

THE PORTHOLE

MAY 2023

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Send your photos to: theporthole@cps-ecp.ca
Cover image by Evgenia Basyrova of Pexels





Paul M. Rellinger, Editor-in-chief, The Port Hole

In a former life, I was a longtime member of the Kinsmen Club of Peterborough, serving at the dawn of the new millennium as the service club's president.

Club membership was fairly robust at that time. We numbered about 80 active members. There was certainly no shortage of enthusiastic help with the many fundraising projects the club was involved with. When a job needed to be done, one phone call and my fellow Kin came running to roll up their collective sleeves and get it done.

I'm now long removed from my Kinsmen days but what has transpired over the past 20 years in terms of the club's membership is concerning. That was brought home to me recently when I addressed the club about a project that I was involved with. The club now has a roster of about 30 members and it's a struggle to maintain that number.

Maintaining healthy membership numbers isn't a challenge that's unique to the service club I was once very proud to be a member of. Most all service clubs and volunteer organizations, across Canada, are dealing with declining membership numbers or, at the very least, are struggling to maintain their numbers year to year. CPS-ECP isn't immune to that reality.

We can point to any one of a number of factors in explaining the struggle that organizations such as ours face both maintaining and attracting members, but chief among them is people's priorities have shifted to a me-and-mine-first thought process from what was once a much wider held for-the-good-of-everybody approach.

This doesn't mean we're more selfish. Rather, it's more reflective of life making more demands of our time. The pandemic only heightened that as most all of us shifted our priorities,

with spending more time with family at the top of the list.

CPS-ECP relies on members to serve as volunteers for a number of boating safety-related projects and the delivery of boating courses. We would be done with that help. But maintaining and increasing membership numbers remains a huge challenge that we share with multiple organizations. This is especially concerning in light of the simple fact that active members are so important in the quest to attract new members.

All the promotional campaigns in the world won't do an organization any good if members aren't having a good experience and, in turn, sharing that fact with others. National can do what it can, and I can write ad nauseam about the benefits of CPS-ECP membership, but our best, and most effective, means of growing our membership lies in the ambassadorship of the rank and file.

Now, more than ever, is not a time to stay quiet. CPS-ECP's present and future depends on shouting from rooftops the benefits of membership, be they social or practical in nature, or a combination of both.

Reluctance to do so threatens to see us trail well behind in the bid to compete with the vast array of causes and organization petitioning people for their time and talents. There's nothing worse than regretting not doing things we should have done when the floor collapses beneath us. We have to take it upon ourselves – now - to spread the good word. Our future as a viable organization is dependent on that.

As always, your contributions to The Port Hole are always welcome. Email your articles and/or photos to paulrellinger@hotmail.com ■



Vision 2023

**JOIN US
NEXT OCTOBER
IN WINDSOR,
ONTARIO**

Scan the code for more details

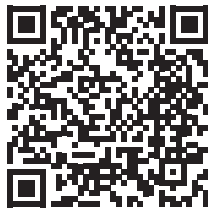




Photo by James Atkinson

VISION 2023 IN WINDSOR, ONTARIO COMING TOGETHER NICELY

The Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) has confirmed that either one of the icebreakers CCGS Samuel Risley or CCGS Griffon will be docked within a block of Caesars Windsor when CPS-ECP members gather for Vision 2023, our National Conference and Annual General Meeting being held in Windsor, Ontario from October 17 to 22.

Available for tours by conference registrants, the ship and members of the crew will play an integral part in our in-person national conference.

Among plans in the works are...

- A Q & A with the captain, open to all registrants, on the challenges of icebreaking.
- An on-bridge session with the ship's navigator for members of our Education Department on the importance of electronic navigation.
- A Canadian Coast Guard display table at the conference where parents and grandparents can inquire about careers for the younger members of their families.

Stay tuned as more details roll out on this unique opportunity that will see a vessel of such importance on site as a highlight of our national conference.

