

# History of Charlottetown Yacht Club

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down and activities relocated to Harbourside. However, it was decided by members of the club not to sell.

1983 marked another important year in the life of the CYC. Junior Sailing came alive again with the purchase of five new Laser II sailboats, replacing the well-used Flying Juniors. It sparked an interest from the junior sailors as well as kept family interest alive in the club.

The Lasers offered club juniors the option of racing competitively both on and off the Island, and today still attracts juniors into sailing and racing. This program is extremely important in the development of future sailors and yachtsmen. However, the club's limited budget prevented an extensive competitive racing program for juniors and rarely did the Lasers ever leave the club's grounds.

Gordon Miller, the commodore in 1983, worked very hard along with the executive to set the cornerstones for CYC's part in Quebec '84, which was a celebration commemorating the founding of Quebec. Part of this celebration included "Chal-

lenge Labatt Canada", a race from Toronto to Charlottetown. The 10 provinces each had identical C&C 35 sailboats on which provincial teams raced. In order to accommodate the Challenge boats, as well as interested visiting yachtsmen, additional floats had to be assembled. A proposal brought forward to the Tom McMillan resulted in federal government funding to be used by the CYC. It allowed the construction of enough floats to fill the water space at the CYC. The remaining floats were to be installed at the Quarter Master Marine (Peakes Wharf). Co-operation by the Coast Guard allowed the club to place a temporary breakwater off the south east corner of the east wharf.

The Coast Guard also allowed the club to place water floats quarter of the way up along their wharf. Club memberships supported the 1984 endeavors and the year saw continuing improvements to the wharfs and general club appearance.

In 1984, commodore Doug Hambly and his executive continued with the project of preparing the club for the

major sailing event and the numerous visits from across the country.

After the "Challenge", Doug Hambly believed that as a "spinoff" of the event the club should organize another such week for the following year. Hambly and the executive began organizing the first Charlottetown Regatta and Race Week to be held the following summer. They invited sailors from the region to participate in a week of racing at social events at the CYC.

In 1985, a marina was established again at both the CYC and Quarter Master. A draw was held to determine which boats would be located at the new marinas. Some members were uneasy about the idea of leaving the club to moor their boats at the Quarter Master marina. At that time, it was only partially developed and many members gave up their berth at Quarter Master to stay on their moorings.

That summer saw the first annual Charlottetown Regatta and Race Week. CYC was successful in attracting visiting boats from different clubs around the Maritimes. The races



and social events were well-run and the entire week proved very successful. Regatta and Race Week has been a great contribution to the club and has been increasingly popular from year to year. Boats have been brought to the Island to participate from as far away as Ottawa.

In recent years, vast improvements to the Quarter Master marina has drawn a large number of club members to that establishment. Club membership dropped 25 per cent from the time the marinas were built, but has been steadily increasing by approximately 10 per cent per year for the

past three years.

In 1992, the existing clubhouse was torn down and replaced with a larger building which includes a restaurant, banquet room, changing rooms and showers, a boardroom, classrooms for the junior sailors and more deck space. During that same year, a new crane for lifting boats in and out of the water was installed. The marina now has berths for 32 boats and approximately 25 boats are on moorings.

The renovations cost about \$430,000.

As for future plans, the club hopes to expand the marina to 90 berths by building a floating breakwater from the Pownall Wharf into the channel. These facilities would cater to tourists especially, since there are no berths for visitors at present. The changes will cost about \$800,000, and members of the executive are currently investigating their funding options.



Ian (Tex) MacDonald

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

City of Charlottetown

It is my pleasure as Mayor of Charlottetown "The Birthplace of Confederation" to congratulate the Charlottetown Yacht Club in the organization of Charlottetown Race Week 1997.

The City of Charlottetown is proud to be a major race sponsor for this year's event. The Charlottetown Yacht Club in operation since 1937 promises to provide the biggest and best Race Week ever.

I congratulate the organizing Committee, the efforts of the many volunteers and the business community for their support in the hosting of this prestigious event.

On behalf of Charlottetown City Council I would like to extend a welcome to all boaters from Atlantic Canada and the Northeastern United States. We wish you a funfilled and safe Race Week. See you at Sailors Landing.



## Best Wishes To All Participants In Charlottetown Race Week

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