



TILLER TOPICS

2026 Vernon Boat Show Edition

REPORTS

NEWS FROM OUR COMMODORE



The clocks have sprung ahead, the days are getting longer and warmer, Crane Day has taken place, and most boats are out of the parking lot. Phew! Over the past couple of weeks there has been a flurry of member activity, cleaning and summerizing their vessels for the 2026 boating season.

Members will notice that we have replaced the deck covering with new material and installed an entirely new deck railing, keeping things in good repair and improving the experience for members and guests. We continue to review and prioritize Capital Projects.

Our Boat show is **May 2nd & 3rd** and hopefully Mother Nature will be in our favour with the weather this year.

The Boat Show does not happen on its own, it is a big event and requires a lot of assistance from volunteers. Karol King is organizing the volunteers and if you are in the neighbourhood over the May 2nd and 3rd weekend there is a sign up list at the Bar or you can contact the office and Marjon will sign you up.

We are trying something different to attract people to this year's Show. On Sunday we will be hosting a pancake breakfast, sponsored by *Jetty Deck / Lifeboat SOS*. All proceeds from the breakfast will be donated to *Vernon Search and Rescue*. The breakfast will be from 9:30 to 11:00 AM.

I've noticed a number of faces returning from wherever they spent the winter season, although, for those of us that didn't go anywhere, we had a pretty mild winter. It's great to see an increase in the number of members around the club, and the marina is starting to look like a Yacht Club again.

Welcome back everyone and I look forward to seeing you in the Gangplank, in the Marina or on the water. Happy 2026 boating season.

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VYC BOAT SHOW VENDORS

Vendor	Email	Showcasing on the	water	grounds
Advanced Leather Design	jonnymadrid747(at)yahoo.com			
Attridge Ski & Board	kyle(at)attridge.ca			
Boathouse Marine & Leisure	scott(at)boathousemarine.com			
Dockside Marine	marketing(at)docksidemarine.com			
Electric Fat Bike Company	info(at)electricfatbikecompany.com			
Exclusive Auto and Marine	sales(at)exclusiveautomarine.com			
Gibbons Motor Toys	blairp(at)gibbonsmotortoys.com			
Innerspace Watersports	innerspacekelowna(at)gmail.com			
Jetty Marine/Lifeboat SOS	vernon(at)jettydek.ca			
Kelowna Yamaha & Marine	scott(at)kelownayamaha.ca			
North Okanagan Optimist Club	northokanaganoptimistclub(at)gmail.com			
North Okanagan Sailing Association	admin(at)vernonsailing.com			
Oasiss (Invasive Species Society)	oasiss(at)shaw.ca			
Okanagan Marine Guys	Info(at)okanaganmarineguys.ca			
Okanagan Quality Life Society	dwcconnally(at)gmail.com			
Petawatts Auto & Marine	attila(at)petawatts.ca			
Paradise Dock & Lift	sam(at)paradisedocklift.com			
RCMP				
Sunrise Docks Ltd.	info(at)sunrisedocks.ca			
T-Mak Power Equipment Mobile Serv.	tmakpower(at)outlook.com			
Vernon Search & Rescue	info(at)westernsawmills.com			
Vernon Telescope	vernonte(at)telus.net			



ADVANCED LEATHER DESIGN



TILLER TOPICS

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VYC BOAT SHOW VENDORS *(continued)*



THANK YOU, VERNON YACHT CLUB

KingFisher Boats gratefully acknowledges the Vernon Yacht Club for hosting the dealer launch of our new flagship model, the 38 GFX, on March 5th.

The VYC provided the perfect setting to unveil our largest and most advanced vessel to our dealer network — an important milestone for our brand and a moment we were proud to share on the water.

We extend our sincere thanks to the management and members of the Vernon Yacht Club for their warm welcome and support. From the seamless coordination to the welcoming atmosphere, the experience reflected everything that makes the Vernon boating community exceptional.

The 38 GFX blends performance and refinement, featuring a wide beam, deep-V hull, and optional triple outboard power for confident handling and speed. A spacious layout, premium finishes, and versatile seating make it equally suited for entertaining or open-water cruising.

If you are interested in learning more about the 38 GFX, visit us at kingfisherboats.com/boats/38-gfx



2026 VERNON BOAT SHOW

Before you hit the water... Hit the *2026 Boat & Leisure Show*! It's happening **May 2nd** and **3rd**. The *Vernon Yacht Club* is ready to kick off summer in the most epic way possible. Whether you're a seasoned boater, a weekend adventurer, or just looking for a fun, family-friendly event — you're invited to a weekend that's all about the Okanagan lifestyle we love.

