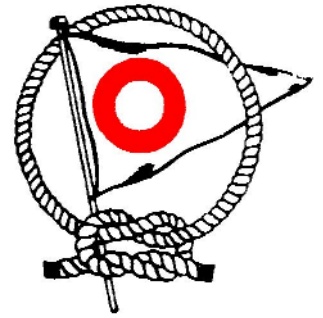


# Sail and Paddle

Newsletter of the Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club

May 2009

Editor: Al Schönborn



## Honours Keep Rolling In for George Blanchard!

Our Honorary Commodore and Club Historian, George Blanchard, was toasted by Queensway Audi on Friday night, May 15th, for his long-time contributions to the world of sailing. Also receiving an award was Paul Tingly, Paralympic gold medalist in the 2.4m Class. Thanks to Darlene Codd for contributing the two photos below.



*Todd Irving officially appoints George Blanchard  
a CYA Councillor of Honour*

Congratulations, George, and thank you from TS&CC. This event was noted as follows on the Canadian Yachting Association web site at [www.sailing.ca](http://www.sailing.ca)

### **Geo. Blanchard appointed CYA Councillor of Honour**

The CYA Board of Directors ... on March 26, 2009 passed a motion appointing George Blanchard as a CYA Councillor of Honour. It is an honour well deserved for a sailor whose service to the sailing community spans more than 75 years. George started sailing 83 years ago at the Oakville Boat Works under the supervision of Captain Regan. In 1933 he joined the Queen City YC and ... the National YC in 1934 and the Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club in 1956 where he has been a member ever since (life member since 1998). He also joined the Boulevard club in 1958.

George has an extraordinary record of race management starting in 1963 when he was first elected fleet captain at Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club. He has been significantly involved in the organization of more than 50 major International regattas throughout southern Ontario including World Championships in Olympic Classes and other ISAF recognized international classes, North American championships and Canadian Championships in many classes. He was a key member of the Bravo Race Committee at the 1976 Olympic Games in Kingston Ontario. He still attends the TS & CC Icebreaker Regatta just to make sure the team is doing the job properly. *(continued on page 2)*

### Important dates coming up:

- \* **June 8:** Senior members' meeting will not be on May 25th as indicated in the mailings
- \* **June 20:** Season-Starter BBQ. Start the 2009 season at our June 20th patio BBQ. There will be live music from member, Steve Hutchings' band, *The Ray*. Non-members welcome, so bring friends and family. Dinner will be pay-as-you-go with burgers, salads and beverages. Enjoy a day on the water and then join us from 5-9 pm for dinner on the patio. See you there!

George's sailing career includes boat time in many famous dinghies and racing keelboats such as the International 14, Albacore, International 505, Finn, Lightning, Soling and Sharks. His favourite boat is the Wayfarer where he has sailed in twelve World Championships and seven British Championships as well as many Canadian and North American Championships.

In being appointed a Councillor of Honour, George joins a select group of Canadian sailors including Paul Henderson, Past President of ISAF and Stephen Tupper a former National Coach and long-time Executive Director of British Columbia Sailing, who has supported our community.

George was presented the CYA Councillor of Honour Award on Friday May 15th, 2009 at the Boulevard Club. Todd Irving, CYA Director-at-Large, presented this award on behalf of the CYA Board of Directors.



### **The 40th TS&CC Icebreaker Regatta, May 15 –17, 2009**

Since 1970, TS&CC has hosted the Icebreaker Regatta, held each year on the May holiday weekend. This year's event turned out to be challenging due to the weather: Saturday's racing was curtailed by threat of thunderstorms before Sunday showed up as a cold, nasty, windy day. In spite of this situation, we had a fine turn-out of 73 boats, including six entries sailing the 2.4 M Paralympic boats from National Yacht Club.

Our registration team did a splendid job of handling the entries which came from Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, London, Sarnia, Guelph and of course, the Toronto area. Even Nova Scotia was represented - by Paul Tingley, the 2008 Gold Medallist in the 2.4M class. Tom Wharton, again our OCR Chairman, and Secretary/Treasurer, Robert Logan, are to be congratulated for spearheading another successful regatta and for arranging the continued support of Queensway Audi for the 12th year, as well as help from many other local sponsors. Greatly appreciated as always, was the assistance from CYA/OSA, RCYC, ABYC, PCYC, the Boulevard Club who provided boats and volunteers to supplement the TS&CC members' efforts, most notably the food and bar service so efficiently and tastily supplied by club manager, Derek Griffiths, and his crew.

