



TILLER TOPICS



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REPORTS

News From Our Membership Director



June 16th, and it's another deadline for Tiller Topics. All the boats are now floating after another successful Crane Day and we're on the verge of another summer boating season.

We've weathered Mother Nature's wrath during the *Vernon Regatta*—most of us, thankfully, unscathed.

I'm sure this regatta will be a topic of conversation for some time to come. A shout-out is certainly warranted to those who braved the weather to check on and assist others on the water—thank you. Aboard *Atanua*, we were personally visited by the RCMP and even someone on a Sea-Doo—yes, a Sea-Doo!—as we pitched and rolled on a vacant mooring. Kudos as well to the organizers and volunteers who made the regatta a fun and successful event for everyone involved. I know I had a blast!

This past spring, we've been hit with tariffs from our southern neighbours and endured the turmoil of a federal election. Our VYC membership saw a slight downturn, likely driven by economic concerns. I've spoken with a few prospective members who decided to hold off on joining due to financial worries—and I can't say I blame them. After all, recreational activities are usually funded by the surplus we have after covering life's essentials.

Membership Director Report *(continued from previous page)*

That said, I think we're beginning to come to terms with the "new normal," and in the past month, we've seen a welcome uptick in new membership applications.

To those returning for another boating season—welcome back! And to our freshly minted VYC members—welcome aboard! To the old hats around here, let's be sure to give our newcomers a hearty welcome. I'm sure some have a few questions needing answers.

Numbers time. To date we have; Regular 325, Affiliate 34, Social 99, Honorary 1, and Life 7. Total Membership is **466**.

Wishing you all a fun and safe boating season this summer.

Simon J



2025 VERNON REGATTA WRAP UP

After five months of planning, the 2025 Vernon Regatta came to life during the May 30, 31, and June 1 weekend. The result was an event enjoyed by participants from all clubs. Attendees included regular members and past Commodores from VYC, KYC, and PYC, the current Vice

Commodore from KYC, and Commodores from NOSA and COSA. A total of 22 boats registered with approximately 75 skippers and crew from clubs including Kelowna, Summerland, Penticton, and Vernon. The core regatta team was comprised of Robb P, Liam F, Kate S, Carol & Don C, Sue R, Mike R, and Bob A, along with the many other valued volunteers



Calm before the Storm

and staff who contributed to the regatta's success.

The weekend included the Friday Whiskey Island race, races on Saturday and Sunday in the Vernon Arm, and the Santana 525 Nationals. As well, participants enjoyed Saturday's delicious dinner and great dance music by the McKinley Band.



Bar Scene



Regatta Dance

(continued on next page)

2025 Vernon Regatta Wrap Up *(continued from previous page)*

The Vernon Regatta is often considered one of the racer's favourites, and that's because of our friendly staff and excellent service, exceptional volunteer support, delicious meals, a welcoming small-town club atmosphere, and fun extras like themed photo backdrops, slideshows, rum tasting, and door prizes from a variety of sponsors. Also, our emphasis is on fun over competitiveness, including a cruiser/white sail class for beginners and tired sailors.

While the weekend featured great racing conditions overall, Saturday afternoon saw a sudden and severe storm. Winds far exceeded the forecasted 20–40 km/h, reaching over 80 km/h. Racing was suspended, and boats returned to safe harbour with some great difficulty amid the squall.



Carvers



Framed



Big Storm on Saturday Afternoon

The 2025 Vernon Regatta was met with enthusiasm and positive feedback. The overall sense is the event increased club revenue, strengthened interclub relationships, and upheld VYC's already great reputation. Thank you to all who sponsored, supported, and took part. A special thank you goes to the Committee Boat team made up of boat owner Peter W, KYC Race Officer Steve B, NOSA assistant John H, and VYC assistants Barb R and Art B.

Thanks also to our scoring team for the weekend including Debbie Z, Cheryl M, and of course Carol C!

Want a collector's item from one of the wildest, waviest, windiest weekends in VYC history? We have extra hats and shirts for sale in the office for \$25. Like the famous Edvard Munch painting portrayed on the shirts, this regatta was a Scream!