Try out paddle boards and kayaks on the water with demos from *Innerspace Watersports*! Take a sailboat ride — free for the public (just sign up at the VYC booth). Browse the latest in boats, e-bikes, gear, and gadgets before anyone else! Check out the boating services like *Dockside Marine*, *Boathouse Marine and Leisure*, *Okanagan Marine Guys*, *T-Mak*, and new vendor *Jetty Marine*. What are boats without docks? Check out *Paradise Docks and Lift* and *Sunrise Docks* to help secure your investment.

Come out and see the newest innovations in boating, biking and automotive from *Kelowna Yamaha*, *Gibbons Motor Toys*, *Exclusive Auto Marine*, and the *Electric Fat Bike Co*. Speaking of innovation, search for the *Lifeboat SOS* booth and find out about the latest in assist and rescue services. Be sure to check out new vendor *Advanced Leather Design* as well.

Live-on-location radio in the mornings with *the Ranch* and *Beach Radio* will keep the good vibes going. Tons of giveaways and exciting prize draws will be happening all weekend. See what's new in electric conversions for boating with *Petawatts Auto Marine RV*. Meet the *RCMP*, and *Vernon Search & Rescue* personal and get a close-up look at how they help the Community. Don't miss fan-favorites like *Vernon Telescope*, *Attridge Ski & Board* and more! *NOSA*, *NOOC*, *OASIS*, and *OQLS* will be there to inform you as well.

Getting here is easy with free parking and a free shuttle every 20 minutes from *Marshall Field & Clarence Fulton Secondary*. Whether you come for the boats, the food, the demos, or the people — this is your lake life kick-off party. Bring your friends, your family, and your sense of adventure.

The *Vernon Yacht Club* Kitchen & Bar will be happily serving up tasty meals and refreshments throughout the event.

Enjoy The 2026 Vernon Boat & Leisure Show!

Your VYC Commodore and Boat Show Director,
Fred H

MOTIVATIONAL QUOTES

*You have to be where you are
to get where you need to go. – Amy Poehler*



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FLEET CAPTAIN REPORT



Another Crane Day has come and gone with all the boats successfully launched with a few that refused to start,

mine included. A boat that won't start can be an absolute disaster or if it's in the VYC marina, a minor inconvenience. The number of people offering suggestions, moving the boat down the dock, catching it at its temporary slip, and generally being helpful is amazing. Crane Day also has its follow up days, Boat Putting Back Together Day and Engine Fixing Day. Those days are also full of tired looking people catching boats and cheerfully asking "Do you need a hand with that?" and that is why we join yacht clubs.



THE UNKNOWN MARINER

"WHO WAS THAT?"

Our slips can be difficult to get into sometimes due to the wind we don't have much shelter from, but there is usually someone close by, sometimes a friend, sometimes someone you have never seen before, who will offer to grab a line (you have one tied to your boat and ready to hand off right?) and help guide the boat into position. A heartfelt thank you to all who do that, it helps a lot.

For me, now that I'm up and running again, I'm looking forward to Resting On The Boat In The Shade With A Beverage Day though that day never seems to arrive.

Your Fleet Captain, Liam F 



SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST SPONSORED BY JETTY DECK AND LIFEBOAT SOS



Start your Sunday at the *Vernon Yacht Club Boat Show* with a delicious pancake breakfast.

Sponsored by *Jetty Deck* and *Lifeboat SOS*, the breakfast is offered for a minimum \$2 donation, with all proceeds going to *Vernon Search and Rescue*.

Join us from **9:30–11:00 AM** for a relaxed morning by the water, and a great community vibe before the day gets busy.

Enjoy a great meal, support an important cause, and make the most of your morning at the show.



Vernon Boat Show

Beach Radio 107.5 & The Ranch 105.7 are partnering with us at our 2026 Boat Show!



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REAR COMMODORE REPORT



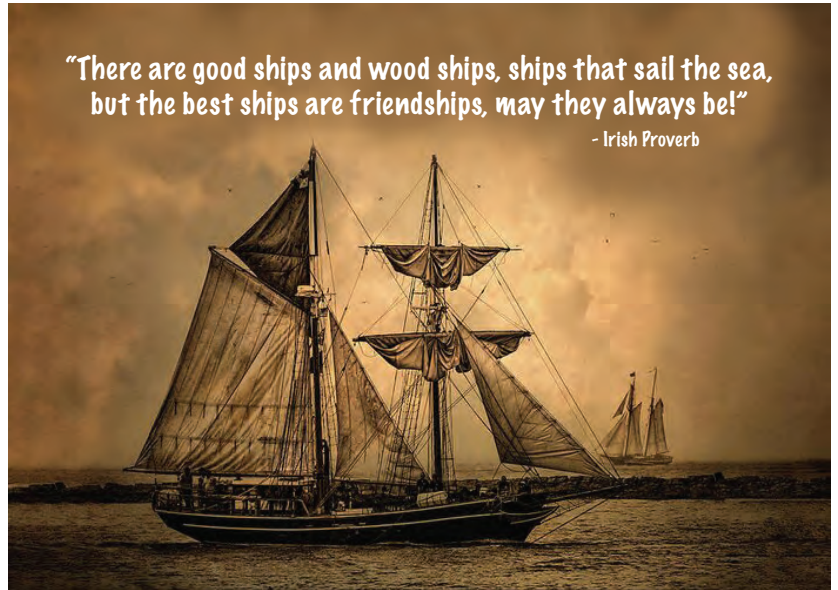
Looking back, now that the spring Crane Day has passed, it has been quite a busy off-season this year. During the winter we had a few unplanned events on the docks. The electrical supply cable in the trough on "B" dock failed. Repairs were enacted and several breakers in the cabinets required replacing. Last month during an extreme wind and wave event the connecting chains broke on the older concrete breakwater. Repairs were performed with minimal damage to the concrete sections.

