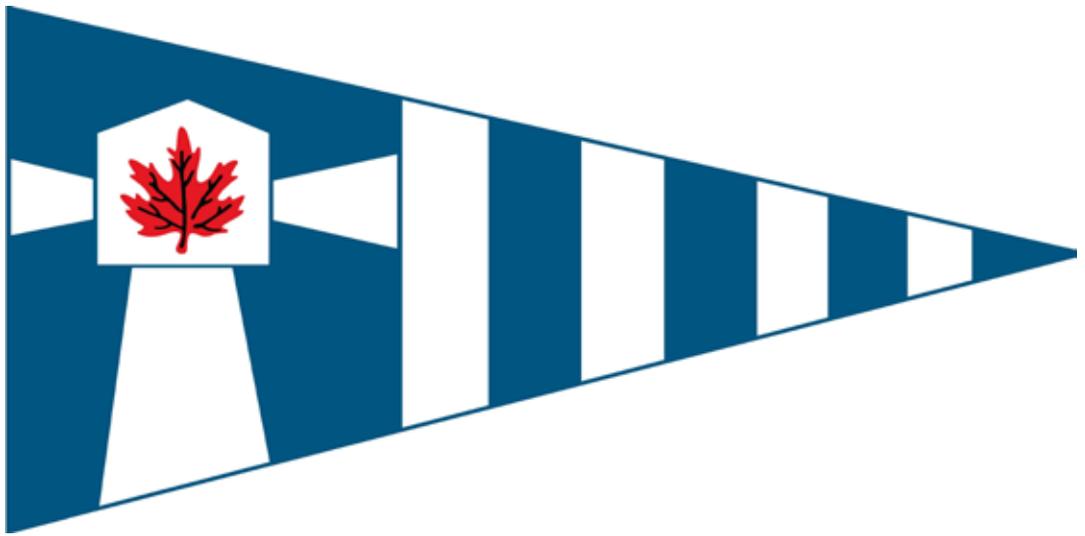


SCUTTLEBUTT



Gabriola Island Power and Sail Squadron

Google Gabriola Power and Sail Squadron

Anyone remember summer?

May - June 2022



Your Squadron Bridge 2022 – 2023

POSITION	NAME	PHONE
Commander	Jean-Pierre Van Praet	250 325-3064
Past Commander	Mike Hoeinghaus, <u>AP</u>	250 247-8799
Executive Officer	Nigel Wells	250 325-0052
Educational Officer	Agathe Gaulin	250 247-9714
PRO/Marketing Officer	Li Decosas	250 247-9884
Secretary	assigned to Cdr	250 325-3064
Financial Officer	Jude Briscoe	250 247-8600
Membership Officer	Elaine Pearce	250 247-7538
Webmaster (acting)	Nigel Wells	250 325-0052
Communications Officer & Scuttlebutt Editor	Don Butt, <u>AP</u>	250 247-7804
Privacy Officer	Don Butt, <u>AP</u>	250 247-7804
RVCC Officer	Bob Wood	250 247-7339
Member at Large	John Bullas	250 739-3295
Member at Large	Sean Lewis	250 325-1857
Member at Large	Gary Small	250 247-9884
Member at Large	Paul O'Sullivan	250 247-9674
Emissary Bridge Member	Bert terHart	778 557-2824

Gabriola Power and Sail Squadron

PO Box 71

Gabriola BC V0R 1X0

We are a Squadron of Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons (CPS-ECP) in Vancouver Island North District

<https://www.cps-ecp.ca/contact/squadron-locations/gabriola-island/>

<http://www.vind.ca>

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ISSUE

Thank you to those who have managed to renew your membership. Apparently there have been difficulties renewing Family Members in the new website system. Our Membership Officer, Elaine Pearce will help you so that you can renew via snail mail. Please call Elaine if you are having any difficulties with renewal of your membership - she is ready to help.