*Vision without a task is only a dream.
A task without a vision is drudgery.
But vision with a task brings a dream fulfilled.
What is your vision?*

Conference Venue

Caesars Windsor is one of the largest casinos of its kind in Canada – complete with a 750-room luxury hotel, conference facilities, gaming facility, four bars and lounges, six restaurants and the Colosseum, a 5,000-seat concert hall that hosts exciting international headline performers, comedy and variety acts. The hotel offers a pool, fitness centre and free valet and self-parking.

Our venue is located on the Detroit River overlooking the Detroit skyline and five kilometres of uninterrupted waterfront for you to explore and enjoy.

Room Reservations

Caesars Windsor
377 Riverside Drive East
Windsor, Ontario N9A 7H7

Discounted rate of \$175 (Sunday through Thursday) and \$195 (Friday and Saturday) + HST and local taxes per night if booked before September 19, 2023 (subject to availability – book early).

Reservations by phone: 1-800-991-8888. Quote Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons group code ACP1016

Online reservations:

<https://www.caesars.com/book/?propCode=WCL&action=FindRooms&groupcode=ACP1016>

More About Vision 2023

Hosted by the six squadrons of the Western Ontario District, it is fitting that our National Conference and AGM returns to Windsor where CPS-ECP had its beginnings 85 years ago. We'll be marking that milestone and setting a course to realize our vision for enjoyable and safe boating throughout Canada. Be a 'visionary' and join volunteers and boaters from across the country to exchange ideas, attend workshops, network with old friends and meet new ones. Our AGM is open to all members and guests.

There also will be time for dressing up and socializing.

- Join us Friday night for All That Glitters at Augustus 27 on the 27th floor of Caesars Windsor overlooking the Windsor and Detroit skylines. Attire is formal, featuring the colours black and/or silver. Musical duo Kristina & Joshua will perform during this elegant, interactive evening.
- On Saturday night, the Chief Commander's Gala Dinner and Dance is a sit-down dinner with formal attire. After dinner, dance the night away to the sounds of Big Louie and The Band.

Tours

In addition to tours of the CCG icebreaker, the Conference Planning Committee is busy organizing several exciting tours across Windsor and Essex County that will give you a flavour for our region – Canada's southernmost destination. Stay tuned for tour details and for information on other activities within walking distance of our amazing venue.

Stay and Explore

Make the most of your time in Windsor-Essex with its 100 miles of waterfront along Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and Lake Erie. Extend your autumn by staying a little longer to see all that Canada's 'banana belt' has to offer: a host of wineries and craft brew pubs, culturally diverse cuisine, shopping, historic and artistic landmarks, a national park, bird and monarch migration, and so much more! Check it all out at <http://www.visitwindsoressex.com>

For more information on Vision 2023, conference registration, tickets and regalia (on an as-available basis – mainly Vision 2023 golf shirts remain), visit www.vision2023windsorcps-ecp.ca ■



FAVOURITE BOATING DESTINATION PHOTO CONTEST!

The countdown to boating season is on and we need your help to inspire fellow boaters by sharing your favorite boating destination photos.

Let us know where you love to go boating and why. We want you to send us your best photos from your recent cruises, weekend getaways, days at the cottage or other on-the-water adventures.

Please include a caption for each picture, containing information such as your name, photo location and why you enjoy boating there.

Submit your high-resolution photo to theporthole@cps-ecp.ca. Please don't compress them when emailing, actual size is required for printing. Deadline to submit photos is May 31, 2023.

You can vote for your favorite submission by liking the featured photos on our Instagram account @cpsboat. After May 31st, the most liked photo will determine the winner and will be published in The Port Hole and Le Hublot magazines and in our OnBoard and À bord newsletters published by Canadian Yachting. ■



ALICE BARATTA: DEDICATION TO EDUCATION IS SECOND TO NONE

At the Canadian Safe Boating Council's awards dinner held in January, London Squadron Commander Alice Baratta JN was presented with the Canadian Safe Boating Award (CASBA) as the Top Volunteer Dedicated To Boating Safety.

Making the presentation were Canadian Safe Boating Council chair John Gullick, and former CSBC chair and Chief Commander Joe Gatfield, the latter of whom read the following commendation.