There was an early morning theft of two dock cart wheels a few weeks ago where the perpetrator cut the chain link fence at the dock entrance. We are looking into enhancing our security surveillance and procedures.

Over the last few weeks, the deck surface and railings were replaced at the clubhouse. During this process Ryan, our maintenance manager seized the opportunity to identify and repair rotting sections of the deck. Several PVC chairs and tables on the deck have also been replaced.

It's shaping up to be another great year at VYC – I'm looking forward to seeing you at the club and on the water!

Cheers,
Your Rear Commodore, Bill M 



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MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR REPORT



Welcome Back Everyone!

Spring is underway at the *Vernon Yacht Club*. I was there a couple days ago relocating boats in preparation for Crane Day, when another VYC member came around the corner and observed a parking lot humming with activity. His exclamation, while notable, isn't suitable for print, but can best be described as astonishment at the number of eager members' actively preparing their boats for another season on the lake. Fantastic!

Your Membership Director and his significant other had a memorable off-season and I hope all of you have fond memories of yours too. We succumbed to a weak moment in January and expanded our household by one. We introduced Tillie, a vibrant and healthy Australian Shepherd puppy to the fold. She will be accompanying Kim and I at the VYC this summer. Please say "hello" to her. She's adorable and loves attention.

We have some new members at the VYC too, so if you see a new face or two at the club, don't be shy. Introduce yourself, as I'm sure they'll have a few questions needing answers.

We are now introducing something new at the *Vernon Yacht Club* this year too! We are rewarding referrals this season for NEW Regular Memberships. If you have any boating friends and neighbors you feel are missing out and should be members here, let them know about us. Let our office know the details of your referral. If they join, upon payment of their membership fees, you will receive a Friday night steak, or salmon, or chicken dinner for two.

As for our current Membership numbers, we have; 1 Honorary, 7 Life, 35 Affiliate, 100 Social, and 315 Regular Memberships, for a total of 458. (April 16/26). May you all have a safe, fun, and successful 2026 boating season.

Your Membership Director, Simon J 



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Course Fee is \$160.00 and includes all materials and final exam.

Please register using the following web link:

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VHF Maritime Radio Course



- Every person operating a VHF Radio must have a Restricted Operator's Certificate (Maritime), commonly referred to as ROC(M). It is the Law!
- Every boat operator has an obligation to monitor Channel 16, if the boat is equipped with a VHF Radio.
- We are currently planning an in-person VHF Radio course, to be presented in Vernon. Planned for June.
- If interested, Please call Doug Stewart at 250-549-5117.

RON HEUMAN

AND A TILLER TOPICS BLAST FROM THE PAST

At the *Vernon Yacht Club*, a conversation between TT Editor Bob Annand and longtime member and former editor Ron Heuman offered a window into the history and evolution of *Tiller Topics*. What began as a simple club newsletter has, over the decades, become an enduring record of the club's life—shaped by the people who contributed to it and the circumstances in which it was produced.

Ron's involvement began in 1996, when he stepped forward to fill the role of secretary at the Annual General Meeting. As he recalls, "I agreed to take on the secretary role, and before long, the Commodore informed me that the newsletter editor position went with it." With little preparation and no formal guidance, he found himself responsible for producing a monthly publication that served as the club's primary means of communication.

In its early form, *Tiller Topics* was modest in appearance—a single sheet, folded to create four pages—but producing it required considerable effort. Gathering content was often the most challenging aspect. "The hardest part wasn't printing," Ron noted. "It was getting content. You'd be chasing people for updates right up to the last minute."

When submissions were delayed or failed to arrive, adaptability became essential. "At times, you had to rely on editorial license," he said. "If someone didn't send anything, you might step in and write it yourself to keep things moving." This pragmatic approach ensured that each issue was completed and distributed on schedule.

The production process itself was entirely manual. Newsletters were printed locally, then folded, assembled, and mailed to members. "By the time you finished one issue, it was time to begin the next." Ron recalled.

