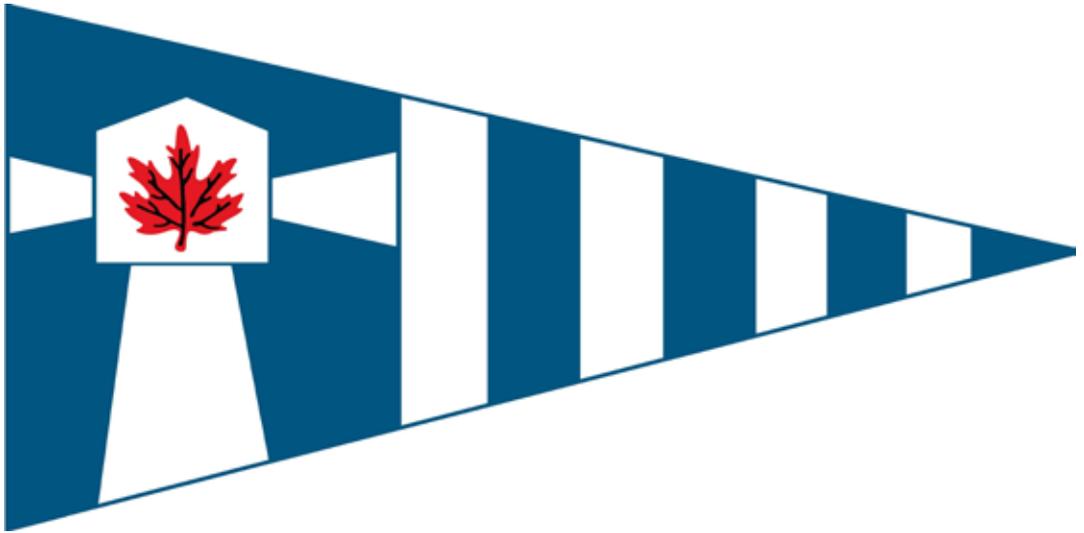


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# Gabriola Island Power and Sail Squadron

Gabriola Power and Sail Squadron

*Hey, it's Spring*

You can still see Bert's voyage at:  
<https://www.sailblogs.com/member/seaburban/>

March - April 2021



## Your Squadron Bridge 2020 – 2021

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
Secretary	Carole Lemieux	250 247-9889
Financial Officer	Jude Briscoe	250 247-8600
Membership Officer	Elaine Pearce	250 247-7538
Webmaster	Andy Hunter	250 325-0857
Communications Officer & Scuttlebutt Editor	Don Butt, <u>AP</u>	250 247-7804
Privacy Officer	Don Butt, <u>AP</u>	250 247-7804
Member at Large	John Bullas	250 739-3295
Member at Large	Ivan Bulic	250 247-2032
Member at Large/RVCC	Bob Wood	250 247-7339

***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”**

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.

Email or phone Squadron XO: Nigel Wells, [nigelwells@shaw.ca](mailto:nigelwells@shaw.ca) or 250 325-0052;

Squadron Educational Officer: Agathe Gaulin, [seo-gabriolaisland@cps-ecp.org](mailto:seo-gabriolaisland@cps-ecp.org) or 250 247-9714

Commander John Van Praet: [johnvanpraet@hotmail.com](mailto: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. No meetings or courses are to be held in person. Meetings are held via Zoom or similar method, as are courses. 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 eased 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**

Members and officers must use the *primary* member’s account when renewing family memberships, otherwise the expiry date won’t update.



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”.

From the Educational Department  
Agathe Gaulin - Educational Officer



End of winter is near. Boat maintenance, repairs and-or cleaning tasks are taking more room on our agendas. And plans for the cruising season are under way.

But we're still in the throes of a pandemic and have had a year to practice the dictates that will keep us healthy: social distancing, wearing masks in indoor public areas, and generally keeping to ourselves and our family "bubbles". We boaters are a lucky bunch in that our preferred activity is outdoors, is usually done with our family members and close friends, and a face covering is often worn when the weather gets nasty. We are resilient and are generally ready and able to take on the elements!