Volunteers are the backbone of the boating safety community in Canada. It would be great if we could give an award to each and every one of them. But, even after 24 years of doing so, we have barely scratched the surface. Alice Baratta has been a dedicated member of Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons (CPS-ECP) since 1986. Alice started boating with a canoe. After many years, Alice and her husband Nick purchased a sailboat that prompted her to take courses with CPS-ECP. Not long after her initial education, she became active with the London Power and Sail Squadron in 1989, now serving for 34 years.

Alice's main focus has been the educational side of CPS-ECP but she has also filled many roles on the administration side. She has held most every position in London - education, Marep (marine reporting of navigational information), environment, boat show, public relations,

financial officer and commander, but her key role has been as an instructor. She is well qualified for this role as she holds a teaching certificate.

Alice has also served the Western Ontario District in southwestern Ontario with a focus on environment, finance and now, fittingly, as the District Educational Officer.

As her nominator, I have known Alice for almost all of her years of involvement. Our key bond is a love of being in the classroom and bringing boaters home safely through education.

As COVID set in and many local squadrons lay dormant, London did not. When the pandemic hit, London switched immediately to delivering almost every course CPS-ECP has using Webex and Zoom. When the Maritime Radio Course was offered, Alice did all of the examining virtually based on the protocols set out by Industry Canada. She and I would often share experiences and we both agree that we were able to interact more personally with students 'online' than we were in a classroom. That may sound strange but I know the interpersonal skill it takes to do this and Alice excelled.

Over the years, Alice has instructed on Boatwise, our youth program, the Pleasure Craft Operator Competency



Program, the power boat course, and the Maritime Radio, Seamanship and Advanced Piloting courses. There is not much Alice has not instructed on.

You might wonder just how many students has Alice has instructed. It's well into the thousands. Alice can go to bed at peace daily knowing that she likely has saved a life through all of her dedication in the classroom, both in-person and virtual.

Here is what some of her students have said about Alice...

- 'Thank you sooo much for your time, effort, and passion.'
- 'I learned a great deal, and feel more confident.'
- 'I greatly appreciate your time, expertise, patience and wise words of wisdom.'
- 'She is by far the best instructor I have had. She knows her stuff and knows how to get it across.'
- 'She was the best.'

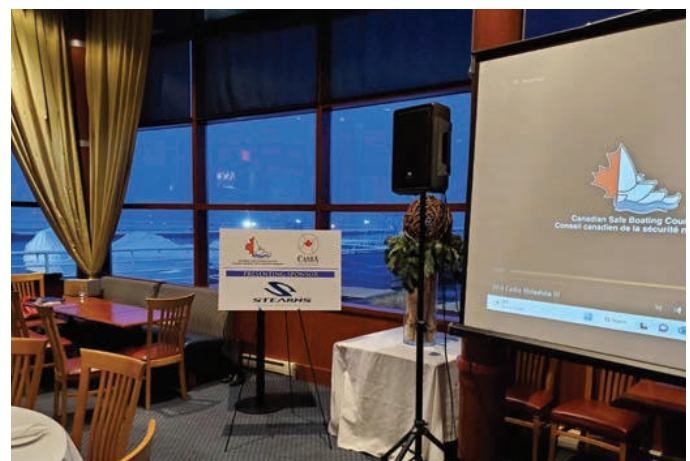
Alice became commander of the London Squadron during COVID and is now in her third year...longer than anyone has served as commander in London. This is due to the respect the London Squadron has for her and her ability to maintain the quality of education through the team she is working with.