Despite these challenges, *Tiller Topics* played a vital role within the club. Prior to digital communication, it was the primary link connecting members—sharing race results, Commodore's messages, event information, and stories that reflected the character of the club. "It kept people connected," Ron observed. "That was always the purpose."

As the *Vernon Yacht Club* grew and evolved, so too did the newsletter. Changes in format, contributions from successive editors, and the eventual transition to digital distribution all marked its development over time. Yet, certain traditions endured. "There's always been something about the paper copy," Ron reflected. "People appreciated being able to pick it up and read it at the club. It made it tangible."

Today, the legacy of *Tiller Topics* is preserved in club archives, with editions dating back to the 1950s. These records provide more than a chronology of events; they capture the voices, priorities, and spirit of the membership across generations. "When you look through those old issues," Ron said, "you see what mattered to people at the time—that's the real history."

In reflecting on its significance, Ron's assessment remains clear: "It's the club's voice. However it's produced, that's what it has always been."

(article continues on next page)



A CAP, A MILESTONE, AND A MEMORY: THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLUB - 1953 TO 2003 *(continued)*

Tucked among old newsletters, photos, and fading documents from the *Vernon Yacht Club* sits a simple but meaningful piece of history: a 50th anniversary Cap.

For Ron, longtime contributor to *Tiller Topics*, it's more than just memorabilia—it's a reminder of a milestone year for the club. "That would've been 1953 to 2003—fifty years. We did quite a bit to mark it." Ron stated.

Today Ron donated the Cap to the club. The hat remains a small but tangible link to that celebration. Displayed in the clubhouse trophy cabinet, it represents more than fifty years—it reflects a tradition of community, volunteerism, and shared experience on and off the water.

"That's the value of keeping all that stuff. It's the story of the club." Said Ron. And like *Tiller Topics* itself, it's a reminder that the club's story is still being written.

Bob A 



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EDITORS NOTE:

Last Names in TT

It has been policy of the club to not include last names in *Tiller Topics* for fear scammers will take advantage of people online. However, *Tiller Topics* does include last names when a member has a boat for sale, when a member with a business advertises, and when the member, such as a story writer or a member being recognized, chooses to have their last name included when asked by the editor.



SY GRACE O'MALLEY PART 3

VERNON YACHT CLUB'S PIRATE SHIP

Far from a sheltered bay in an Irish cove, or a Norwegian harbor, or even Kamloops, *Grace O'Malley's* new moorage was tied to a wellhead anchor dropped in near the bottom of Harbor Heights Road, one mile west of VYC. A 19th century Scottish immigrants design for piloting along Norway's rugged coastline, named after a 16th century Irish pirate queen, had found a home port. The first years featured many anxious moments sitting on the beach praying she wouldn't part ways with the mooring in this unsheltered spot. I lived across the road at that time. The other question was how to get the 43' Sitka Spruce laminated box section mast from the shoreside sawhorses to a more useful location, like on the boat. While most of the standing rigging came with the boat, right down to the turnbuckles, there were no mast tangs, spreader tips, spreader bases, mast-head crane, sail track etc. So, I did what anyone with stars in their eyes would do, order 100-year-old plans from the Herreshoff museum archives for most of the fittings you see on the mast today, and re-size the patterns to fit this mast, on the RE/MAX office photocopier. These patterns, and a 20 sq ft sheet



Grace O'Malley at the Commodor's Sailpast



Grace O'Malley at Reluctant Dragon

of 1/8 silicon bronze, a drill press...and a sawzall, taught me many lessons that year. Yes, boat stories have legs and take time to tell. When boat designs and mast fittings can be largely unchanged in over a century, yet still be used in modern construction, maybe we have time to listen.

Where there's a will...and a crane... there's a way.

Sailboats are way more comfortable with a sail up. After a couple of mastless Penticton trips in post launch summers, stepping the mast became more of a priority, OK an obsession. Finally, after much midnite oil, and alottalotta drill pressing we stepped the mast at the marina and

phoned to raise the bridge. Now, to unpack 25-year-old "new in bag" sails. Seven custom made sails from International Sailmakers in Hong Kong came with the boat. Other than the new larger staysail bought recently these sails are still in regular use over 50 years from new. Stay tuned for **part four**, actual sailing stories. Our FB group is *Sailing Adventures in Grace O'Malley* if you want to join.

Dan Irvine

- To be continued in the next Tiller Topics. Stay tuned.



Now for the Rigging



VYC CLUB SAIL RACING

Ahoy Members!

The VYC racing group is gearing up for the 2026 Club Racing Series. Right now we are setting up the schedule of races, discussing the rules of the high seas, and determining the list of skippers. We'll have 21 boats flying spinnakers on Wednesday nights through the spring and summer series, before changing to Sunday afternoon races for the Fall and Rum Series. We've just chucked our boats back into the sea, and are now tuning up the mast, and inspecting hardware and running rigging.