The Committees were able to run up to 2 races on Saturday and then 3 more on Sunday, which was very cold and windy. All who braved these conditions - sailors, RC and rescue personnel - are to be admired for their gutsiness. Prompt and efficient scoring efforts as well as a lack of protests allowed timely presentation of the awards and enabled our valued out-of-town guests to get an early start on their way home. A highlight of the awards was the presentation of a fine sailor's watch donated by Fogh Marine, for which the regatta organizers were asked to find a worthy recipient. The watch went to Laser sailor, Paul Brikis, who sacrificed his 4th place in the 1st race by going to the aid of a capsized competitor until a safety boat was able to come and look after her. Paul carried on to finish 12th, and did not even request the redress he was surely entitled to. A most worthy winner! Thanks to all who made the 2009 Icebreaker the great success that it turned out to be.

*George Blanchard, Honourary Commodore, TS&CC*

## Do Your Homework Before Racing On Lake Ontario

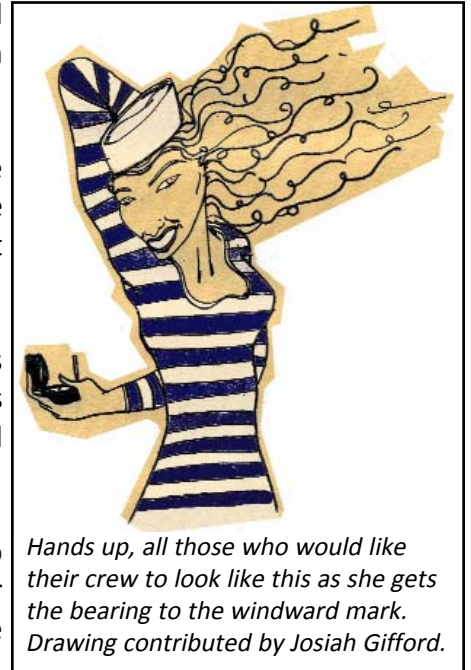
Doing your homework before the race will make you a better racer. Before you leave the dock, check that all your gear is on board, make sure that you and your crew have read and understood the sailing instructions.

Leave the dock and get to the race course early. Go head-to-wind head and get a compass bearing and write it down. Go upwind close-hauled on both port and starboard tacks and get compass headings; write these down.

By now the race committee will be on station. Sail down the starting line from the committee boat toward the start pin, get a compass heading, write it down. While at the pin-end check the speed and direction of the current (I use popsicle sticks) write this down.

Now pull all the information together. You now know the wind direction, is it the same as the direction to the windward mark? If not, then one tack is favoured. Which one? You now know your port and starboard close-hauled readings, any changes in these headings indicate lifts or headers.

Is the compass heading when you sailed down the start line 90 degrees to the head-to-wind reading? if isn't, then one end of the line is favoured over the other. The current check will also help in deciding how to approach the start line and the windward leg.



*Hands up, all those who would like their crew to look like this as she gets the bearing to the windward mark.  
Drawing contributed by Josiah Gifford.*

All of this doesn't take more than 15 minutes, so there is no excuse for not doing your homework.

*Gord Nikaido 416-697-2458*

### Getting Ready for the Water? Don't forget ...

As we prepare for the sailing season there is always the bottomless list of what needs to be done before we get out onto the water. With the hurry as the season goes on, we sometimes miss the essentials that should be at the top of the list. Here are a few of the things your boat should never be without:

- One Canadian-approved personal flotation device or life jacket per person
- One buoyant heaving line not less than 15 m in length.
- One manual propelling device or an anchor with 15m line
- Bailer, or manual water pump to empty bilge
- Sound signaling device (especially needed for signaling when entering through the breakwall gap under sail, as there may be rowers/paddlers that need to be made aware of your boat's presence)
- waterproof flashlight or navigation lights
- 3 Canadian-approved flares of type A,B or C
- magnetic compass (if you go out beyond navigation marks)
- if you are motorized, one clas 5BC fire extinguisher
- If your boat is over 8m in length consider a reboarding device if the freeboard is greater than .5m and add a lifebuoy with 15m of buoyant line attached and extra flares including type D.

This list is not comprehensive, but it will give some confidence that not everything has been forgotten as you pull away from your mooring.

## **Is it time for a new sail? an interview with veteran Wayfarer racer, Hans Gottschling**

Now that the Icebreaker Regatta is over and the boats are in the water, it's time to review the rigging before venturing out on the water. As we get our sails out of storage, the annual question comes to mind, "Is it time for an investment in new sails?" Here Hans Gottschling helps us out. For racing sailors like he is, Hans recommends going no more than 3 to 4 seasons with a set of sails. This criterion does, Hans points out, depend on the amount of use as well as the strength of winds during races. In other words, the amount of use and abuse your sails have undergone. Be that as it may, if you have found that your standings in the race fleet have deteriorated over the last season, you may well be tempted to consider new sails.

That said, consider other areas for sail performance improvement including use of sail and trim of the sail. If you are racing a Wayfarer, or would like to get involved, Hans has generously offered to help any Wayfarer skipper with a tip or two on sails and trim.

If you prefer to cruise your Wayfarer, there is good news on your sails. According to Hans, your sails should last you ten years at least, if they are properly stored and reasonably looked after.