruisers Cup was presented to Bob and Joanne Ihrig, operators of the Buffalo Harbor race committee boat *Commune*, as Friends of the Fleet.

*Sledge Hammer*, Tom Lewin skipper, took Boat of the Year honors (Knox Cup) for Long Course racing on Wednesday evenings, while *Enchanted*, Jodi Osinski skipper, took Boat of the Year honors (Smith Cup) for the Short Course. The Main & Jib Boat of the Year (Buzz Jokl Memorial Trophy) went to Mike Sendor sailing *Plumb Bob*. BYC Boat of the Year for Thursday racing at Point Abino went to Peg Leous sailing *Gypsy Wind*.

The Maytham Wheel was won by *Abino Hawk*, Peter Rains skipper, for first place in the Wednesday Short Course race series. The Williams Trophy went to *Myouri*, Paul Johnson skipper, for first place in the Wednesday Long Course.

The J/22 Fleet Championship was won this year by Adam Masters sailing *Trainwreck* in the Fleet's Tuesday night race series.

The China Light Series sailed on Tuesday evenings was won by Kelly Johnson sailing *Damn Yankee*. She was presented the Rear Comm. Edward Oldman Trophy.

Tom Lewin with *Sledge Hammer* earned the "privilege" of filling the Obersheimer Cup with a potent potable by winning the Obersheimer Cup race this year. The July 4th Reverse PHRF Race was won by Jim Kondziela sailing *Poison Ivy*, and the Labor Day Reverse PHRF Race was won by Jodi Osinski sailing *Enchanted*.

The Mayor's Cup top BYC boat award went to Eric Christensen sailing *Amazing Potato*, and the Molson Cup for the Queen City top boat went to Tom Lewin and *Sledge Hammer*.

BYC's top boat in the Erie-Dover races this year was *Poison Ivy*, Jim Kondziela skipper, earning him the Buffalo Courier Express Trophy.







### **PAST COMMODORE JOHN L. HILL**

John Leslie Hill passed away November 10, 2015 at the age of 87. A professor of Art at Buffalo State College, John joined the Buffalo Yacht Club in 1973, bringing his wife Doris and their collected families of pre-teens to young adults to an active sailing life at Point Abino.

John's initial 15' Albacore dinghy *Icarus* was replaced in 1975 by the 20' Highlander sloop *Scrimshaw* to accommodate the large Hill family crew on the race course. In 1976 John purchased a 27' Tartan sloop he named *Alice* and began racing with the cruising fleet. This was replaced in 1978 by the first of two boats named *Island Dog* — a 32' Plastrend sloop. In 1982 a new *Island Dog*, a 35' Ericson sloop, took center stage and became the focus for cruising which culminated in an Atlantic crossing for John and Doris and adventures in the Mediterranean.

John was elected to the BYC Board in 1976 and was active on the Junior Sailing, Membership, Point Abino, and Regatta committees before joining the bridge. He served as Fleet Captain in 1981, Rear Commodore in 1982, Vice Commodore in 1983 and Commodore in 1984.

As John's term of Commodore was in its waning days, John and Doris were busy selling their house and cars and moving aboard *Island Dog* — their goal: to reach the Mediterranean. *Island Dog* left Buffalo in September 1984 and set sail from Antigua on a transatlantic crossing the following May, arriving in France in July after enduring a harrowing squall in the Bay of Biscay. Over the next few years they cruised the Mediterranean, eventually selling *Island Dog* there in 1991.

In 1994 John and Doris bought the 43' Beneteau cutter *Tapestry*, fitting it out at Point Abino, then off to the Chesapeake where John with a prize crew of BYCers sailed her offshore to the Virgin Islands. After years of wintering in the Caribbean *Tapestry* was sold in 2000 and John joined the boatless fraternity.

In addition to sailing, John was an avid runner. He was captain of Buffalo State's cross-country and track teams during his school years, ran in each Boston Marathon for a number of years, and was credited with starting the BYC's annual run to the lighthouse on Labor Day in the late 1970s.

For the past ten years John and Doris have wintered in Florida and made frequent trips to Europe where they have children and grandchildren to enjoy. When they're in town John has been a regular participant at BYC's POETS Table for Friday lunch.

The Club's most sincere condolences are extended to Doris, son John III, daughters Heidi Haddard and Tracy Lambert; sister Patricia Schalk; stepsons Jeff and Andy Swanson; stepdaughters Kelly Swanson and Wendy Gioia; 19 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. John will be missed by his many friends and admirers in the yachting community.