The Women's Racing Group on Tuesday nights is taking a year off. Any and all skippers and crew are welcome to join the regular club racing series.

The racing group wants to know if you would like to join the sailing fun. Would you be tempted to join Wednesday night racing? Would you be more interested in joining a white sail fleet on a different night, or during the day? How many sailors in our club might like to join our social sailing events? We have



Sailors Enjoying the Spring Wind - Liam Photo



John and Scotch Mist on the Water - Liam Photo

the Canada Day Sail to the North Arm Tugboat, The BC Day Sail, The Labour Day Sail, and the Turkey Trot. Any excuse for a sail really.

Are you a sailor or a “wannabe” sailor looking for instruction? Are you aware of NOSA our neighbour to the east, where you can learn to sail. Are you aware of our “VYC Crew Bank” that contains the names and cell numbers of interested crew that skippers can use to find new crew for their boat? Joining that list has proven to be helpful to skippers and new crew alike!

Give a shout to me, Bob or have a lookout on Wednesday race night in the gangplank where you can meet and share salty tales with other sailors and racers over a bite and a beer. You can e-mail us with your thoughts at annand@shaw.ca.

Bob Annand – 2026 VYC Racing Chair



Racing Into The Sunset - Liam Photo

THE VOLUNTEER CLUB AND SPRING CLEANUP 2026

The Spring Cleanup at VYC happened Saturday, **April 25th** from **08:30-12:00 noon**. Its always a rain or shine event, and this time it was shine. It's a time when every member can come out and take pride in their club by spring cleaning the grounds, basin, and building. Tasks undertaken this year included :

- Cleaning club windows inside and out,
- Cleaning deck tables/chairs and hauling them up to the deck from the parking lot,
- Assembling new furniture to replace the aged plastic tables and chairs,
- Cleaning bird droppings from the docks and fingers,
- Pulling weeds around the club, mowing the lawn,
- Re-installing flags and regalia out on the docks, and
- Annie and Gerald led a crew putting up the flags on the docks.



Spring Clean Up Volunteers Enjoying a Recognition Lunch

By this time of year all members have their boats and trailers out of the yard and off the pavement so the winter sand and dust can be mechanically swept and removed from the parking lot by the big sweeper.

We had a great showing with 30-ish volunteers armed with brooms, shovels, lawn mowers, pressure washers, and good old elbow grease to make this place shine.

Chef Rob rustled up a delicious volunteer appreciation lunch, including chafing dishes full of burritos, fries and salad. It was a massive turnout with great results.

Rear Commodore Bill M, the entire executive, and staff thank these members for stepping up to keep our club a shining example and a fun place to enjoy at work and play.

Bill M – Rear Commodore



FOR SALE 1994 Catalina 270

Includes custom trailer - replaced brakes, lights, tires in 2023. Inboard Perkins diesel engine. 2 Anchors. Only sailed OK Lake. Wing keel w/ draft 3'6". Swim ladder. Sleeps 6 (2 aft berth, 2 V-berth, 2 settees). Propane cook top. Refrigerated ice box.

2022 Survey. Painted Bottom. New hot water, batteries, toilet. 2023 New Bimini, winch covers, wheel cover. 2024 New genoa, main sail slugs.

Lynda

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LADIES' NIGHT

HOSTS A ROPER ROMP

Did you miss 40 plus Mrs. Ropers all descending in a hustle to VYC? It was quite a sight!

The idea came from Cory Weins and along with the amazing Kim Mischuk, they pulled it off! Congrats gals! VYC was transformed into the Regal Beagle pub from Three's Company — the sitcom show from the 70's! Kim had the show playing on all the TV's. The bar gals made cocktails



Welcome Back to the 1980's - Kimm Photo



We had over 30 Mrs Ropers who came out in full regalia - Kimm Photo

from the 70's and we all caught the spirit of the show with all the ladies dressing in the iconic red wig, sunglasses and kaftan of Mrs. Roper!

As if seeing all those Mrs. Ropers wasn't enough entertainment, Lorna Robb from *Cheek to Cheek* came to lead us through some of the 70's dances of the time... and Chef Rob produced a feast from the time - cheese balls, prawn

cocktail, chicken a la King, mini quiches AND made-from-scratch upside down pineapple cake! Sooooo good! Don't miss the next one - **May 21** — Denim and Diamonds! Come down and enjoy endless appies, shopping and music from Tanya Lipscombe! \$30 – [Sarah Kennedy](#)

Boating Tip of the Month...
Tip #11) Get a Survey Before Buying



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MAKING WAVES OF DIFFERENCE:

OQLS AND THE VERNON YACHT CLUB

For over 30 years, the **Okanagan Quality Life Society (OQLS)** has been dedicated to a singular mission: enriching the lives of our senior and disabled community by making the healing power of Okanagan Lake accessible to all. Our program, "*Heaven Can Wait*," provides therapeutic cruises for those who might otherwise find the water worlds away. As we look toward the 2026 season, we want to extend a profound thank you to the *Vernon Yacht Club (VYC)*, whose unwavering generosity is the "engine" that keeps this program afloat.