Elaine Pearce 250 247-7538

Courses

**Always check the website for details - "Courses and Upcoming Events"
See details below**

The National website has undergone a major update and is ready to accept course registrations. One should go to the Squadron web site where there is information about the courses and links on the Courses and Workshops page to the National registration pages. Also see SEO Agathe's comments in "from the Educational Officer":

Email or phone Squadron XO: Nigel Wells, nigelwells@shaw.ca or 250 325-0052;

Squadron Educational Officer: Agathe Gaulin, seo-gabriolaisland@cps-ecp.org

Commander John Van Praet: johnvanpraet@hotmail.com

<https://www.cps-ecp.ca/contact/squadron-locations/gabriola-island/>

COVID-19

The Squadron is following the guidelines set by CPS-ECP. Meetings and courses are gradually beginning to be held in person as well as with Go-To-Meeting. Read the reports from Cdr. Jean Van Praet and SEO Agathe Gaulin for details, and of course, the website. No one knows when the pandemic restrictions will be over and the normal will again prevail. It is worth noting that any breach of the CPS-ECP restrictions will not be covered by the insurance policy.

Important Renewal Information

It used to be that, if a member let his or her membership lapse for more than a year, the member would have to start from scratch to bring their membership up-to-date. It is no longer the case. A number of members did not renew their memberships during 2021 - 2022. They can renew this year without penalty. If they run into problems renewing on line, please have them contact me at (250) 247-7538 or russelaine3@shaw.ca. Elaine Pearce, Membership Officer



They're available! The new Squadron pennants to adorn your boat! They do tend to fade like all flags so why not spruce up the appearance of your boat with a new pennant - they look good.

Really good! Spruce up your boat for spring. Call Jude Briscoe, 250 247-8600. Reduced price!

Call any one of the Bridge/Exec members: phone numbers listed on page 2, "Your Squadron Bridge".

Only \$15 each, we've kept the price as low as possible. Spruce up your boat!



*From the Wheelhouse**
John Van Praet - Commander



CHALLENGES, VOLUNTEERING and ACHIEVEMENTS

The past year's challenges were substantial. The COVID 19 continued unabatedly although vaccines were helping. The problems with the CPS National website continued, especially with membership renewals, registering of members online, and registering new courses on-line. And in our Squadron the position of PRO remained vacant for most of 2021.

We managed well throughout the year, considering the challenges:

- Our Educational Department under the leadership of Agathe Gaulin made tremendous efforts and did very well, offering PCOC, ROC(M) as well as blended online courses for Boating 2+3 and for Boating 4, with many students and ensuring income for the Squadron. A first “again in-person” seminar about Collision Regulations was held in December 2021 and a series of in-person PCOC and Radio study sessions and exams, seminars and a 2-day boating camp for youth are currently underway. The educational department (Agathe and Nigel) is assisted by Gary Small, Don Butt, John Bullas and Sean Lewis.
- “Boating Tips”, articles about Boating Safety were written by several Bridge members, for publication in the Sounder. Authors included Sean Lewis, John Bullas, Don Butt and Ivan Bulic. Agathe Gaulin was the driving force behind these.
- 2022 saw our new Public Relations Officer Li Decosas getting in action as we have not seen before, reconnecting in person with our existing sponsors and connecting with new ones (the Squadron now has 10 new sponsors), and advertising and publicizing our courses and seminars, on the Gabriola Community Bulletin Board, under “Upcoming Calendar Events” in the Sounder, and on our Sandwich Boards.
- The closing of the Shipyard on Gabriola lead Bob Derksen to conceptualize a “Boaters’ Guide” for Gabriolans. Subsequently Don Butt, Li Decosas and Agathe Gaulin took on the cooperative task of developing the concept. The “pamphlet” evolved and will now include Services to Boaters (with a focus on Gabriola services), Sponsors’ logos, Squadron General and Squadron Course Information.
- Our Membership Officer Elaine Pearce worked hard assisting existing members with renewals and in helping new members.

- Our finances have been managed well under Jude Briscoe's watchful eye.
 - The 2021 RVCC or boat check season was again very successful under Bob Wood's leadership.
 - Scuttlebutt continued to be published on schedule with Don Butt at the helm. Don Butt also has kept the Squadron members informed of all the happenings.
 - Our microsite on the CPS website was kept up to date by our webmaster Andy Hunter.
 - Under the leadership of Ivan Bulic, our Squadron took on the responsibility of monitoring the light trap at Silva Bay (Page's dock). Several Squadron volunteers and other Gabriola volunteers are monitoring the number and the size of Dungeness megalopae and instars, every 2 days, from April 15 to September 1st, 2022.
 - And last and most importantly, the Minutes of our Bridge Meetings continued to appear on time, like clockwork, thank you Carole Lemieux.
- My thanks go to all the above people who volunteered so much of their time to the boaters and aspiring boaters on Gabriola.

