



Dates for Your Calendar

April 20	Annual General Meeting Mimico Cruising Club 7pm
May 15	York West District AGM Mimico Cruising Club
May 30	Graduation Surprise Guest Speaker! Mimico Cruising Club 7pm

<https://www.cps-ecp.ca/public/public.asp?WCE=C=56|K=227722|CAL=225480>

Book your RVCC Courtesy Check early and avoid the spring rush! Other clubs in the area are now using our services. Mimico's inspection date is June 11 and National Yacht Club June 17. Keith.nettleton@sympatico.ca

What are your plans for the summer? Are you planning a cruise? Send me your story. Don't worry about making it pretty or grammar, I can fix that. Our members want to hear about your adventures!

This is your newsletter, so send me your boating adventure stories, ideas, thoughts, pictures and items for sale.

P/Cdr Carole Ann Alloway, Editor
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Check Out What's In This Issue!

Commander's Report and Remembering Celia Streit	Page 2
Education Courses	Page 3
Great Lakes Sailing	Page 4
Fan Letters	Page 5
Support our Partners	Page 6

Buying a New (to you) Boat?

Transport Canada's Office of Boating Safety has made changes to how pleasure crafts are licensed. The new Pleasure Craft Electronic Licensing System allows owners to apply for a license online.

Like us on Facebook !!!! We only have 8 likes so far!!! C'mon people, let's get the most for any squadron in York West District!!!
Search for...

Etobicoke Power & Sail Squadron
And press 'like'.



Commander's Deck

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My shift at the Toronto International Boat Show was a day that was pretty quiet but overall the show was quite successful. Smaller boats, such as fishing boats, seemed to be the big sellers this year. I did get to see a water skiing squirrel! There seems to be fewer and fewer sails boats on display, with pontoon boats and power boats dominating the floor. As usual, the Boat Handling Simulator attracted a lot of attention. Icom (a simulator for classroom use on how a vhf radio works) had a sample on display. We had a good turnout of Etobicoke Squadron volunteers at the CPS booth. I also represented the Squadron at a York West District meeting on February 9.

The winter courses are in full swing. Details will be found in the Education Officer's report. The next Saturday morning Seminar at Fogh Marine will be held on March 25. The topic is Seasonal Maintenance. Seating is limited. If you plan to attend, please contact Fogh Marine at 416-251-0384.

In April, the Squadron AGM will be held at the Mimico Cruising Club. You will find the Notice of Meeting in this issue. After the meeting all

attendees are invited to enjoy a complimentary beverage in the club dining room.

If you need to contact me for any reason, call me at 416-247-2376 or e-mail me at ronmcc@rogers.com

Respectfully submitted,

Ron McCutcheon
Commander
Etobicoke Squadron

In Memoriam

Celia Streit - August 1, 1931-February 21, 2017

Celia, wife of Harry Streit, our past Commander, passed away this past February. Everyone who knew Celia knew what a gentle person she was and always with a quick smile and encouraging word for everyone. I remember a time when the annual BBQ was held at our house on Trillium Terrace and Celia wanted to take our Wheaten Terrier, Kate, out for a walk. Celia thought Kate was beautiful and funny. Kate was 4 or 5 at the time and still full of energy and very, very stubborn. Celia's gentle ways could not persuade Kate to walk with her. Kate thought she should only be walking with her people and here was a stranger trying to take her away from her home! No way was Kate leaving. I can still remember Celia trying to coax Kate down the steps to the street and Kate not having it. Poor Celia had to give up and bring her back. However, Kate didn't leave Celia's side during the party. We will miss Celia and our thoughts are with Harry and his children and grandchildren.

Carole Ann

Education Deck

What CPS students are saying:

"The instructors were very knowledgeable and helpful with lots of help during class time. Wonderfully done!"

"A+. I will recommend the course to others. A must for both new & experienced boaters."

"Very informative, even if you don't have a boat"

"I look forward to putting our learning into practice. Great practical information"

"I am now more confident in being a backup in using the VHF radio after taking the Marine Radio course"

All courses are open to all boating enthusiasts. What's new with Etobicoke courses? For non-CPS members, after completing any of our classroom courses, students receive a free one-year membership to CPS. Current CPS members receive a discounted price.

Check out the website for www.boatingcourses.ca for detailed course information, schedules and registration.

The new weather course *Introduction to Weather for Recreational Boaters* (7 classes) is customized for climates within Canada and regionally.

The Maritime Radio classroom course is now held over 3 evening sessions.

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11

<u>Course</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Introduction to Weather	Apr. 07 – May 16
Maritime Radio	Apr. 25 – May 09

Classes are held Tuesdays at Etobicoke Collegiate, 86 Montgomery Road, from 7:00 - 9:30 PM

Milvi Ester
Education Officer,
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The Funnies...

If a woman says 'first of all...' during an argument, run away, because she has prepared research, data, charts and will destroy you.

Dear Science, when I suck in my tummy, where does the fat go and why can't it stay there?