The partnership between OQLS and the VYC is a cornerstone of our success. By providing a berth beginning in 1994, the VYC ensures our pontoon boat has a safe home within the marina. Furthermore, the club's support in many other ways including allowing us to participate in the *Vernon Boat Show* is invaluable to our operations.

However, the true strength of this bond lies in the people. The VYC membership provides the skill and heart that power

every voyage. We are incredibly proud to have 25 VYC members currently serving as volunteer Captains, and additional members expressing interest in becoming a Captain for 2026. This legacy of service even extends to the VYC's highest levels, as a past Commodore (Gerald Gustafson) has previously dedicated his time as a volunteer Captain. These "Community Captains" do more than navigate; they provide safety, connection, and a lifeline for our passengers.

We look forward to seeing VYC members on the dock this summer and please stop by to say hello.

On behalf of all the Board of Directors for OQLS. Thank you!

Terry Worbets

President

Okanagan Quality Life Society



Ed Note: If you would like to volunteer, please contact Craig Garratt, Chief Captain of the *Okanagan Quality Life Society* at chiefcaptain@oqls.org and (250) 306-3637.

Spring Fling
★ DINNER & DANCE ★

DINNER & DANCE WITH
THE ROCK'N HORSE BAND

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026
TICKET PRICE \$50

Doors Open: 5:30 pm
Dinner Served: 6:30 pm
Dance Floor Opens: 7:30 pm

**If you missed it – you missed out!
Look out for our next one!**

CRANE DAY SUCCESS!

Crane Day always seems to come too early! This year it arrived after a week of less than 10 degree C, blustery weather making it a real challenge for last minute work on boats involving fiberglass, epoxy, or paint. But on April 17th as usual, sailors found a way to get their boats watertight before splash down.

Speaking of big splashes, what made this year's crane-day special was the 200,000 ton crane that was on site. We saw a behemoth of an Alpha Crane come in to lift 23,000 lb Grace O'Malley back into the water. Lower water levels meant a bigger crane was needed to ensure Grace landed in deep water (*see the Grace O'Malley saga part III in this issue*). So, while Captain Dan was on the hook for the difference in crane cost, the bigger machine actually made it easier for the crane to lift and drop all boats well clear of the ever-increasing sediment and muck. So, skippers, feel free to buy Dan a beer the next time you see him in the Gangplank.

A huge thank you to Mike Lowther for once again organizing a smooth and efficient crane-in operation. Shout-out to our big powerboat members in the yard—it took coordination between sail and power people to make room for the crane, and everyone pulled together. For a minute it looked like we might witness a full-on clash of the titans, as the massive crane met up with the powerboater's jumbo truck / hydraulic trailer combo in the lower parking lot on setup day. Those operators are smooth.



Liam and Bob
Get a Ride on
Ahoy Polloi
- Keith D Photo



Sue and Varua



Keith Asks:
"Do you know
What You're
Doing Up
There?"

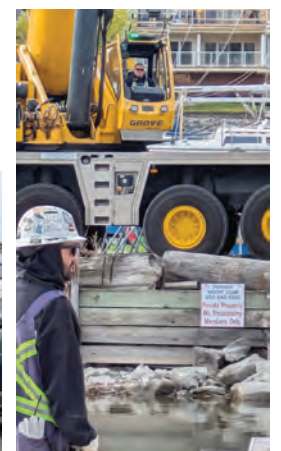


Megan,
Kaden & Averie

It was impressive to see the number of helpers who came out of the woodwork just at the right time and without getting in the way. Everyone was accounted for at the end of the day and all boats are still floating! And of course, none of this would have been complete without the support of our Kitchen and Bar staff, who kept spirits high and stomachs full—fueling both the work and the toasts afterward. Here's to a successful start to the season—thanks again Mike, and bravo to everyone who helped make it happen. Let the boating season begin!



Bob A



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE – C&C 24 (Yellow Bird)

- 1976 C&C 24 with over \$6,000 upgrades in 2021 to this fully restored boat (restored by former Rear-Commodore Ken MacLeod).
- Excellent condition. New bottom paint and re-built rudder.
- New roller furling with 140 Genoa. Newer main and spare sails.
- New (2021) 9.9 Yamaha high thrust 4 stroke with power trim.