This winter the Gabriola Squadron Educational department hosted a Boating 2-3 and a Boating 4 (previously called Seamanship) course. These courses, like all courses and seminars offered by the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons, are available as online, self-study courses now. Anyone can sign up for these courses at any time. The advantage of joining a "hosted" course is that we had weekly Zoom meetings in which the Instructor reviewed the material covered online, answered questions, and encouraged students to interact to learn from each other's experiences.

Several Gabriola boaters took part in these courses, wrote the exams, and passed with flying colours! The PCOC online course and the Radio operator's certificate (Roc-M) courses also continue to be popular choices for Islanders. Until this pandemic is completely over, there will not be any classroom, in-person courses offered on Gabriola. So, if you wish to take a course to improve on your qualifications and boating knowledge, your best choice is the CPS-ECP online Moodle learning platform! Anyone wanting support in registering or completing a course, is encouraged to contact the Gabriola Squadron Education Officer, Agathe Gaulin at [seo-gabriolaisland@cps-ecp.org](mailto:seo-gabriolaisland@cps-ecp.org). Wishing all a healthy "end of winter"!

Agathe Gaulin, Educational Officer

**PS. Please note Agathe's email contact for all CPS-ECP Squadron activity  
[seo-gabriolaisland@cps-ecp.org](mailto:seo-gabriolaisland@cps-ecp.org)**



## From the Wheelhouse\* John Van Praet - Commander



Here we are, nearing the end of winter and the first days of spring! Our Gabriola Squadron has been very busy in the educational and membership departments, and unfortunately not busy at all otherwise, i.e. no social events and no outdoor activities (yet).

The online “blended” Boating 2+3 and Boating 4 Courses have been a great success, with a total of 19 students, 5 from Gabriola and 14 from elsewhere.

These courses had started in the fall of 2020 and finished just recently. Thank you Agathe and Nigel and the various Squadron members who have been helping out, by taking on the instruction of parts of the course or by tutoring one or another student. It has been a joint effort. Great!

Elaine, who is in charge of “Membership” has also done great work, by contacting members of the Squadron who might have had problems renewing their membership and helping them out doing just that! As of January 25th, our Squadron had 61 members. Thank you, Elaine!

We are reviewing as to whether our Squadron could organize or participate in any activities on Gabriola Island this spring and summer, under the current COVID19 situation. Regarding boat checks, or RVCCs as we know them, we are not planning on carrying them out as we did in 2019 and prior years. CPS and this Squadron do not want anybody to be put at risk. This will be reviewed again at the end of March.

Our National Organization, Canadian Power Squadrons-Escadrilles Canadiennes de Plaisance CPS-ECP has been very busy. Essentially CPS-ECP is facing a serious financial problem due to fewer courses being taught and ongoing declining membership. Indeed, some private companies deliver many times more boating courses than CPS does. This problem has been exacerbated by the introduction of the new IT system, now more than a year ago, which has made it difficult for a lot of members to renew their membership. The problem has been further worsened by the COVID 19 situation: a lot less courses are being taught across the country because of it, since many Squadrons are reluctant or hesitant to offer online “blended” courses.

But when boater and navigators face problems, they continuously assess the situation and set out looking for and applying solutions. CPS is studying a New Business Plan which may include

- a New Name and Logo
- a focus on significantly increasing each Squadron’s participation in course delivery.
- a Marketing plan for our courses, especially PCOC (Pleasure Craft Operator Card) and ROC(M) (Radio Course)
- a secondary focus on CPS benefits and attracting students to become members
- new financial guidelines for Squadrons (Squadrons should have between 1.5 and 2 years of operating funds in the bank, no more)

CPS-ECP is close to decide on a major change of course for the organization. I for one am con-

fidient that with Chief Commandeer Peter Bolton at the helm, we will succeed in getting to deep water again, in the foreseeable future!!

Jean-Pierre Van Praet, Commander



## **The Barton Trophy**

### **Awarded to Bert terHart 2020**



### *The Ocean Cruising Club Announces Awards for 2020*

By Daria Blackwell | 23/01/2021

Despite a pandemic raging throughout the year, the OCC Awards Subcommittee has found numerous achievements to recognize in the cruising world.