AREAS THAT REQUIRE SPECIAL EFFORTS

The two areas that require our attention in the coming year are membership and even more visibility in the Gabriola Community. These areas had been affected by the COVID pandemic, which forced our courses to move online, thereby attracting less Gabriola students that could potentially become members. The recent efforts with the series of in-person study sessions and seminars are already successful considering the number of registrations and should be continued in the future. This includes the efforts to reach youth through the 2-day Boating Camp planned for the beginning of May. The recent efforts by our new PRO also increase our visibility and presence on Gabriola. They too should be maintained. I am convinced that these will lead to an increased membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean-Pierre Van Praet,
Squadron Commander.



*From the Educational Department
Agathe Gaulin - Educational Officer*

EDUCATIONAL OFFICER REPORT



This past year was another “pandemic year”, with restrictions on in-person classes and exams so the Education department our Squadron offered mainly self-study, online and blended video-conferencing classes. COVID “distancing” protocols were finally relaxed in February 2022 so we proceeded with planning a set of Wednesday evening workshops and a Youth Boating Camp for April and May 2022.

The radio operator’s certification (Roc-M) and Pleasure craft Operator certificate (PCOC) courses remain the mainstay of our offerings. We continued promoting these courses on our Squadron micro-site of the national CPS website, with our Ferry Hill sandwich boards, and regular emails to our Membership. Students register online, take the courses entirely online and, when they feel ready to write the exam, for the PCOC, they write the exam online and, for the Roc-M, they set up a time and date with one of our Examiners to write the exam using Zoom or GoToMeeting web conferencing technology. Students study at their own pace and most of them do very well in the final exams. For the period between April 1st 2021 and the end of March 2022, Gabriola Squadron has administered 16 Roc-M exams to students who registered and studied online and 3 PCOC Exams.

For the Fall-winter session, our Squadron offered again the blended Boating 2-3 and Boating 4 courses on Monday and Wednesday evenings, starting at the end of October 2021 and ending at the end of January 2022. A blended course, in CPS jargon, is one that is offered online using the Moodle learning platform and with the added benefit of weekly check-in and review sessions with an instructor. Agathe Gaulin led the review sessions for both courses until Nigel Wells returned from a trip to the UK in November and then Nigel facilitated the Boating 2-3 course and Agathe, the Boating 4 course. Again this year, Sean Lewis, John Bullis and Jean-Pierre VanPraet presented on specific topics during both courses. The Boating 2-3 course had 15 students registered and the Boating 4 course was offered to 5 students. Most students were from off-island; from Montreal to Whitehorse, the Sunshine Coast, Vancouver and Nanaimo. All participated actively in all weekly meetings and most passed the course with high marks.

Though these online and self-study courses have generated good revenues for our Squadron, and a certain notoriety as few Squadrons offer such courses, most Gabriola boaters waited till the pandemic restrictions were lifted before taking Boating courses. This was confirmed by the participation of 8 persons at a Navigation seminar offered by Sean Lewis at the Gabriola Hall in December 2021 AND the influx of registrations coming in for the Radio operator’s and the Pleasure Craft Operator’s study sessions offered in April and May 2022.

At the end of June 2021, an agreement was made with our local newspaper, the Sounder, to publish a weekly column of Boating Tips. The purpose of these short columns was to educate the boating public on safe boating practices. A call for texts yielded articles from Ivan Bulic, John Bullas, Don Butt, Agathe Gaulin, Sean Lewis, Gary Small and Jean-Pierre VanPraet. At least a dozen Boating Tips columns were printed, on an irregular schedule, before the Sounder ended this initiative unilaterally.

In closing, I would like to reiterate something I said last year: that we have an extraordinary amount of instructional and boating expertise on this Island so let's harness it and keep our Squadron "on the map" as an active Teaching Squadron! New boaters are asking for courses and Seminars to build and upgrade their boating and navigation skills. We must continue to deliver these to our Island boaters.