Bob A
Regatta Co-Chair



Sponsors of the 2025 Vernon Regatta

STAFF CAPTAIN REPORT

WELCOME TO SUMMER 2025 AT THE VYC!



A warm welcome to all our new members — and to all members, we hope you enjoy a fun-filled and memorable summer at VYC. There are countless ways to connect, relax, and celebrate with fellow members, friends, and family throughout the season. Whether you're taking in a casual *Sunday Brunch*, *Friday Steak Night*, or our *Wednesday Burger BBQ*, or simply unwinding on the lakefront deck during our **extended weekend summer hours** (see **page 15** for details on food services and Gangplank hours), there's always something happening at your club.

Mark your calendars for some of the bigger events this season:

- **Commodore's Ball and Sail Past**, a tradition-rich celebration of our nautical heritage (see articles on the next two pages)
- **Canada Birthday Bash on Saturday, July 5**, featuring live music by *Feet First*, thanks to a generous donation from *Okanagan Restoration Services* through a charity auction
- **Rib Fest on Saturday, August 2** when you can become famous for your delicious ribs! Think your ribs are the best? See the Staff Captain to enter your team.
- Our ever-popular **Pig Roast**, now expanded to two Saturdays — **September 6 and 13**. And don't be surprised if more pop-up events drop as the summer sails along!

Behind the scenes, your executive team continues working hard to ensure your experience at VYC is exceptional. Part of this commitment includes fostering a positive, respectful atmosphere for all. We recently updated our **Code of Conduct policy** to reflect that commitment — and we encourage all members to review it. Respect for fellow members, guests, and staff is essential to the welcoming environment we all value. The **full policy** can be found in the **office** at the **front counter**.

Many boaters at VYC have been eagerly awaiting a policy on dock boxes for storing items like cleaning supplies, extra lines, and cushions. Well, Dock Box Policy No. 19 is finally here. Dock boxes require written approval before installation and must be selected from the approved list. The full policy including how to apply, and the addendum on size and construction, can be found in the office at the front counter.

Here's to a fantastic summer on the lake!

Your Staff Captain, Bob A

The logo for Okanagan Restoration Services Ltd. features a stylized red mountain range above the company name in blue, which is underlined. Below the name is another stylized red mountain range.

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THE SAIL PAST

PRESENT DAY

The world of yachting is steeped in traditions, and one of the most significant is the *Commodore's Sail Past*. This year, the *Vernon Yacht Club* will host its Sail Past on **Sunday, June 22nd**, in front of the club on Okanagan Lake. It's fascinating to think that as we sail past the commodore in 2025, we are partaking in a ritual that dates back **600 years**. Originally, Admirals would review entire navies on special occasions to assess readiness and capability, and to show respect to the Commander-in-Charge. Over the last 200 years, this naval tradition has evolved, with thousands of yacht clubs around the world performing a "review of the fleet."



The Sail Past marks the official start of the boating season. Tradition dictates that all Club members participate in the Sail Past, on their own or on another member's yacht. Etiquette requires that a member unable to participate will send their regrets to the Commodore.

Mark **Sunday June 22nd** on your calendar. Let's empty the yacht club basin of boats, break out our Canadian flags and begin to form a single line of boats, following our past commodores and visiting commodores from the clubs of Okanagan Lake, as we sail past the commodore. Consider this invitation an opportunity to prove the seaworthiness of your vessel.

Please join us for brunch, partake in this interesting naval tradition, and then enjoy a fabulous day on the water. See the related article on joining the Sail Past at VYC on the next page.

Cheers from your Staff Captain,
Bob A



Commodore Fred Haight & Anne Haight
Invite You To Attend

SAILPAST

Sunday June 22, 2025
Vernon Yacht Club
Sunday Brunch 9:00 am

STARTING TIME: Approximately 11:00 am
Grand March to B Deck for Flag Raising
Pay the Piper to Commodore Fred Haight
Flag Raising Ceremony
Blessing of the Fleet
Pipe down from B Deck to docks for
Sail Past

Please RSVP by June 14, 2025 to
office@vernonyachtclub.com

Please let us know if you want to take part in the on water portion of the event and if you have your own boat or not.