- New safety lines. New halyards and lines. Jack stands.
- Cabin wood re-done and sleeps 4. New head and BBQ.
- Located at VYC, Vernon BC.
- Bought from Ken for \$12,000 in summer 2021; asking now: **\$3,000.00**
- Reason for selling: I want to move to a pure racing boat.

Contact **Jeff McDonnell**,
(306)227-3435 or
jeffrey.mcdonnell@usask.ca

FOR SALE – Sailboat “Jesse”

Well equipped including:
 Twin axel storage trailer

Choose either:
 Honda 7'5 hp 4 stroke, or
 Mercury 8 hp 2 stroke outboard

Custom cabin and cockpit seat covers
 Spare rudder



Phone: 250 215 2330
 Home: 250 762 3882

\$7,000.00



**26' Columbia,
 Mk 2 - 1976**
 2 Main Sails,
 2 Genoas
 (sizes: 135,150),
 1 Spinnaker

LIFEBOAT SOS

A NEW SERVICE AIMS TO MAKE BOATING ON LOCAL LAKES SAFER

Tiller Topics Editor Bob Annand sat down with Vernon Parkhurst to discuss a new service his company designed to improve safety and communication on Okanagan Lake. The new mobile app is launching in early May and its looking to make boating on Okanagan Lake safer by connecting people on the water in real time.

Developed by local entrepreneurs Vernon Parkhurst, Joe Poirier and Talli Ward, *Lifeboat SOS* is designed as a lake-based safety network—something Parkhurst says has long been missing from inland waterways. “Okanagan Lake is incredibly busy, but it’s also vast,” Parkhurst explained. “You can be surrounded by people and still not be seen, especially if you’re on a paddleboard or kayak.”

The app allows users to send out alerts to others nearby, ranging from general hazards—such as debris or shallow areas—to more urgent situations like mechanical breakdowns, low fuel, or medical issues. In more serious emergencies, including fires, storms, or a man overboard, users can broadcast higher-level alerts with details about their situation.

Nearby users can then see how far away they are from the person in distress, estimate response time, and decide if they’re able to assist. Built-in GPS navigation and messaging features help responders locate those in need quickly.

Parkhurst said the goal is to reduce response times and offer practical help in situations where official rescue services may be limited. “There are times when you’re stranded but not technically in an emergency,” he said. “This gives people a way to connect directly with someone nearby who has the equipment to help.”

In addition to its alert system, *Lifeboat SOS* includes GPS navigation, trip sharing, and an anchor alert that notifies users if their boat begins to drift. A “chatter” feature—similar to a CB or VHF radio—allows users to communicate with others on the water in real time through public or private channels.

Future updates may include live camera feeds from around the lake, giving users the ability to check weather and water conditions before heading out. All safety-related features will be free to use, with optional premium features planned for later development.

The app is set to launch May 2 at the *Vernon Boat Show* on Okanagan Lake, where developers hope to attract an initial user base of around 10,000 people. Local business partnerships are also in the works, offering deals and discounts through the platform.

Looking ahead, Parkhurst envisions expanding the service to other lakes across British Columbia and Alberta, and eventually to coastal regions. A future paid assistance model—similar to ride-sharing services—could also allow experienced boaters to respond to transport requests.

For now, the focus remains on building a strong local network. “Boaters already believe in helping each other,” Parkhurst said. “This just makes it faster, easier, and more effective.”



2026 VERNON REGATTA

It will be a weekend of fun and racing under the Okanagan sun on **June 5, 6, and 7**. It all starts at **14:00 Friday** with the legendary *Whiskey Island Race*, when boats travelling from Kelowna, Summerland and Penticton will meet up with the Vernon boats at the Island to race to the *Vernon Yacht Club*. If we are lucky, they will sail to the club under spinnakers which makes a colourful sight for members enjoying dinner on the deck. Hopefully the winds will be steady and they will arrive around **18:00 Friday eve**.

Saturday and Sunday will see the boats racing around the marks in front of the clubhouse. This is when strategies, sail trimming and luck will make the difference in a first and second place finish. The weekend finishes with the Awards Ceremony on Sunday afternoon and our visitors set sail for home.



Mark **June 5, 6, and 7** on your calendar for some **Sail GP-Like Action!**

Just when you thought we were safe from regattas, the *End-To-End Regatta* pops up out of the blue on **June 19, 20, and 21!** This year the event starts at the Vernon end of Okanagan Lake and after 2 days of sailing, with an overnight stop at *Kelowna Yacht Club*, it finishes at the *Penticton Yacht Club*. Boats from Okanagan Clubs as well as some trailered boats from Calgary love to participate in this challenging race.

Bob Annand
Vernon Regatta Committee

DECK RENEWAL

COMPLETED AHEAD OF BUSY SEASON

A major deck refurbishment project has wrapped up just in time for upcoming events, delivering both structural improvements and a refreshed look.

