



# TILLER TOPICS



Sunset Watching from the VYC Deck on June 28

## REPORTS

### NEWS FROM OUR COMMODORE



School's out!! Summer has officially begun and we are all looking forward to the Okanagan weather and getting out on the water. For those members just getting back into their "summer mode", welcome back. You will notice a new face behind the bar - please welcome Rebecca and introduce

yourself. Also note that the bar and kitchen are now on their Summer Hour schedule.

Congratulations to our members that participated in the End-to-End Race. A steady northerly wind assisted the racing fleet on their Saturday morning start from VYC southward down the lake. It was a busy weekend with the Commodore's Ball taking place. We welcomed Dan Proust from Summerland and Commodore Brent Valder from Peachland. Thank you to Steve Bertram, our MC for the evening, who kept everyone on track. Music was provided by DéjàVu, playing a variety of music which got people up dancing. Thanks also to Chef Rob and the Kitchen staff for executing a great meal, and special mention to Chef Rob's incredibly tasty dessert creation that tempted many for a second helping. Sunday morning, following the Commodore's breakfast, we proceeded with a flag ceremony and blessed the fleet with the assistance of our bag piper Maureen Soichuk.

Sunday was also Father's Day; again, the kitchen did a wonderful job for the Father's Day Brunch which was well attended by members and guests.

I look forward to seeing everyone enjoying the club along with your time on the water throughout the summer. Now let's just get Mother Nature to work with us!

### IN THIS ISSUE:

News from our Commodore	pg 1
Rear Commodore Report	pg 2
Membership Director Report	pg 3
Vernon Regatta 2026	pg 4
KYC's Blossom Regatta 2026	pg 5
The Commodore's Weekend	pg 6
Ladies' Night Needs Members	pg 7
Canada Day Dinner & Dance	pg 8
Swim the Lake - Jessi Harewicz	pg 9
Boat Show Wrap-up	pg 10
Okanagan Women's Regatta	pg 11
SY Grace O'Malley - part 4	pg 12
Fleet Captain Report	pg 13
The End-to-End Game	pg 13 & 14
In Memory of Reg McClellan	pg 15
The Captain's Care Club	pg 16
Coastal Connections	pg 17
Recognition - VYC Regatta	pg 19 & 20
Gangplank Summer Hours	pg 21
Tiller Topics Article Deadlines	pg 21
Executive Directory	back cover

# REAR COMMODORE REPORT



Spring and early summer have been busy and productive times around *Vernon Yacht Club*, with a number of important updates to share from around the property and docks.

On April 30, the clubhouse underwent an inspection by the local Fire Marshal. A few recommendations came forward from that visit, including connecting the stove hood to the suppression alarm system. In addition, the interior door between the upstairs lounge and the downstairs area has had its lock disabled to ensure easy exit in the event of an evacuation, in keeping with the Marshal's recommendation. These are sensible steps that help us continue to maintain a safe environment for all members and guests.

I have also reached out to Craig W by email to gather information regarding the long-term planning committee that director Angela R will be heading. At the time of writing, I have not yet received any further details, but I expect there will be more to share as that work gets underway.

VYC's 42 mooring buoys along the shoreline will receive their annual underwater checkup during July and August, thanks to Rob S.

The breakwater will also be receiving a deep water inspection of its anchors, chains, cables, and main structure. Wind and wave action place significant strain on the breakwater, so annual inspections are important for identifying and resolving issues early. These inspections will be carried out by *Burton Marine*.

With respect to security, the ice machine was restocked recently, and for now we will continue with the current practice of having security volunteers remove the cash and padlock nightly. We will continue to monitor the situation and have several options available should there be any further break-in activity.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time and effort in support of the club. These ongoing improvements, both large and small, help keep *Vernon Yacht Club* safe, welcoming, and running smoothly for all.

Rear Commodore  
Bill M



**OKANAGAN RESTORATION  
SERVICES LTD.**

**Always ready. Always there.**

250.542.3470 Vernon 24 HOUR EMERGENCY 1.888.665.6775 [www.okrestore.com](http://www.okrestore.com)

# FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



Some ominous words appeared in my inbox just a few days ago. No, not library books overdue, or back taxes owing, but Tiller Topics requiring an article from 'yours truly'. Well life here has been busy for this retiree. Somehow, I think work was less work than retirement. Mrs. Membership Director and I welcomed Miss Tillie into our lives a few months ago as many of you know. The end result is two exhausted individuals, a dog running our lives, an ancient cat that dictates where the dog may relocate to, and a 'honey do list' of things deferred, and growing ever longer by the day.