We will have a boat for visiting dignitaries.

How to Take Part in the 2025 Sail Past

The Sail Past is on **Sunday, June 22nd!**

Let's empty the basin of our boats, do the sail past, and enjoy a fun day on the water!

STARTING TIME: Approximately 11:30 am

PLEASE MONITOR VHF CHANNEL 72

DRESSING YOUR BOAT:

SAILING FLEET: Secure your VYC Burgee above the sail squadron flag (if you have one) on the outer starboard shroud. The Canadian flag flies from the stern.

POWER FLEET: The VYC Burgee is mounted on the bow flagstaff. The Canadian flag flies from the stern.

VESSELS SHOULD PROCEED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1. Past Vernon Yacht Club Commodores
2. Visiting Commodores/ Dignitaries
3. Current Executive
4. Sailing Fleet (under power) Lead by Bob Annand
5. Power Fleet
6. Visitors



The Commodore's boat will be moored at the white sailing fleet start line marker buoy, north of the breakwater.

Each group should form up south west of the Commodore's boat and the log breakwater; circling in a counter clockwise direction, approximately 2 boat lengths between each vessel. Boats should pass the Commodore's boat on the starboard side at a distance of approximately 30 meters at a speed of 5 knots or less.

Each boat's Canadian flag should be dipped or gathered for approximately 5 seconds during the salute as you pass the Commodore's boat. (a crew member may gather the flag against the flagstaff, releasing it after passing the Commodore) At the same time, Captains (wearing hats please) will salute the Commodore for 5 seconds while passing the Commodore's boat. Crew should stand or sit upright and facing the Commodore's boat.

Thank You for Attending the 2025 Sail Past.

Bob A

You are cordially invited to the
Vernon Yacht Club
COMMODORE'S BALL
Saturday June 21, 2025 5:00 PM



Champaign Reception 5:00 PM
Dinner at 6:30 pm Dance at 8:00 PM

Menu	Tickets \$65.00	Sail Past
Prime Rib	Dress is semi-formal	Sunday June 22, 2025
Baked Salmon	Music by McKinley Band	
Vegetarian Meal on Request		

R.S.V.P. by June 14th, 2025
250-545-5518 ext 1 or 3 or office@vernonyachtclub.com

MICHAEL THOMAS - OBITUARY

March 19, 1941 - April 28, 2025

Mike was born in the midst of an air raid in London England. After the war he and his mother immigrated to Canada and settled in Vancouver BC.

Mike met the love of his life, Jill, at a bus stop after work, they were only 18. Mike and Jill started their family and moved around the interior before finally settling in Vernon where they raised their family.

Mike always enjoyed hosting an amazing party and loved to play music at the loudest his speakers, and the audience, could handle. Mike and Jill loved traveling the world and cherished their many adventures together.

Mike filled his life with many passions; skiing, volunteer ski patrol, cars, gardening, and sailing. After retirement Mike took pride being the commodore of the *Vernon Yacht Club* and loved the community he found there. Mike was known to love many dogs and roses over the years.

Mike is survived and will be missed by his loving wife Jill; brother Dan; children Kim (Kari), Hollie (Grant), Mike Jr (Cathy); grandchildren Connor, Tyler, Joshua, and Olivia; and extended family. A **Celebration of Life** for Mike will be held on **September 20, 2025**. In lieu of flowers please donate to *BC Cancer* or the *North Okanagan Hospice Society*.



Memories of Mike by Lawrence Johnson

I served at VYC for numerous year's with Mike, first as Directors on council under Commodore Tim Amy. Mike was always ready and available to do any task required while putting his business and sales experience to good use for the club. He quickly went from Director to Vice Commodore and helped renew and shape the bylaws still used at the club.

Mike went on to serve as Commodore and I served with him as Vice Commodore. Mike was instrumental in the renovations of the club house and kitchen, organizing, placing orders and working on all aspects of the club with meticulous detail. He had his hands in everything down to the garden plants in the yard. He and his wife Jill put in countless hours organizing events and connecting with the other Yacht clubs on the Lake all with a big smile on his face. He was a good man and a great friend and was a very important part of the club's development to what it is today. He will be truly missed!