### **COMMODORE'S BALL HONORS DAN WARD**

Members and guests of the Buffalo Yacht Club assembled December 5 for a festive formal occasion at the Clubhouse. Commodores and Vice Commodores of reciprocal area yacht clubs were guests for the occasion, together with many relatives and friends of retiring Commodore Daniel F. Ward and his first mate Kathy. Cocktails on the lower deck were followed by a sumptuous dinner and dancing on the upper deck. Jim and Donna Atkinson were general chairpersons of the event which concluded with music and dancing by the Party Squad. Everyone had a great time — and the unusually mild, snow-free weather provided no unwelcome surprises.



*Members and Guests at the Buffalo Yacht Club's Commodore's Ball — December 5, 2015*



*Members and Guests at the Buffalo Yacht Club's Commodore's Ball — December 5, 2015*



*Members and Guests at the Buffalo Yacht Club's Commodore's Ball — December 5, 2015*



(Above) Commodore Dan Ward with his family at the Commodore's Ball. (Below) The visiting Yacht Club Commodores and their wives.



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## FLEET CAPTAIN'S COMMENTS

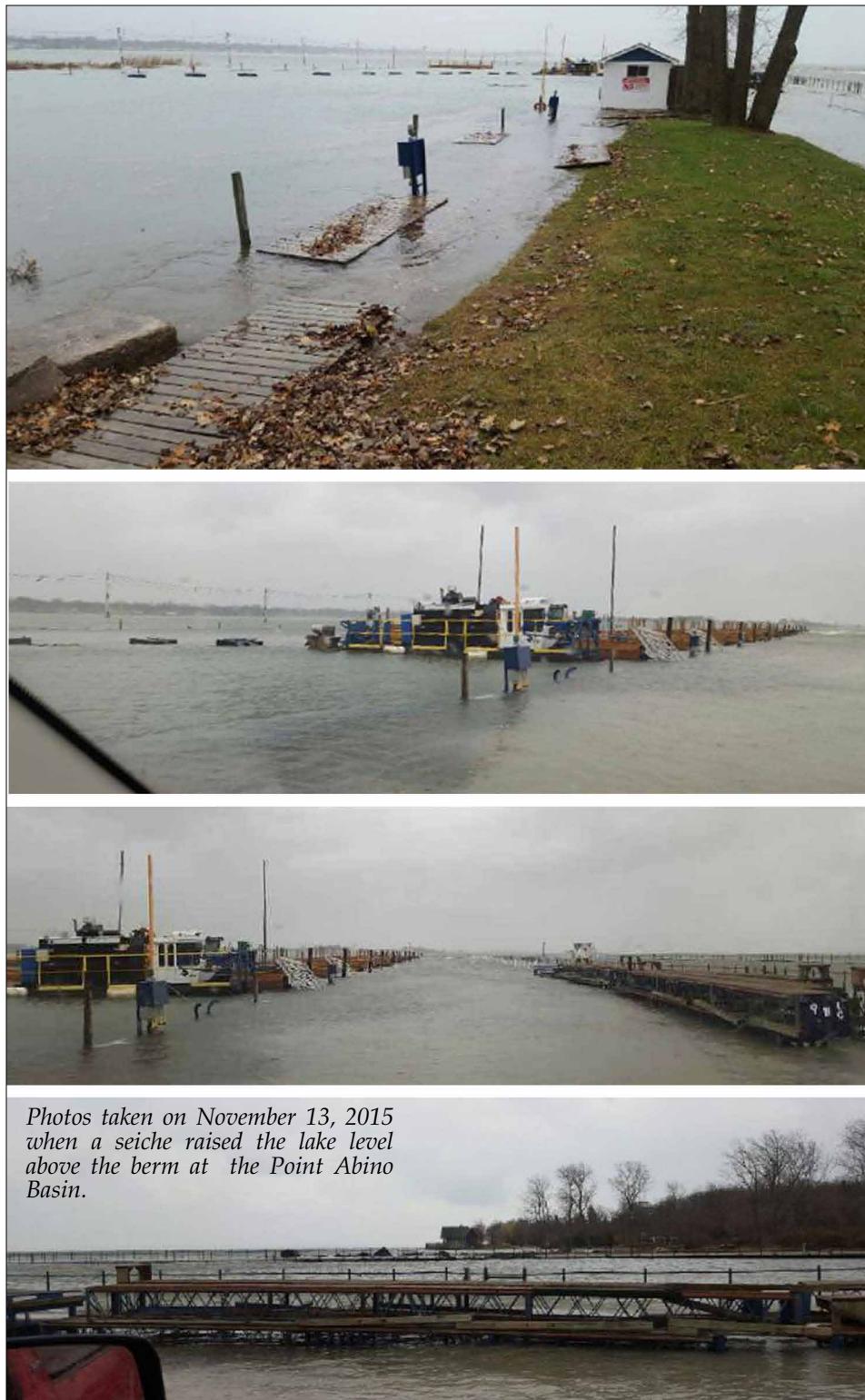
It has been a pleasure serving you as Fleet Captain. Both basins have been put to bed for the season. Most of the docks are floating inside the basins — this is a first for Point Abino. At the Point we have installed an ice boom with a water-moving system to keep the bay ice separated from the ice in the basin. This should keep the movement of the bay ice from affecting the docks.