The Club's premier award, The OCC Barton Cup, which salutes an exceptional or challenging voyage or series of voyages, goes to Bert terHart, s/v Seaburban. This non-stop, non-sponsored, solo circumnavigation via the five Capes was conducted entirely without the use of GPS or other electronic aids to navigation. The seven-month voyage is believed to be a world record for the longest duration in quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic. Bert's navigational skill and seamanship set a magnificent ex-

ample to all distance sailors. Bert was the recipient of an OCC Challenge Grant which was instituted to help support particularly adventurous or environmentally conscious endeavors.

Ed. Note..

Daria Blackwell is Vice Commodore, Ocean Cruising Club.

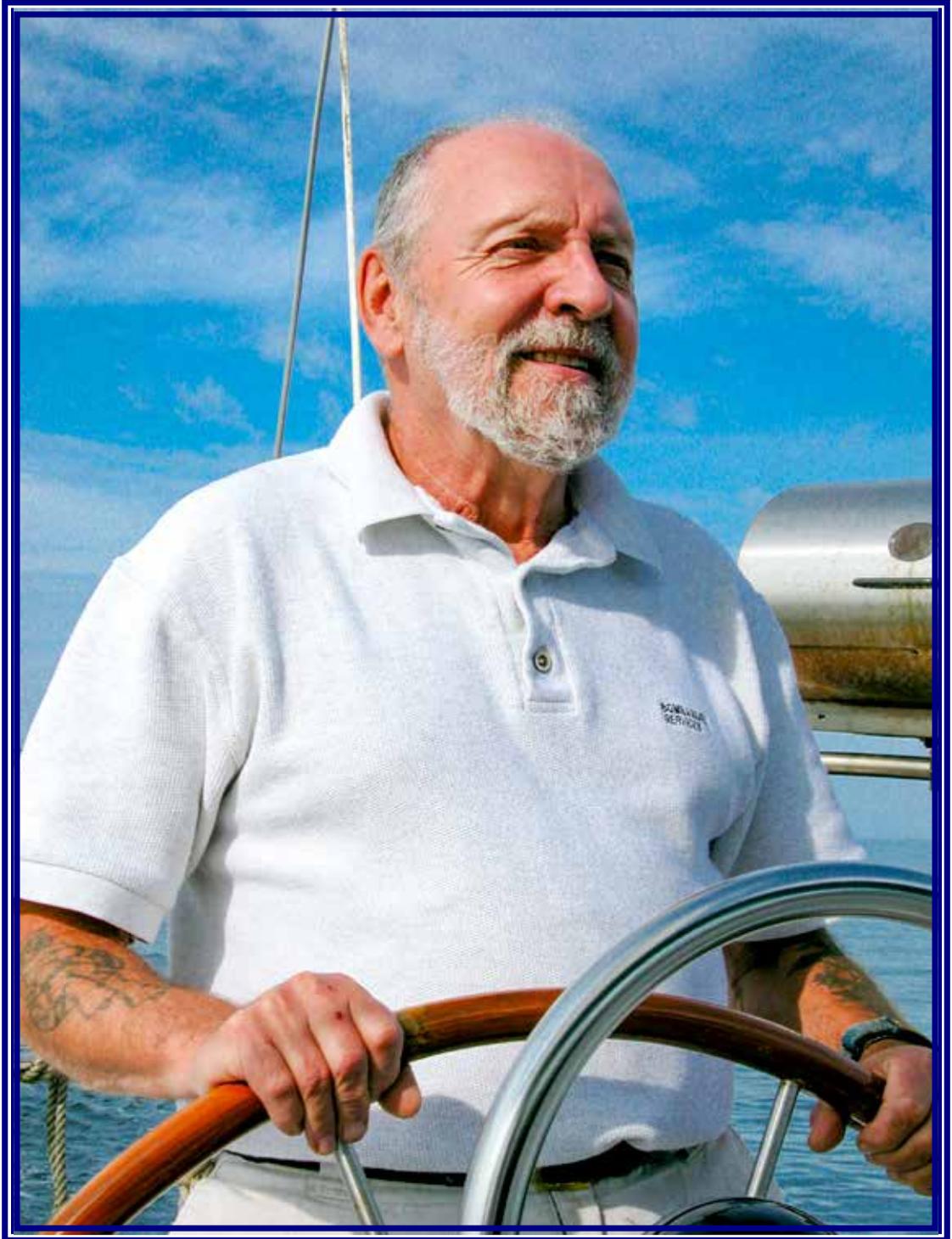
Normally recipients are flown to England to be presented with the trophy by a member of the Royal Family, patron of the OCC. This is the highest recognition an amateur sailor can receive.