Past Commodore Lawrence Johnson

2025 OKANAGAN LAKE SWIM

World Record Title Attempt by Robyn Coleman



"Thank you to the *Vernon Yacht Club* for your support in the start of our journey", says Robyn Coleman, a 19-year-old open water swimmer from Alberta.

"I will be attempting to set a brand-new Guinness World Record official title: Fastest time to swim the length of Okanagan Lake (female) to raise funds and awareness for the Heart & Stroke Foundation. A cause close to me as a paediatric stroke survivor."

The event consists of a continuous wetsuit swim spanning 106km/65.9 miles, from the left arm of Lake Okanagan by the city of Vernon, to the complete other side of the lake, finishing in the city of Penticton.

"My goal is to complete the swim in under 50 hours (or just under 2 days)."

The only related current record is set at 40 hours 57 minutes and 11 seconds by a male named Adam Ellenstein who completed the feat in 2016.



Blues in Sea Greets Swimmer Robyn



No woman has completed the entire distance to date. The closest being Ann Meraw in 1958 with a distance of 88km.

To contribute or to learn more information visit www.robyncoleman.com.

Vernon Yacht Club's Bob and Sarah on *Blues in Sea* sailed up the North Arm on **Sunday June 15** and

greeted Robyn with her crew of kayaks and support boat as she was about a mile off shore. They were delighted to see us cheering her on at the start of her big swim.

LADIES' NIGHT

CLOSES OUT 2025 SEASON!

Thank you to so many ladies for attending, bringing friends and contributing to a great year. Big shout out to Kim M. and Lisa E. for helping with the smooth running of every event! Big shout out to Corinne in the kitchen who kept coming up with great menus to change it up from the regular menu! Another big shout out to Rachel and Grace in the bar who brought special drinks to the evenings and were always on hand to help with serve it right pourings for our tasting evenings!



And a huge thank you to our Guest Speakers

- Missy Dobernigg at *Cambium Cider*
- The entire *Optimists Club* for hosting their Annual event with us
- Lilly S. and Marilyn M. for teaching us how to make sushi
- Barrita Durward from *Cottons Chocolates* for leading us through a chocolate appreciation night
- Shelley Ward for designing and hosting our first ever Cruise Night
- Lorna Robb for teaching us to do the Charleston dance
- Michael and Mary Durant from *Perch Winery* and Cheryl Eedens from *Vernon Vintners* with fabulous local wines and dealcoholized wines

What a great fun year!

Get ready Ladies – we start up again **September 18th 2025!**



We will run every third Thursday of the month – so make a note in your calendars and make the third Thursday a regular for you and your gal pals! And to all new Ladies to the Club – don't hesitate to come on down even if you don't know anyone – we'll get you seated with a whole bunch of new friends!

Ideas are welcome always for this upcoming season – give Sarah a call anytime – 250 241 4664.

Sarah K



VYC CLUB SAIL RACING

Hello Members! May 28th marked the end of our Spring Series for Sailboat racing at VYC. As of June 4th, we're now into the Summer Series. Congratulations to the winners in each of the 3 fleets:

A Fleet

1st Place: Ayesha – Done and Carol C

2nd Place: RI – Bob A

3rd Place: Mystique – Lyle E

B Fleet

1st Place: Stormy – Dave P

2nd Place: Cimmaron – Roger P

3rd Place: Valuta – Bill C

C Fleet

1st Place: Sea Raven – Cindy K

2nd Place: Eclipse - Wayne and Darla H

3rd Place: Niners – Fraser and Teresa B



Split Decision and Ayesha Battling

We have approximately 25 boats participating in the club racing this year. Following the Spring Series, several of the boats in C fleet chose to move to B fleet. As such, moving forward into the Summer Series, we will have 2 fleets: A & B.

Feel free to contact me through the office if you'd like more information about joining the fun.

Robb P

VYC Racing Chair

Boating Tip of the Month...