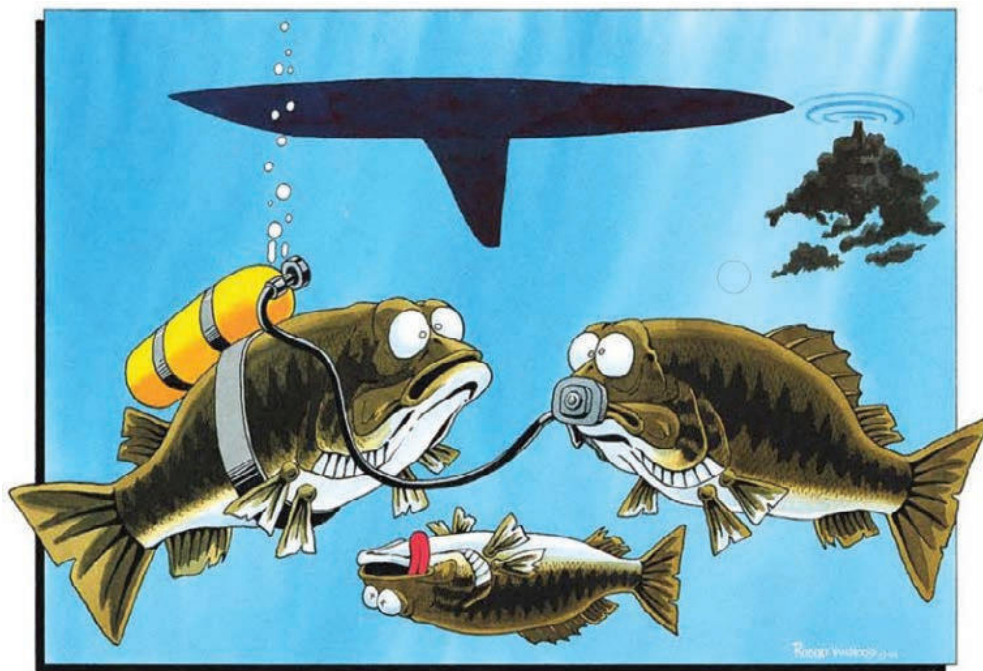
Alice has been a top fundraiser and event organizer. She is that person who is 'hands on'; she is someone well respected. She certainly follows what we have heard

recently of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II - duty, respect and service.

Alice not only serves CPS-ECP but has been a dedicated volunteer at her church, focused on programs for seniors, making meals and organizing activities. Alice also works with Extendicare Nursing Home helping with activities away from the home...bowling, visiting museums, shopping etc.

It gives me great pleasure to present Alice with this award tonight. She is a professional in all of her volunteer roles and a friend. It was my pleasure to nominate Alice as the Top Volunteer Dedicated To Boating Safety. I believe the thousands she has instructed over the years would agree. ■





CHEMICAL VS BIOLOGICAL: THE BATTLE TO CONTROL YOUR BLACKWATER TANK

– by Jeff Evans, Sarnia Power and Sail Squadron

This article materialized out of a boat show seminar held this past January.

I have attended the Toronto International Boat Show (TIBS) over many years, not so much to see the new boats but to explore all the interesting trinkets in the Mariner's Marketplace. It was great to be back at an in-person show after a two-year hiatus.

For the 2023 show, I was asked to present seminars during the ten-day show run. The first, Cruising Ontario's Historic Canals, provided a glimpse into cruising the Trent-Severn Waterway and Rideau Canal. I thank my friends at Ports Cruising Guides for their support.

The second, Boat Buying Basics, was a panel discussion featuring three industry experts in brokerage, surveying and vessel insurance while I presented safety, regulations and education. Thanks to my fellow panelists Pat Sturgeon, Barry Goodyear and Michael Hewett for the insightful discussion. During breaks, I had plenty of time to wander the marketplace and attend other seminars. The most impactful was Holding Tank Treatments and Maintenance given by Peter Bristow of Aqua-Tek, a Canadian company specializing in cleansers and treatments for RV and boating enthusiasts. Peter's presentation sent me in a new direction to solve an age-old problem.

How many times do you saunter down the dock towards your boat when your olfactory senses are enveloped in the stench of an unhappy blackwater sewage holding tank?

Even worse, you discover yours is the offending boat, much to the dismay of your dock neighbours. Each time I would quickly dump more head chemical in to overcome the errant smells and then hide in the cabin while the odour dissipates. Holding tank odours are either eliminated chemically (which works against the bacteria) or biologically (which works with the bacteria).