Bert has been in demand to present his story by Zoom many times.



Bert has presented to a number of organizations, narrating and showing by PowerPoint the dramatic features of his voyage, and lessons learned from the experience. He is presenting to the Vancouver Boat Show twice, to those signed up to “attend” virtually the boat show. He is also presenting locally to PHC on Friday, Feb 26 at 1030.

*In Memoriam - Hugh Sproule*



## *Hugh Sproule 1934-2021*

Hugh passed away suddenly January 18 at home. He was the engine that made the Gabriola Squadron happen in 1996 with the help of the Nanaimo Squadron. He recruited the 25 members CPS-ECP requires to form a Squadron and navigated the details from there.

Hugh was born in Port Credit Ontario, and became active in the fledgling Port Credit Squadron, where I sailed from originally. Hugh was a member of the Royal Canadian Navy, with which he sailed on the east coast and served in Korea and held the rank of Navy Lieutenant. He sailed for fun in several boats, and "Little Bear" was the last boat on the east coast he owned before moving west.

Hugh was also an avid sports supporter and coached young people swimming competitively. He was associated with the YMCA.

He and his wife Jean owned a B&B for several years on Gabriola Island, which they called "Windchime", hence the name of the award Hugh donated to the Squadron, the Windchime Award for outstanding contribution to training.

We became acquainted with Hugh and Jean only days after moving here in 1996 - they were neighbours barely a block away. It was Hugh who initiated me into the world of CPS-ECP and instructed me together with Mike Hoeinghaus in my first Boating Course. He instructed Boat-ing Seamanship, and Advanced Piloting Courses for years in the Gabriola Squadron, and served as Commander, the original Scuttlebutt editor and other positions. He was always ready to help anyone with their work in the Squadron.

Hugh and Jean were active in the United Church, and though Hugh had a good singing voice, I was never successful in recruiting him as a choir member. Jean was the church pianist for years.

Hugh was never short of a story, and he could provide the entertainment for an evening's dinner at the slightest provocation. His seamanship knowledge was deep and stories were rich.

We miss Hugh and are so grateful for his generous contribution to the life of the Gabriola Squadron. Our sincere condolences go out to Jean and the family.

Don



***Bee Churcher, 1932-2020***



Winnifred Beatrice Mary Churcher, or Bee as we all knew her, beloved wife of our Squadron Life Member, Rufus Churcher, passed away peacefully in Victoria in November 2020. She was born in Kenya and grew up in Uganda where her family owned a farm. She married Rufus in 1959 and lived in the UK moved to Toronto in 1955 where Rufus held the position of professor of zoology at University of Toronto. Rufus and Bee traveled widely where Rufus was supervising the archeological digs. They moved to Gabriola in 1995 and to Victoria in 2014 but Rufus remains as a life member of the Gabriola Power and Sail Squadron.

Bee was a “regular” at the Squadron social events. She was an excellent photographer and knowledgeable gardener, sculpting the natural wild growth into beautiful form. We shared many a happy hour on A Cappella and in their home. It was a fortuitous coincidence birthdays of Bee and Rufus coincided resulting in twice yearly memorable celebrations with fine dining.

She was a gracious lady and a warm friend. We miss her. Our sincere condolences go out to Rufus and the family.

Don

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## ***Helping During COVID-19*** ***From Elaine Pearce, Social Committee***



It has occurred to me that, because of COVID-19, we have not had any squadron events in person. We always had a box to collect stuff for People for a Healthy Community (PHC) as well as one for cash or cheques. I would be willing to collect such stuff on our front doorstep and contribute it to PHC on behalf of the squadron.

I will have a box clearly marked ***Gabriola Power Squadron Supports PHC*** on my front doorstep during daylight hours during the month of March. There will also be a box to collect cash or cheques. My address is ***3465 South Road (at Silva Bay)***.