Respectfully submitted
Agathe Gaulin
Gabriola Squadron Educational Officer

Bert terHart's Current Project

Bert launched his custom made canoe into the mouth of the Frazer River April 1 to embark on a paddle and portage journey from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. He is alone, using only traditional methods of navigation (sextant) and following the old trade routes of the original settlers. His homework involved reading massive amounts of history and a year of rigorous physical conditioning to get into shape for the ordeal. He was often seen hauling his canoe with the home-made two wheel cart along the roads of Gabriola, many thinking him utterly daft.



Follow Bert's journey at
<https://dbutt.smugmug.com/Paddle-and-Portage-Across-Canada-Alone/>

Bert's sister also documents the journey at Facebook and Instagram



Here are some photos of Bert conditioning himself for the journey at Drumbeg



And at his home with the backpacks and paddles, works of art, but strong enough to hold his weight. Those backpacks are up to 60 pounds each.



The Squadron Has Been Busy - Really Busy!

The AGM, April 24

The 26th Annual General Meeting was held at the Community Hall in person, with COVID recommendations in effect. We were honoured to have as a special guest, Chief Commander Peter Bolton and his wife, Diane, attending. Peter addressed us outlining the challenges that CPS-ECP has been facing, and the challenging steps to bring us back to smooth waters - not an easy task.

Past District Commander, Ion Barnes brought greeting and news on behalf of D/C Wayne Smilie, who has moved to Masset, Haida Gwaii.

A highlight of the afternoon was Ivan Bulic's presentation Marine Law for Boaters.

Presentations were made to those who are retiring from the Bridge, the award winners, and for special recognition.

The Arthur J Nielsen Award for top marks in Boating 2-3 was won by Harold Johnson. Sadly he died shortly after the course. Harold Johnson was an Indigenous lawyer and Crown Prosecutor with a master's degree from Harvard, and author of 11 books, one for which received a Governor General's Award.

Ivan Bulic received the **Rudy and Frieda Bohm Award**, recognizing his quick thinking in assisting the rescue of the two sailboats and their dock during a heavy easterly in Silva Bay where they nearly drifted into the rocks on the NW shore of the bay.



SEO Agathe Gaulin received the **Windchime Award** in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the core of our purpose - instruction in safe and enjoyable boating with the hybrid and online courses she has organized for the Squadron.

Li Decossas was given a **plaque of appreciation** for the remarkable work as the new Marketing/PRO Officer gathering many new sponsors for the Squadron. We thank the Gabriola community for being so supportive of our activities.

Special thanks with plaques were presented to three retiring members of the Bridge: Carole Lemieux for her many faithful years as the Secretary, Andy Hunter for his valuable work as Webmaster, and Ivan Bulic as Member at Large and contributions to many Squadron activities.

Ivan Bulic's presentation was in the form of a game, asking questions for which we thought we knew the answers. Top three winners received a prize. Here's a few examples:

- 1. Can a captain perform marriages?
- 2. Must the captain go down with his ship?
- 3. Who is at fault if a craft runs into an anchored or berthed vessel?
- 4. If I come across a wrecked or derelict vessel, can I claim it as salvage?
- 5. Is the captain or owner of a vessel responsible if a guest or friend is injured on board?

Answers below*



Agathe receiving the Windchime Award for outstanding instruction



Ivan Bulic receiving the Rudy and Frieda Bohm Award, outstanding on the water activity



Gary Small accepting the special recognition on behalf of his wife, Li Decossas



Thank you, Carole, many years of secretary service



CPS-ECP Chief Commander Peter Bolton from Comox



Cdr Jean-Pierre Van Praet pledged in by he C/C



The 2022-2023 Bridge being pledged in by C/C Peter Bolton. Welcome all, and wish you all the best for the coming year



Welcome to the Bridge, Paul O'Sullivan

Gabriola's First Youth Boat Camp

Organized by Agathe and Georgette, and the committee, many Gabriola School students attended this two-day "boat camp" to learn the basic skills in boating. It was an amazing event, well organized, and qualified students for the PCOC who wished to write the exam, many of whom did. The CPS-ECP video simulator was a popular attraction. John Bullas gave valuable information on weather (bottom right). We believe it's a first for CPS-ECP.