I tweaked a knee a couple weeks ago, and for a few days, I wondered just what I had gotten myself into. Doing a spinnaker set on race night, and finding myself unable to weight bear on one leg, I instantly became boat ballast at best. Things were not much better a few days later so I made the decision to step back from my race commitment on 'Tuna'. We found Rick a terrific replacement for me in Marc R of NOSA fame, and then Bob A. came to me with a request.

"Would the OQLS be willing to assist in the VYC Regatta with 'Heaven Can Wait' as the committee boat?"

Calls were made. Conversations took place and a decision was reached in the affirmative.

Gerald G. and myself worked to crew the boat for the race committee of John H., Barb R., and Art B., and assist them where we could. Hey, it was loads of fun overseeing some great racing, all from the plush, luxury of a large, covered pontoon boat. For those that don't know, that's the one on 'W' dock with the fancy new blue wrap and sponsorship decals on the sides. It looks really sharp. Anyone wondering what they're all about btw can look them up at [www.oqls.org](http://www.oqls.org). This cause is a worthwhile undertaking.

Thank-you *Okanagan Quality of Life Society* for assisting in the success of our *Vernon Yacht Club Regatta*. The use of HCW was much appreciated.

Lately things appear to be a bit cool, green and wet in the valley. Summer has been delayed and my lawn is still alive, though I suspect it'll change soon, and then there will be a sudden flurry of boating activity at the marina. There are some new faces amongst us this year too, so please let's make sure they feel welcome at the VYC as always. Be safe everyone and enjoy a fun Summer season on the water.

## Membership Count: (June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026)

Regular 321

Affiliate 35

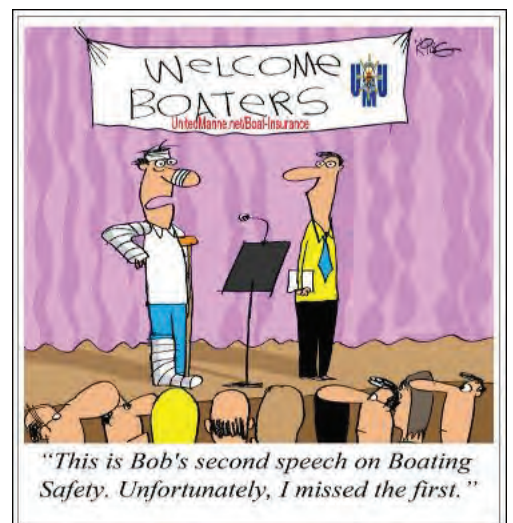
Social 100

Honorary 1

Life 7

**Total Membership 464**

(Based on 33% of our regular total, we are allowed 107 Social Members.)



Cheers,  
Simon J 

# VERNON REGATTA 2026

Another successful *Vernon Regatta* is in the books, and it did not disappoint! The wind blew steadily for three days, beginning with the *Whiskey Island Race* on Friday June 5, 2026. Twelve boats were on the start line at 2 p.m. and it was an incredible spinnaker run for most of the time! Almost all boats finished in under 2 hours, which this writer has never seen in all the years of participating in this race. *Shadowfax* (KYC) crossed the line 1st, followed by *Varua* (VYC) and *Calypso* (PYC). After the PHRF handicaps were applied final results were **1st place** – *Stormy*, **2nd place** – *Dragonfly* and **3rd place** – *Varua*. The rest of the day was spent swapping stories about the incredible winds and enjoying dinner at VYC. Due to motor failure, one boat was safely towed into the marina.

Saturday morning started off with breakfast at the club followed by the 9 a.m. skipper's meeting. It was decided there would be a **525 fleet**, an **A fleet** and a **B fleet**. Winds started off light enough for boats to rig with genoas but picked up just before noon, with many boats changing to a smaller jib sail and/or a reefed main. The **525's** and the **A fleet** had a total of 7 races on Saturday, and **B fleet** had six races. The last race of the day was in very strong winds of approximately 25 knots – almost becoming comparable to last year's wild Saturday finish. The **525's** managed to finish ahead of **A fleet**, the **B fleet** was not started again. **A fleet** had already been started but just two boats finished the final race – *Calypso* and *Varua*. The rest of the fleet abandoned the race due to various issues, with one boat going aground at the NOSA club – during a wedding!!!