(Thank you Elaine for this great idea.)

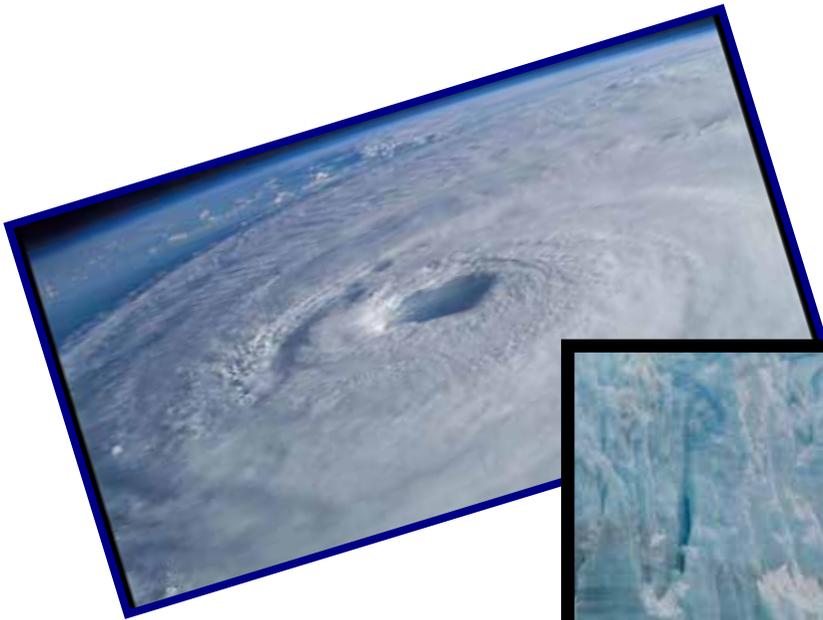
## *How Climate Change Is Affecting Boating* *By Charles Fort*

Charles Fort has written a disturbing article on climate change and how it is affecting boating. It is published in Boat.US. It is worth a read.

<https://www.boatus.com/app/views/201810/how-climate-change-is-affecting-boating.asp>

He writes, “Here’s how stronger storms, varying water levels and currents, and more weather anomalies are affecting the pastime we love.” The article notes the rising ocean levels, already being confirmed, not much yet, but enough to have significant effects on low lying areas. Some of the strongest storms ever recorded have occurred recently. An 11% increase in wind speed, which is in the predictions, results in 60% increase in damage according experts at NOAA.

What is of real concern is the slowing of the gulf stream, with the fresh water of the melting glaciers disrupting the sinking of the heavier salty water, impeding the flow of the gulf stream, reducing the heat to the northern countries.



## *COVID Chuckles*

I hope they give us two weeks notice before sending us back out into the real world. I think we'll all need the time to become ourselves again. And by "ourselves" I mean lose 10 pounds, cut our hair and get used to not drinking at 9:00 a.m.

New monthly budget: Gas \$0 Entertainment \$0 Clothes \$0 Groceries \$2,799.

Breaking News: Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to stop COVID-19, but to stop eating.

When this quarantine is over, let's not tell some people.

I stepped on my scale this morning. It said: "Please practice social distancing. Only one person at a time on scale."

Not to brag, but I haven't been late to anything in over 6 weeks.

It may take a village to raise a child but I swear its going to take a vineyard to home-school one.

I wanted zombies and anarchy. Instead we got working from home and toilet paper shortages. Worst. Apocalypse. Ever.

Day 37: The garbage man placed an AA flyer on my recycling bin.

The spread of Covid-19 is based on two things:

1. How dense the population is.
2. How dense the population is.



# More Chuckles



"You're still too close."



"Please hold while we bring you the complete works of Johann Sebastian Bach."



I JUST WANT TO END 2020 ON A HIGH NOTE AND THEN GIVE IT A REST.



"You are perfectly sound."

The perfect note  
Thank you, doc!

*We say thank you 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

Christine Purfield

Dr. Bob Rooks

SEE OUR SQUADRON SPONSORS BOARD IS AT EVENTS AROUND THE ISLAND