Tip #1) Apply hand-brake firmly in the yacht club parking lot!



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Steve Bertram
PREC*



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-OR-
for Landlubbers,
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KNOT 51 CANADA BIRTHDAY BASH

A special birthday party will be held at VYC on **Saturday July 5th**, and you are invited! It's the Knot 51 Canada Birthday Bash.

It's special because *Feet First* will be playing *Oh Canada* along with all their great dance tunes.

It's special because the band is courtesy of *Okanagan Restoration Services Ltd*, so the ticket price is \$15 and includes a free drink ticket (beer, 6 oz wine, single high ball).

It's different because this time we have an optional Beef Dip and/or Special Appie menu that you can order at the bar.

Doors open at **5:30 pm**

Dinner is available at **6:30 pm**

Music & Dancing starts at **7:30 pm**

Book Your Tickets Now!

We look forward to seeing you there!

VYC'S
KNOT 51 CANADA BIRTHDAY BASH
SATURDAY JULY 5TH
WITH MUSIC BY: FEET FIRST!

TICKETS \$15!
FREE DRINK TICKET!

OPTIONAL BEEF DIP DINNER
THANK YOU TERRY M!
FEET FIRST COURTESY OF OKANAGAN RESTORATION
SPECIAL APPIES TOO!
PLINK PLINK

DOORS OPEN 5:30 PM, DINNER AVAILABLE 6:30 PM, MUSIC & DANCING 7:30 PM
DRESS CODE: ALL THINGS CANADIAN
TO BOOK CALL 250-545-5518 PRESS 3 OR 1

SPRING FLING FUN

A small but mighty crowd danced up a storm to one of VYC's favourite bands - *Feet First*. This lively and lovely evening highlighted the return of the snowbirds and the unofficial kick off to our boating season.

Many great events are upcoming in 2025, and we look forward to members and guests coming out to enjoy the great club atmosphere.



Feet First Always Connects with the Dancers



Surprise Appearance by John Travolta Lite

Spring Fling Fun *(continued from previous page)*

Corinne fuelled up the dancers with a delicious springtime feast that included Creamy Tuscan Chicken, Rice pilaf, and seasonal oven roasted vegetables.

At 7:30 the music started, and the dance floor was full for the night with *Feet First* playing all our favs.

Behind the bar, Rachel and Grace kept spirits high and were on hand for tequila shot requests. That may have provided the courage for some of the dance crowd to join the band for a song or two. Fun Times!