All blackwater tanks contain naturally occurring good and bad bacteria that come from human waste. These bacteria multiply continuously and digest the solids that turn them into liquids. When good bacteria digest waste, the byproducts are water and odorless gases. When bad bacteria digest waste, the byproducts are water and smelly gases.

Chemical Treatments

Up to now, I have used chemical-based holding tank treatments. In the past, many biocidal treatments included formaldehyde or bronopol, which has been somewhat effective in encapsulating solid waste, killing bacteria and masking odors inside your holding tank. Unfortunately, such chemical treatments are also hazardous to your health and can kill bacteria downstream of your holding tank, impacting the performance of septic tanks and municipal wastewater treatment systems. As a result, many manufacturers have dropped formaldehyde for lesser effective chemicals.

Other non-biocidal treatments neutralize the odour while keeping the bacteria alive. With both biocidal and non-biocidal treatments, other problems occur such as sludge build-up, potential level sensor failure and diminished odour con-

trol over time as ambient temperatures increase requiring repeated applications of chemical.

Biological Treatments

There are three primary biological treatments including nutrients, enzymes and bacterial. Nutrients nourish and promote the growth of good bacteria, enzymes assist bacteria (good and bad) to break down the solids faster, and bacterial treatments add additional good bacteria to promote digestion of solids.

Aqua-Tek's 'Super Enzo' holding tank treatment is a biological treatment using natural bacteria and enzymes that quickly eliminate odours by digesting and liquifying human waste and toilet paper. It keeps holding tanks and sensors free of sludge and improves ease of pump-outs. As a bonus, unlike chemical treatments that are prone to decreased effectiveness with hotter days, the effectiveness of a biological treatment increases with hotter temperatures, improving performance over time in terms of ensuring an odour free tank between pump-outs. Again, unlike chemical treatments, biological treatments are environmentally friendly and safe to handle.

Since biological treatments encourage good bacteria production, any biocide presented to the holding tank will degrade performance. Chlorine (a biocide) in your head flushing water could be a problem. Some boats draw flushing water from below the hull, which has no negative impact. In the case of our boat Boldly-Go, the water source is from the freshwater tank that is filled from the city water supply and contains residual chlorine. In this case, to eliminate the chlorine, you add an in-line carbon filter downstream of the freshwater tank. If possible, consider a non-biocide cleanser to clean the head when required.

I look forward to switching to a biological holding tank treatment for the 2023 season. Each spring, I shock my first tank of fresh water with diluted hydrogen peroxide by adding a 2-litre jug of PC Green Ultra Active Oxygen Bleach to my 550-litre tank. To make the changeover, after flushing and refilling the water tank, I will install a carbon filter on my freshwater outlet.

I will follow-up by applying Aqua-Tek's 'Sludge Hammer' to the holding tank to eliminate the prior season's sludge. Finally, I will follow up with 'Super Enzo' treatments with each pump-out throughout the summer. Come the fall, I will continue to use plumber's antifreeze (compatible with 'Super Enzo') to winterize the heads, sanitary hoses and holding tank.



Thanks to Peter and Aqua-Tek for that TIBS seminar back in January. I am keen to try their solution this coming summer. Undoubtedly, my dock neighbours will be grateful. ■



ALL GREAT FISHING STORIES BEGIN WITH BOAT SAFETY

Your first fishing trip is always an exciting experience. You learn about the equipment, how to bait a hook, cast your first line, and hopefully reel in that big catch! Some may even go out on a boat to show off their skills as a master fisherman. While fishing trips are meant to be fun, learning how to boat safely is important whether you are eight or 80. Coming home safely after a successful trip and telling your stories is how this hobby is passed down to each generation. Here are a few helpful reminders on how to be safe while out on the water:

Life jackets, life jackets, life jackets

Bringing life jackets is common sense, but they are often the most forgotten piece of safe boating and fishing equipment. It is not enough to bring them along; you must always wear them while on the boat to be effective. Accidents may be rare, but they occur, and when they do, they happen too fast to find and put on a life jacket. While a life jacket is the simplest, most important safety equipment on your boat, it is also the law. You are required by law to have a life jacket or personal floatation device on board for each passenger on the boat.