Saturday evening carried on as it always does – enjoying an incredible meal at VYC, sharing stories about the wind, boat repairs, and showing off some colourful bruising. Of course, an excellent time on the dance floor was had with *The McKinley Band* keeping us grooving until after 10 p.m. Soon exhaustion took over and everyone found their sleeping quarters.

We all awoke to a breezy Sunday morning. Racing started at 9:30 a.m. and again, sails needed to be adjusted from genoas to jibs along with some reefed main sails. Four more races were run and then it was time to enjoy the afternoon BBQ and awards ceremony. The final results were: **525 fleet** - 1st place *Jelly Bean* (SYC), **A fleet**, 1st place – *Shadowfax* (KYC), **B fleet**, 1st place – *Blues in Sea* (VYC). The overall regatta winner was **VYC's own Bob Annand and Crew** on *Blues in Sea* – many congratulations, well done!!!! Full results are posted on the VYC website. Paul Susheski, skipper of *Jelly Bean*, won the Regattitude Award.

Many thanks to all the organizers, the prize sponsors and the staff at VYC. It takes a village to make these events happen. If you didn't participate this year, consider doing so in 2027. We can always use more help behind the scenes and the more boats, the better!



*Blues In Sea Overall Winner Vernon Regatta Crew and Skipper R to L Liam, Dan, Christine, John, and Bob - missing is Kris*

# KELOWNA YACHT CLUB'S BLOSSOM REGATTA 2026

*Varua* left VYC on Thursday May 28th, ahead of the rainy weather forecast for Friday. Regatta flags could be seen flying in the KYC marina as more competitors arrived the next day. *Blues in Sea* crawled in at 5 pm after tacking the strong headwinds from the south on Friday. These were the Vernon ships ready to compete for the 2026 Blossom Regatta.

*Kelowna Yacht Club* was ready for us, from the Friday evening social to the Sunday afternoon BBQ and awards. Every meal I had was excellent, the facilities were clean and I found the staff to be helpful and courteous. Saturday's dinner & dance was highlighted by the one and only *McKinley Band!*



*Blossom Boats on the Water with a Slight Breeze - Photo by Sue R*

Race committee was organized and ready to go both mornings. With 24 boats registered, every fleet had some healthy competition to look forward to!

Sadly, Mother Nature was the only one who didn't show up to the party. We had just one race on the Saturday and none on the Sunday. I have to hand it to Race Committee though, they had us do a short "main only" fun race on Saturday to keep our spirits up and on Sunday we were challenged to see if we could make the boats sail backwards. *Varua* attached our spinnaker to our spare halyard and flew it off the transom, which worked beautifully – that won us a bottle of wine! There was also an over-the-radio singing challenge in which a sea shanty was sung by Clinton from the *Shadowfax* team followed by my rendition of "Lay Line" sung to the music of The Kinks' song "Lola". Again, we were called over to pick up another bottle of wine from the committee boat.

On the Commodore's Dock Sunday, awards were presented while a scrumptious BBQ'd brisket and fixings were served. Congratulations to: *Shadowfax* - 1st place in **Fleet One**, *Always Some-thing!* - 1st place in the **525 Fleet Two**, and *Calypso* - 1st place in **Fleet Three**. I thought awards were over so I scooted to the washroom. When I emerged, everyone was saying "they're looking for you, go to the awards area". I was completely confused, only to find out I won the Regattitude Award. How very nice, thank you to all who put my name forward!

The motor back to Vernon was quite pleasant and without incident. I enjoyed re-playing some of the many fun moments in my thoughts and marvelled at what an incredible sailing community we have on Okanagan Lake. Although winds were nominal, I was so happy I made the effort to join in the fun and I look forward to returning next year!



# THE COMMODORE'S WEEKEND



Commodore Ball Dancing the Night Away - Anne H photo



Piper Maureen S at the Flag Raising - Anne H photo



Past Commodore Gerald Gustafson Raising the Flag - Anne H photo



Commodore Fred During the Blessing of the Fleet - Anne H photo



Where is that darn sail past?!  
Lorna R photo



**PETAWATTS**  
AUTO + MARINE + RV  
ELECTRO-FITTING



**20% + 6% OFF**

for VYC members in 2026!