I am working with Mike Barry, your next Fleet Captain, on the slip assignments for next year. I thank all of you who turned in your paperwork on time. This job is very time consuming to honor all your requests when we do not have the forms on time.

I would like to thank my committee: Jim Atkinson, Howard Hain, Jerry Revzin, Jerry Cataldo, Tom Lewin, Michael J. McGee, Bob Adams, Ed Gawarecki, and Ted Johnson. Many of these people are on more than one committee and spend a lot of their time for you to make your club a better place.

I started in Junior Sailing during the winter of 1956 when we built six 10-foot Packette sailing dinghies in the attic of the Buffalo Yacht Club. When I say we, the prospective Junior Sailing students helped(?) Bob Reuter, Ralph Haag, my Uncle Charlie, Roland Ewald, Ron Hoffman, Russ Creighton and Douglas Schmall. These dinghies are still offered by Clark Craft as kits — 10-foot long, 90 pounds, 36 square foot sail area. Each dinghy was painted a different color.

Charlie Obersheimer  
—Fleet Captain 2015



*Photos taken on November 13, 2015 when a seiche raised the lake level above the berm at the Point Abino Basin.*



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We recommend the "easy" way of giving — giving Joette in the BYC business office a call and signing up for a monthly tax-exempt contribution to be added to your BYC bill. At the end of each year you will receive a statement of your year's contributions for income tax reporting. The Buffalo Yacht Club Foundation, Inc. received its entitlement in summer 2012 to collect donations that are exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Of course if you would prefer to make a single donation, the procedure is just as easy: send your check, payable to Buffalo Yacht Club Foundation, Inc., to the Buffalo Yacht Club, One Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14201-1097. All contributions will be recognized by letter which becomes your tax deduction record.

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### A Binnacle message from the General Manager

I would like to commend the BYC staff for their extra efforts involving their execution of all the details for the BYC Holiday events/party's in November and December. Your hard work does not go unnoticed by the managers or the members—we appreciate it!

Both Basins are nested and secure for the winter storms that soon will be arriving! Thank you to all the member volunteers who gave up a day to help the BYC accomplish these important tasks.

Please remember that I am still "new" to the BYC traditions, processes, history and future goals. I am not new to the restaurant business, boating or being a GM. So, please keep sending "constructive direction" my way as I am absorbing all of it! We can only improve all aspects of the BYC by having the same goals and being on the same page. I appreciate your input.

Please remember the BYC Foundation in your gift giving this Holiday Season. The BYC Foundation is a key to offering boating education to local Scholastic and Collegiate students. These efforts help expose our surrounding community to the Buffalo waterfront and educate them with a skill that will stay with them for life! Please consider a donation of money, boats, time, or stocks. The BYC Foundation is a 501(c)(3)—that means your donation is tax deductible. Please contact Joette in accounting to arrange this as a one-time event or a monthly occurrence. Thank you.

You certainly do not want to miss out seeing the BYC all dolled up for the Holidays---it is special for sure. Our new dinner menu coupled with BYC holiday decoration and music is a MUST for members and their guests....don't miss out!!

Please be safe this Holiday Season.

Tim Connelly  
—BYC General Manager



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Michael Markarian, a Buffalo Yacht Club member since 1972, died November 4, 2015 at age 88. Mike, or "Omar", ran the family carpet business, C. Markarian & Sons, with his brother and three of his sons, all BYC members, until retiring ten years or so ago. The family spent summers for many years at Crystal Beach and kept the family boats at the BYC Point Abino basin. Mike and his wife of 38 years, Ellen, were considered real "party animals" attending all of the Club's social functions. Ellen passed away in January 1991. Omar enjoyed sailing his final boat, the 37' yawl *Kismet* with his second wife Liz until he sold the boat six years ago. We extend the sympathy of the Club to Liz, sons Mike, Jeff, Tim and Randy, daughter Julie Kelly, brother Charles, 11 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren over their loss.



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Milton J. Strebler, a social member for over 25 years, passed away recently. We extend the Club's sympathy to his wife Betsey-Jill and other members of their family.



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