VYC Maintenance Manager Ryan, who oversaw the work, highlighted the efficiency of the project timeline. “We started ripping up the vinyl on a Monday, and we had railings up and vinyl installed by Friday,” he said. “Less than five days to get all that done.”



Deck Under Construction Hard at Work on the New Deck

The upgrade included installing newly welded railings designed without floor drilling, improving durability and preventing future issues. “It’s stronger, and it won’t cause rot,” Ryan explained. “That was the goal—make it reliable.”

During construction, the team uncovered hidden structural damage. “There was some rot in sections of the deck, especially around the corners,” Ryan noted. “We cut out the old plywood and joists and replaced all of that.”

Additional sealing work was completed to prevent water intrusion going forward.

Despite these unexpected repairs, the project stayed close to its original budget of approximately \$50,000.

The team also ensured minimal disruption to scheduled activities. “They even brought in two other companies to make sure we only missed one steak night, not two,” Ryan said.

While most of the structure is now fully restored, a few elements—such as a rebuilt pillar—are considered temporary fixes. “It’s good enough for a couple of seasons,” Ryan added, “and then we’ll reassess.”

With new deck furniture arriving and further enhancements under consideration, the space is now safe, functional, and ready for members to enjoy dinner and a drink while overlooking Okanagan Lake.

Thanks go to Maintenance Manager Ryan for overseeing a successful project.



All Decked Out - Beautiful!



VYC's New Outdoor Look



VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

FOR THE 2026 VYC BOAT SHOW

Volunteer Coordinator Karol King is organizing member support for this year's *Vernon Boat Show* on **Saturday, May 2** and **Sunday, May 3**. The good news is that we are approaching, but not yet meeting, the 115 volunteer shifts required to run the show. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up, and to those who have not yet – **We need You!**

Shifts are designed to be manageable and flexible, generally running about two to three hours. On Saturday, the show runs from **9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**, with some roles starting a little earlier,



and most positions are divided into three time slots. Sunday's show runs from **10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**, with most roles split into two shifts.

There are still several areas where help is needed. "We're still looking for support throughout the day in the kitchen, at the upper entrance, and in general helper or runner roles, as well as coverage for BBQ cooks, beer tent volunteers, shuttle drivers, and help at the marine gate and club tent across multiple time slots", King said.

Volunteering is a great way to meet fellow members, be part of the energy of one of the club's biggest events, and contribute to its success. If you're able to help, please reach out directly to Karol at karol_king@yahoo.ca. As we get closer to the event, it may be more difficult to match specific preferences, but every effort will be made to accommodate.

Please remember that there is no parking available at the club during the Boat Show. All volunteers, with the exception of shuttle drivers, are required to park at Fulton School and take the shuttle to the venue.

Your support makes all the difference, and we look forward to another great Boat Show weekend.



The Big Boys are Moving Out and Into the Lake



Tiller Stuffers

The oldest known boat is over 10,000 years old.
It's a dugout canoe found in the Netherlands. Proof sailors have always needed an excuse to get out on the water.



GANGPLANK - WINTER HOURS

FOOD SERVICE HOURS & MENU

Monday:	Closed	
Tuesday:	Winter Menu	5:00pm - 8:00pm
Wednesday:	Special, Appy's & Pizza	5:00pm - 8:00pm
Thursday:	Winter Menu	5:00pm - 8:00pm
Friday:	Steak, Salmon BBQ or Chicken	6:00pm - 8:30pm
Saturday:	Soup & Sandwich	12:00pm - 3:00pm
Sunday:	Breakfast	10:00am - 2:00pm

Takeout menu available Wed & Thu nights 5:00pm-7:30pm & Soup or Sandwich on Sat 12pm-2:30. Please call in Advance. Gang Plank Menus unavailable during special events & private functions.

BAR HOURS

Monday:	Closed
Tuesday:	4:00pm - 9:00pm
Wednesday:	4:00pm - 9:00pm
Thursday:	4:00pm - 9:00pm
Friday:	4:00pm - 10:00pm
Saturday:	12:00pm - 3:00pm
Sunday:	10:00am - 6:00pm

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

Tiller Topics ARTICLE submission DEADLINES!

Mon JUN 8, 2026 – Jun/Jul/Aug issue (Commodore Sail Past & Summer edition)

Mon SEP 7, 2026 – Sep/Oct issue (Summer Event reports)

Mon NOV 16, 2026 – Nov/Dec issue (AGM & Executive introduction edition)

Mon JAN 25, 2027 – Jan/Feb/Mar issue (Christmas & New Year's edition)

Mon APR 12, 2027 – Apr/May issue (Boat Show edition)



VERNON YACHT CLUB DIRECTORY

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Ronald R	Director (1 year)	director(at)vernonyachtclub.com
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