We offer **20% off** (services) and **6% off** (all webshop products) for members!

Use coupon code **VYC2026** or call Attila on 778-692-3024

Marine and RV electronics, batteries, troubleshooting and repairs.  
Electric outboards and trolling motors. Solar systems, inverters.  
All things electric for your boat or RV! Free consultation.



5000 Silver Star Rd., Vernon, V1T 0A9 [www.petawatts.ca](http://www.petawatts.ca) (778)-692-3024

# LADIES NIGHT COMMITTEE

## LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

*Ladies Night* has long been one of VYC's most popular social programs, thanks in large part to the dedication of Sarah Kennedy, who organized the events for many years. The Club extends its sincere thanks to Sarah for all her hard work and enthusiasm.

As planning begins for the 2026–2027 season, a new *Ladies Night Committee* is being formed, and a few more volunteers are needed to help continue this wonderful tradition. Current committee members Corrie W., Linda W., and Kim M. are looking for two or more enthusiastic women to join the team.

Being part of the *Ladies Night Committee* is a great way to meet fellow members, make new friends, and help shape one of the Club's favourite monthly gatherings. The committee gets together once or twice a month to share ideas, enjoy a beverage, and plan creative, fun-filled evenings for the season ahead. From themed parties and guest speakers to vendor nights and special activities, every event is a chance to try something new and create memorable experiences for everyone.

No special experience is required—just a willingness to pitch in, share ideas, and have fun. Whether you're a natural organizer, a creative thinker, or simply enjoy being part of a great team, there's a place for you. And, as every volunteer knows, many hands make light work!

If you'd like to help create another exciting season of Ladies Night while enjoying plenty of laughter and camaraderie along the way, please contact the office or Kim M. for more information. New ideas, new faces, and new friendships are always welcome!



### Boating Tip of the Month...

Tip #3) Secure your Vessel on Your Trailer before Trailering it!

UP TO **\$1,000**  
**YACHT CLUB REBATE!**  
Call For Details!



Let us do the hard work, so you can spend more time... **Boating!**

- RESIDENTIAL-
- INVESTMENT-
- RECREATIONAL-
- COMMERCIAL-



**Steve Bertram**  
PREC\*



Call 'MOLOKAI' on VHF 16 -OR- for Landlubbers: 250-306-7575

\* \$1,000 Rebate represents 10% of the Earned Fees, up to a Maximum of \$1000. For example: \$500 Rebate if Flex Realty Earns \$5,000. Call for details!



# CANADA DAY

**VERNON YACHT CLUB**

**SATURDAY, JULY 4  
DINNER & DANCE**

**Tickets: \$59**

**Tickets available at the Yacht Club**



**5PM COCKTAILS  
6PM DINNER  
8:00 DANCE**

# SWIM THE LAKE

## LONG DISTANCE SWIMMER JESSI HAREWICZ

Swimmer Jesse needs You! *Okanagan Lake* is one long body of water. One hundred and six kilometers to be exact. On July 10-12, 2026 long-distance swimmer Jessi Harewicz will attempt to swim the length of *Okanagan Lake* to raise money and awareness for the *Canadian Mental Health Association*. She will dip her toes into the water from dry land at the Head of the Lake in the North Arm and will not stop until she reaches the sandy beaches of Penticton. Talk about an End to End Race!

Jessi is required to use the rules established for English Channel swims. That means she must complete the crossing unassisted. She must start from the shore, wear only standard swimwear without a wetsuit, and she must never touch the escort boat. Only standard goggles, one cap, a nose clip, ear plugs, and grease/lanolin for chaffing prevention are allowed. Devices like smartwatches, GPS trackers, or MP3 players are banned.

She has asked for assistance in the long-distance event. Needed is someone who can help navigate the North Arm with the team operating the two *Kelowna Yacht Club* escort boats for her and her team during the northern portion of the swim. VYC director Robb P has raised his hand, and VYC Fleet Captain Liam F has indicated temporary moorage for the support boats can be accommodated. Others may like to support as well.

Are you interested and able to join in Jessi's adventure to swim Okanagan Lake or cheer her on from the lake? If so, please contact KYC **Danny Foster** at **250 212-7066**.

JESSI HAREWICZ  
SWIMMING FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

JESSI IS  
TAKING ON  
Canada's longest  
swim  
106km across the Okanagan Lake

JULY 10 - 12, 2026

Attempting the longest unassisted open-water swim in Canadian history while raising funds for Foundry services across the Okanagan.