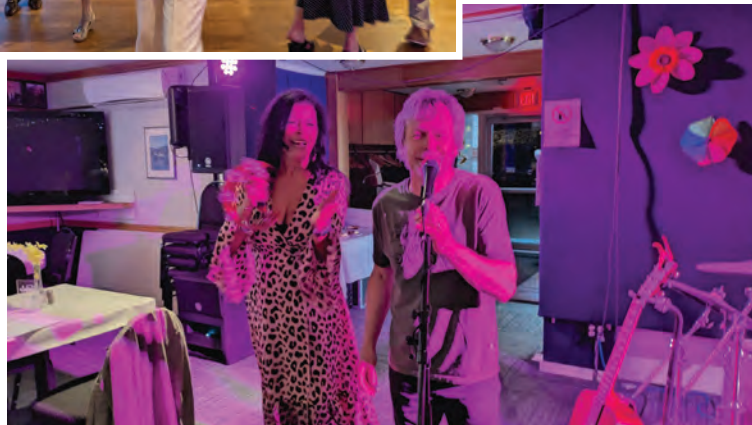


Corinne Provided a Delicious Meal for the Spring Fling



Feet First Caused a Dance Storm

*Generous Portions
by Chef Corinne
as always*



Feet First Dave with Tamborinist Cindy T



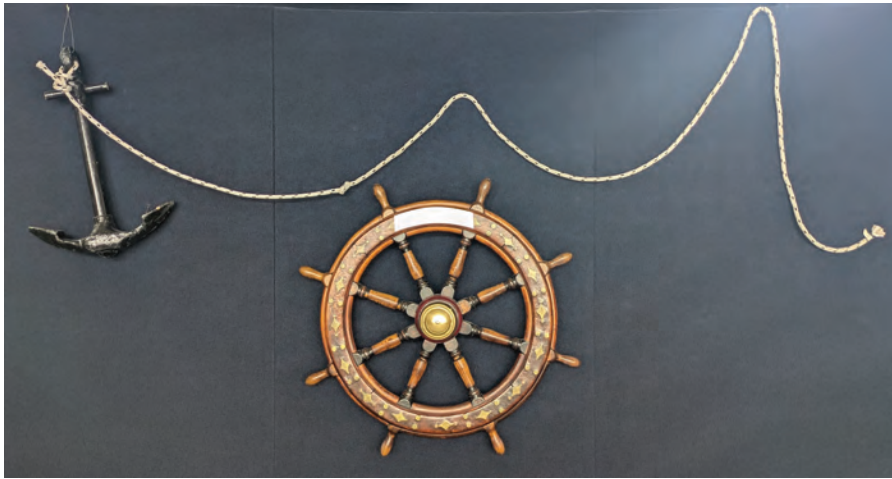
Feet First Playing the Spring Fling



A Small But Mighty Crowd Danced to the End of Time

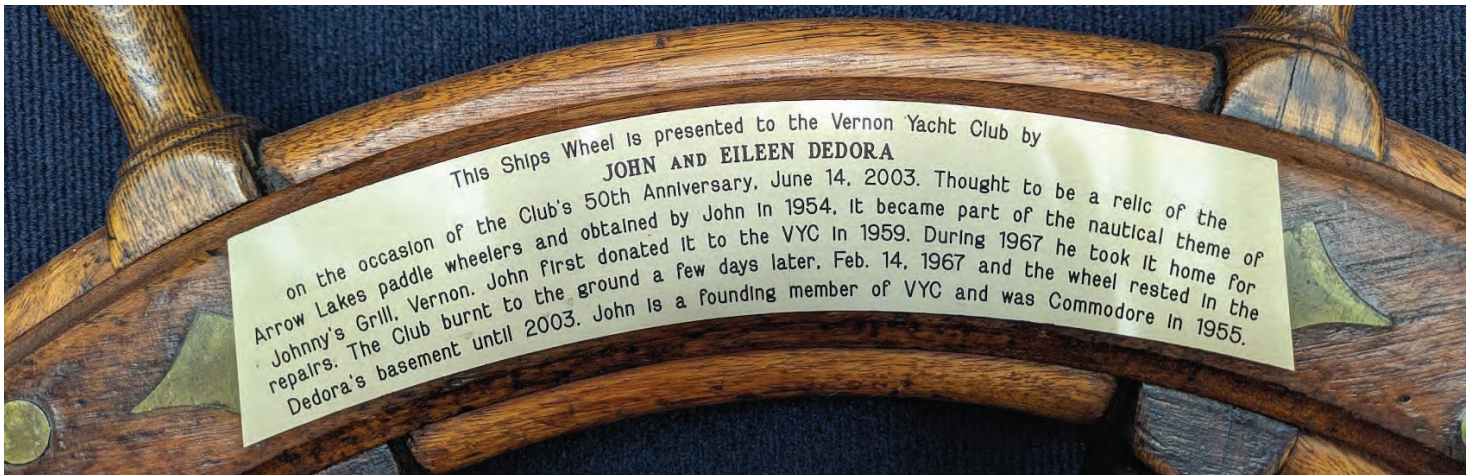
THE BIG WHEEL AT VYC

It's easy to walk into the Vernon Yacht Club and not give a second glance to some of the décor around us. But when you pause and take a closer look, you'll find a treasure trove of history in the trophies, plaques, and artifacts throughout the building.



One striking piece that catches the eye is the large ship's wheel mounted on the feature wall in the Gangplank. This is no mere decoration—it's a genuine artifact and a piece of British Columbia's maritime history, dating back to the era when paddle wheelers traveled the inland waters of our province. The plaque beneath the wheel offers a glimpse into this history, as well as a tribute to one

of the club's earliest commodores, John Dedora. If you take a closer look, you'll find the story of how the wheel came to be part of the Yacht Club's heritage.