The Knotty Workshop



Sean, Agathe and Jean-Pierre instructing people in the workshop on knots, downstaris at the Community Hall.



The Marine Radio Class



The Hakai Project

Heather Earle, daughter of Steven Earle, has undertaken a science project with light traps, to count and measure Dungeness Crab megalopae. What is a megalopa? It's a larva or larval stage following the zoea in the development of most crabs in which the legs and abdominal appendages have appeared, the abdomen is relatively long, and the eyes are large. The little guys are very tiny.

Why is the Squadron involved? CPS-ECP is committed to environment and this project relates to that in terms of the research goals. Besides, it's a fascinating learning experience.

The project involves use of "light traps", devices that attract the megalopae - they have big eyes. There are many stations participating in the research located up and down the BC coast. Descanso Bay has one and ours is at Page's Resort and Marina. We have a number of volunteers from the Squadron as well as some non-members. We are always open to accepting more volunteers to help - it means a visit with someone versed in the process once every couple of weeks or so until September 1. Call Cdr John Van Praet, 250 325-3064 or email johnvanpraet@hotmail.com

Here's a few photos of instruction day.



Courtesy Safety Checks 2022 a Reminder

The Squadron annually offers courtesy safety checks for all pleasure boats. It is provided by approved “checkers” who are volunteers in the Squadron. The program is free and confidential - no personal information is recorded including boat names. It is to help ensure you are up to date with your required safety equipment. Experience has been finding out of date flares, more than four years from date stamped as manufactured. If a Coast Guard inspection of your boat reveals deficiencies - the fine is steep and added on for every deficiency found. This can ruin your day! I have heard of total fines amounting to \$1000! This program is to help you avoid such misery.

Checks anytime on request, but we'll have an organized blitz on the docks of Silva Bay Marina, Page's two locations, and Degnen Bay Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 27-28-29

Contact Bob Wood: phone 250 247-7339, or email bobgwood@gmail.com



Here's a few of the trained “checkers:”



*Quiz Answers

1. NO

In Canada a person must be licensed as a marriage commissioner to perform marriages

2. YES - at least symbolically.

In the sinking of the BC Ferry Queen of the North, the BC Supreme Court upheld firing the captain, even though he wasn't on the bridge at the time.

Longstanding maritime custom, tradition and practise, is that a captain is responsible for his vessel at all times and in all circumstances.

Costa Concordia wrecked in 2012 - Capt Schettino among first to abandon ship.

Italian court sentenced him to 12 years imprisonment.

3. It Depends,

In a collision with a docked vessel - know as a "foul berth" - a mariner may be excused of liability if they can prove they took reasonable care to avoid a collision.

A defendant can plead "inevitable accident" by proving reasonable precautions were taken, and that the collision could not be reasonably foreseen or guarded against by using reasonable precautions under the circumstances.

Collision Regs - Vessels at anchor shall exhibit in the fore part an all-round white light or one ball.

Vessels under 7 mtrs/22 ft, not in a channel, fairway or anchorage, or where other vessels normally navigate, are not required to exhibit an anchor light.

4. NO

A person must try to find an owner to get permission to salvage a wreck.

If none can be found, the Receiver of Wrecks must be notified before any salvage can be undertaken.

The Receiver of Wrecks may sell or dispose of the wreck, or release it to the finder.

A wreck is a ship, boat (kayak, canoe) or aircraft that is stranded, derelict, aground, sunk or partially sunk. A derelict is an abandoned vessel, or one not under control of persons responsible for the craft.

5. YES

Berthage: Slippery docks, poor lighting, refuse or obstructions on dock.

Boarding: Failure to provide safe means of boarding can result in liability.

Hidden hazards: Hatches, companionways, low overheads must be clearly marked.

Alcohol: If you serve alcohol, and guests are injured - e.g leaving the marina - you may be liable.

And finally, to all who have generously supported us:

WE THANK THE BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS LISTED BELOW
FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF OUR SQUADRON'S ACTIVITIES



Mr. & Mrs. Don Powell

Sandi Winter

Dr. Bob Rooks

SEE OUR SQUADRON SPONSORS BOARD
AT EVENTS AROUND THE ISLAND