A One-stop Location For Information A Sailor Would Want

Reading through the pages on www.great-lakes-sailing.com, it should be clear that I love both sailing and the Great Lakes, I have been hooked ever since that fateful afternoon nearly 30 years ago when I first set foot on a friend's sailboat in Bayfield, ON. For me, to sail the Great Lakes is about as close to heaven as it gets!

Within months I had bought a sailboat, doing just about everything wrong. My friend asked me what I had bought and all I could say was that it was a sailboat and it was green! However, I had done one thing absolutely right and that was buying it from a superb sailor who then set about the task of teaching me to sail it.

That purchase began a life-long love affair with sailing and with the Great Lakes. Me and my Hughes sailed countless miles on Lake Erie, exploring ports and harbours on both sides of the lake. Over the years, I have sailed and explored Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron and Superior and each experience has only deepened my love of these vast inland seas.

In addition to sailing my own boat, I joined the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary and sailed on a 35-foot 'Hike-style' patrol craft powered with twin diesel engines. So clearly, I do not buy into the "us vs them" mentality that some hold about power boaters and sail boaters. Once we slip the lines, we are all sailors.

As a Training Officer, I developed training materials and, of course, began to collect all kinds of bits and pieces of information. There are many places on the Internet where you can find information. But, there was no one place where I

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could get all the information that I wanted on ports, port facilities, ideas on navigation and cruising, safety, etc. Finally, I figured that I might as well write it myself. And www.great-lakes-sailing.com was born.

I had two principal goals when I set up www.great-lakes-sailing.com. First was to provide an overview of this vast lake system, which is one of the finest cruising grounds in the world. Calling them 'lakes' is a serious misnomer. The Great Lakes basin is really a vast inland sea system. Second, and more important, was to leave each reader with the sense that cruising this fabulous inland sea system is perfectly doable.

To accomplish that, I wanted to provide readers with a comprehensive listing and description of ports-of-call around the Great Lakes basin and a selection of articles that cover a broad range of topics that matter to sailors.

So, I sat down and made an outline of the information that I would want if I was out exploring. I don't think I am any different from most other cruisers. The format I settled on is what you see today. (Along the way, I learned how to write passable html code as well!) From an initial target of 100 ports, the site now has about 180 port descriptions and continues to grow with new additions each month. These ports range from Kingston in the east to Duluth at the head of Lake Superior. Want to know about neat harbours, hidden gems, fascinating museums or perfect little pubs? Its all here.

Beyond the port reviews, there are a number of topics under the general heading of Seamanship. These include pages on Weather, Navigation, First Aid, Border Crossings, etc. There is a selection of free resources as well.

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The website is free to use and there are ample opportunities for readers to provide feedback. (Drop by the website and say 'hello'.) Rhumb Line, our newsletter, opens another avenue of conversation and gives a way to provide other interesting bits of information about our lakes.

The results have been gratifying. Obviously, there was a need to be filled – some 20-25 thousand people a month read the site. I hear from sailors most days. It also motivated me to work on some other projects – foremost among them to write a log book. I could never find a log book that suited me so finally, I sat down and designed my own. I wondered if it would appeal to others and it turned out that it did. Its modest cost has helped defray the expenses of operating the website.

The site has led to speaking engagements at boat shows, yacht clubs and businesses.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working on the site. When the cold winter winds blow and our sloop slumbers away up north, it keeps me engaged and in contact with other sailors.

We are so fortunate to live by the Great Lakes. This is a one-of-a-kind gift and I encourage everyone to go out and experience it. Go visit some new ports – not just the same ones you have visited each summer for years. Cross the lake to the United States if you haven't already. Plan a voyage up to one of the lakes you haven't visited. Go explore! It is a safe, achievable adventure. There is no place like this; there is no time like now.

Fair winds

Michael Leahy is a member of CPS-Etobicoke Squadron. He is also a member of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary and holds a Master's license.

He and his partner sail a Hughes Columbia 10.7m sloop out of the North Channel. He can be reached via

www.greatlakessailing.com/contact_me.html

Fan Letters!

Cdr. Ron McCutcheon got a lovely note in the mail recently from one of our long time members, Jeanne Wattie. She saw a picture of Harry Streit at our last Christmas Party and noticed I was the Editor now and it brought back fond memories. Jeanne was one of the first people I met and was so warm and welcoming – always a big hit at our bbqs and parties. She moved from the west end of Toronto to Whitby some time ago but still enjoys reading Scuttlebutt and catching up on all the news.

Jeanne went on to say, “When I joined Humber Valley (now Etobicoke Squadron) many years ago, Harry Streit recruited me for Proctoring which led to various positions on the Bridge. CPS is such a worthwhile and rewarding organization.”

That’s how it starts, Jeanne, being recruited for something and then it’s so much fun we stay on to do other things. Thanks for keeping in touch, Jeanne!

Carole Ann

Etobicoke Squadron
Carole Ann Alloway/PCdr
Editor

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