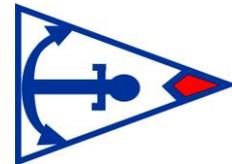




The Bitter End

Editor: Bill Reynolds AP



June 2014

Newmarket Power & Sail Squadron
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From the Bridge...

On behalf of the Bridge:

The late, cold spring played havoc with many boaters' plans for extensive hull repairs and delayed the regular maintenance of waxing and polishing. I had to shovel snow away from the boat in order to set up the ladder to clean and polish my boat. And up to a week before lift-in there was still ice in my harbour on the North West side of Lake Simcoe. But we are now in the water and looking forward to some warm and sunny days on the lake.

I read two editorials recently that endorse my view of the boating season. In CharterSavy, an e-periodical about the ins and outs of chartering, Chris Coswell writes that life is too short to waste on excuses. Get out on the water. He writes: "there's a litany of excuses: not enough money, not enough time, can't take off work, the moon isn't right, have to wash the cat." Enjoy every moment that you can on the water. He reminds us that no gravestone ever reads, "He wished he could have worked more."

Then Peter Nielsen, editor of Sail Magazine, made the point that for us in the North it seems that no sooner have we shaken the bugs out of the boat, September arrives with the "horrifying realization that you have only a few more weeks on the water." He recommends that we make the most of each weekend and every good day to steal away from "the incessant demands of everyday life." We should take preemptive action against anything that may threaten our boating plans. We should tout the virtues of early spring or late fall for family visits, wedding plans, and household projects. Plant the seeds early with friends and family who may interfere with your boating season hinting that June through September are months of high humidity. Better to get together when the temperatures are more conducive to on shore gatherings and/or chores. If the sun is out and the breeze is up, go sailing. You won't regret it. A bad day at the boat is better than any day away from it!

Congratulations to the students who completed the Boating Essentials and VHF Radio courses this spring. We celebrated their success at our AGM in May with a brief ceremony at which David Agnew, Past District Commander, pledged the Essentials graduates and welcomed them to CPS by presenting them with their burgees and CPS passports.

Enjoy your summer and be careful on the water. Remember the words of Captain Ron, "*If it's going to happen, it will happen out there!*" Sail safely.

On behalf of the Bridge,

Bill Reynolds, AP
Squadron Commander

The Newmarket Power & Sail Squadron Bridge 2014-15

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Fall Boating Courses

Our Training Officer is organizing courses for this fall. If you wish to participate in our programs, check out our website at <https://www.cps-ecp.ca/Newmarket/> and register for the course that meets your needs. Our classes run on Tuesday evenings at Dr John Denison HS in Newmarket. Details of the Fall and Winter programs will be included in the September Bitter End. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

DON'T GET STRANDED

Ensure that you and your boat are prepared for a day on the water

It's a beautiful day; the sun is shining and you've just launched your boat for the start of another season on the water. And the thoughts of that tough winter just past are quickly forgotten. Everyone's on board, excited about the day ahead, so off you go.

The day unfolds as you had hoped it would -- until a problem leaves your boat dead in the water.

It could be that you've run out of gas or you've had a mechanical breakdown of some kind. What to do? Likely what you did not do is check your boat thoroughly before heading out. And unfortunately, you are not alone.

www.smartboater.ca was created by the Canadian Safe Boating Council in partnership with the National Search and Rescue Secretariat to remind Canadians throughout the entire boating season to review their safe boating check list before heading out onto the water.

Scott Miller, a Maritime Search and Rescue Coordinator with the Canadian Coast Guard says: "75 to 80% of calls for help to the Coast Guard are non-distress calls; the most common ones deal with boats that have broken down, run aground or have just run out of gas which is far and away the most common call to the Coast Guard, and these are all situations that are entirely preventable by the boat operator."

Mechanical failures can strike any boater, any time. That's just part of boating. And it's not necessarily an indication that the boater has simply failed to properly look after the boat. Stuff happens!

But many calls for help are predictable and preventable. Have a proper check list for your boat and follow it before you head out, each and every time. Make sure that your boat is mechanically sound and that you have enough gas for your intended voyage with some in reserve. And file a sail plan or itinerary to help Search and Rescue find you in the event of a real emergency. A few simple steps will save you the embarrassment of making an unnecessary call for help and diverting search and rescue resources from areas where they might be needed more.

Review your check list BEFORE your leave – Be Prepared! Whether you use a power boat, sail boat, personal watercraft, canoe, kayak or fishing boat, find more information on a variety of boating safety tips by visiting www.SmartBoater.ca.

Dear reader:

If you have comments or suggestions for The Bitter End we would love to hear from you. Share your comments by sending them to *The Bitter End* at npsinfo@mailonly.ca.