Be neat, be tidy, and bring a buddy

My father's rule was to get out on the water fishing at 5 a.m. sharp. If we were not out unhooking that dock line and shoving off at 5 a.m., we would miss the biggest fish in the lake. Our safe boating and fishing routine included ensuring that the boat was tidy, keeping lines coiled, nets stashed but handy, our tackle boxes ready but out of the way, and checking livewells, baitwell lines, and drains. Heading out on the water is always best if you have someone to share the experience with, but it is also good in an emergency.

Boat licensing, education and training, insurance

All operators of motorized boats in Canada need a Transport Canada accredited Pleasure Craft Operator Card; this can also be an opportunity to increase your knowledge

of the safe operation and navigation of a craft operating in our beautiful country's waters. Cowan Insurance Group and the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron (CPS-ECP) have partnered to ensure its clients have the right coverage and safety knowledge to come home from each fishing trip with nothing but great memories. CPS has been educating boaters for over 80 years, and there is no better place to educate yourself in whatever boating mastery you wish to achieve. Contact CPS-ECP at <https://www.cps-ecp.ca/> to learn more.

Cowan has been operating in Canada for nearly 100 years, providing Canadians with the best insurance options, including home, auto, marine, and commercial insurance. Please contact Cowan at <https://www.cowangroup.ca/> to learn how it can help protect you while on the water.

Cowan has partnered with CPS-ECP to provide exclusive coverage to members.

Boat Insurance

Get a 15% discount on boat insurance
10% decrease in policy deductible for every claim-free year, up to 50%
Coverage available for southern cruises
12-month navigation – No lay-up period required

Visit

<https://www.cowangroup.ca/home/programs-and-associations/cps-ecp/>

Call

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T: 519.650.6363 M: 226-894-8952
dave.brueckner@cowangroup.ca ■



SECURING THE PRESENT, SHAPING THE FUTURE: NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR BOARD DIRECTORSHIP

CPS-ECP gets its legal right to exist from Canada's Not-For-Profit Act.

As a corporation, CPS-ECP is governed by directors. The Act states that the directors can elect a management committee of directors to take on most of the governance work, subject to board review and oversight. CPS-ECP has done that by electing directors to the Executive Committee (ExCom).

The following is a list of some of the experiences, skills and attributes that contribute to the selection of the best possible CPS-ECP director candidates.

- Ability to get along with others, leadership qualities, experience, and initiative
- Ability to think independently and not "follow the crowd"
- Breadth of CPS-ECP experience
- Interest in boating education – grade achieved, taught one or more classes
- Evidence of administrative ability (within CPS-ECP or outside)
- Enthusiasm, time available, merit mark record, attendance at National or District meetings, National Committee experience
- Commitment to CPS-ECP and passion for the CPS-ECP mission
- Leadership record at the Squadron and District levels
- Formal education
- Geographic location
- A thorough understanding of Squadron and District operations
- Completion of CPS-ECP 'Officer Training' seminar

All candidates applying for nomination as a director are requested to complete and submit the following items of documentation:

- Director's Application Form
- A current resumé or Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Skills self-assessment questionnaire
- A Statement of Vision outlining your personal views of the short- and long-term future of CPS-ECP

The above documents can be found on the CPS-ECP website at www.cps-ecp.ca and are available in hard copy from our national office.

If you have some ideas about what CPS-ECP should be doing now, or where it should be going in the future, consider applying to become a director. The term is for three years and you can apply for a second three-year term.

The application form can be found on the website at:

<https://www.cps-ecp.ca/about/call-for-applications-for-nominations>

All applications must be submitted to the chair of the Nominating Committee by **May 31, 2023**.

Applications can be submitted online to nomcom@cps-ecp.ca or as a hard copy marked 'Confidential' to:
Chair of the Nominating Committee,
Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons,
26 Golden Gate Court, Toronto, Ontario M1P 3A5. ■