"This Ship's Wheel is presented to the Vernon Yacht Club by JOHN AND EILEEN DEDORA on the occasion of the Club's 50th Anniversary, June 14, 2003. Thought to be a relic of the Arrow Lakes paddle wheelers and obtained by John in 1954, it became part of the nautical theme of Johnny's Grill, Vernon. John first donated it to the VYC in 1959. During 1967 he took it home for repairs. The Club burnt to the ground a few days later on Feb. 14, 1967 and the wheel rested in the Dedora's basement until 2003. John is a founding member of VYC and was Commodore in 1955."

Find an old salty dog around the club, buy them a beer, and chances are they'll gladly spin a few yarns about some of the artifacts.

While we're on the subject of decorations, we owe much of the club's welcoming and vibrant atmosphere to our dedicated decorating team. Their thoughtful efforts bring charm and character ...



Table Ship Ornaments



They bring charm and character to every event, from themed decorations and freshly sewn tablecloths inside, to hanging baskets and flowers around the building, to the colourful flags that brighten the docks. A special thanks go out to *Annie G, Susan M, Gerald G, and Rob M* whose creative touch helps make the club feel like home.



BRUNCHES GALORE

Lucky Mothers and Fathers were treated to delicious brunches at the *Vernon Yacht Club* on their respective special days. Corinne and the kitchen crew added thoughtful touches to the buffet, including home-made cinnamon buns, assorted pinwheel roll-ups, ginger beef, mini quiches, and vegetarian spring rolls — all enhancing the classic brunch lineup..

Brunch favourites included bacon, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, perogies and hashbrowns, toast, waffles, yogurt, a fresh fruit platter, fruit salad, and assorted desserts.

Take a break from your own kitchen and join us any Sunday this summer — brunch is always on! It's the best value in the valley, served with great food, drinks, and a relaxed waterfront atmosphere. Refreshments are available at the bar, where Rachel and Grace offer the full selection.

Cost: **\$22.50 for members** — an unbeatable deal and a great way to use your House Account.



To reserve your spot, call Rachel or Grace at 250-545-5518 ext. 3.

We look forward to seeing you!

The Vernon Yacht Club



GANGPLANK - summer hours

FOOD SERVICE HOURS & MENU

Monday:	Closed	
Tuesday:	Taco Night	5:00pm - 8:00pm
Wednesday:	Burger Buffet, Appy's & Pizza	5:00pm - 8:00pm
Thursday:	Summer Menu	5:00pm - 8:00pm
Friday:	Barbecue your own Steak or Salmon	6:00pm - 8:30pm
Saturday:	Soup & Sandwich	12:00pm - 3:00pm
	Appetizer Menu & Pizza	4:00pm - 8:00pm
Sunday:	Brunch	10:00am - 1:00pm
	Appetizer Menu & Pizza	4:00pm - 8:00pm

BAR HOURS

Monday:	Closed
Tuesday:	4:00pm - 10:00pm
Wednesday:	4:00pm - 10:00pm
Thursday:	4:00pm - 10:00pm
Friday:	4:00pm - 11:00pm
Saturday:	12:00pm - 10:00pm
Sunday:	10:00am - 8:00pm

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday thru Friday	9:00am - 2:00pm
Saturday	8:00am - 4:00pm

Bar staff can be reached at 250-545-5518, Ext 3 during Gang Plank Hours.



Tiller Topics ARTICLE submission DEADLINES!

Mon SEP 8, 2025 – Sep/Oct issue (Summer Event reports - 16 pages)

Mon NOV 17, 2025 – Nov/Dec issue (AGM & Executive introduction edition - 22 pages)

Mon JAN 12, 2026 – Jan/Feb/Mar issue (Christmas & New Year's edition - 14 pages)

Mon APR 6, 2026 – Apr/May issue (Boat Show edition - 22 pages)

Mon JUN 8, 2026 – Jun/Jul/Aug issue (Commodore sail-by & Summer edition - 14 pages)

VERNON YACHT CLUB DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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