SCAN TO SUPPORT



## 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.

# BOAT SHOW WRAP-UP

Following this year's *Vernon Boat Show*, *Tiller Topics* caught up with Dave G., one of the three key organizers, along with Fred H. and Karol K., to reflect on what worked well, the challenges encountered, and the future of the event.

Mother Nature certainly cooperated, with warm, sunny weather creating ideal conditions for exhibitors and visitors. While exhibitor numbers were slightly lower than in previous years due to staffing shortages and a few long-time vendors being unable to attend, those who did participate were enthusiastic. Several even contacted organizers afterward to compliment the professionalism of the event and how smoothly everything was run.

The organizers also acknowledged the tremendous effort of the volunteers. Although the show operated with roughly 20 fewer volunteers than hoped for, those who stepped up ensured the event ran successfully and created a welcoming experience for everyone.

A highlight of the weekend was the inaugural Sunday pancake breakfast. Sponsored entirely by member Vernon P.'s company, *JettyDeck*, every dollar raised was donated to *Vernon Search and Rescue*. The RCMP also attended on Saturday, promoting safe boating and adding an important educational element to the show.

The *Vernon Yacht Club's* sailboat rides remained a favourite attraction. About 20 groups enjoyed their first taste of sailing, and many visitors asked if the rides would return next year.



*Beautiful Weather for the 2026 Vernon Boat Show*



*Visitors and Vendors at the Vernon Boat Show*

Attendance was similar to last year's despite the excellent weather. Organizers noted that many visitors came with genuine buying intentions, leading to quality conversations with exhibitors and several pontoon boat sales.

The vendor mix also evolved. While some large displays were absent because of dealership mergers and business changes, several new vendors—including portable marine mechanics, a local real estate representative and marine-themed artisans—added variety to the show.

Overall, this year's Boat Show once again demonstrated the Vernon Yacht Club's commitment to promoting boating, supporting community partners and welcoming new people to life on the water.

# OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

## VYC REPRESENTED AT OKANAGAN WOMEN'S REGATTA

After four successful regattas and an outstanding start to the 2026 racing season, the next stop on the racing calendar is the Okanagan Women's Regatta, a weekend dedicated to women sailors from clubs around Okanagan Lake.

The annual regatta brings together women sailors from clubs around *Okanagan Lake* for a weekend of spirited competition, camaraderie, and plenty of fun both on and off the water. The weekend begins Friday evening with registration, a welcome BBQ, and dockside entertainment. Two full days of racing follow, with live music and social events on Saturday before the Awards BBQ wraps up the regatta on Sunday.

*Vernon Yacht Club* will be represented by *Varua*, with Sue Ruu at the helm. *Varua* will also be racing with a new mainsail, providing a welcome boost in performance. The improved speed comes with a lower PHRF handicap, so the crew will



Sue Ruu is Joining the Women's Regatta

**KELOWNA  
YAMAHA  
& MARINE**

WE'RE YAMAHA.  
**WE SELL THE BOATS  
YOU NEED.**

FOR WORK. FOR PLAY. FOR LIFE ON THE WATER.

**YOUR  
YAMAHA  
AUTHORIZED  
SALES & SERVICE  
DEALER**

**YAMAHA WAVERUNNERS**  
POWER. PERFORMANCE. PURE FUN.

**MARLON BOATS**  
TOUGH. RELIABLE. READY FOR ANYTHING.

**YAMAHA SUPERJET**  
LIGHTWEIGHT. SIMPLE. SERIOUS FUN.

**YAMAHA 255XD**  
PREMIUM COMFORT. BIG WATER CAPABILITY. UNFORGETTABLE DAYS.

**COME SEE US AT THE VERNON BOAT SHOW  
FOR EXCLUSIVE BOAT SHOW PRICING!**

NEW & PRE-OWNED | FINANCING AVAILABLE | PARTS, SERVICE & ACCESSORIES

LEGENDARY BRANDS | LOCAL PEOPLE | EXPERT SERVICE

YOUR OKANAGAN DESTINATION FOR BOATING, POWERSPORTS & MARINE ADVENTURE.

SCAN TO TEXT US FOR MORE INFO OR BOAT SHOW INQUIRIES!

876 McCurdy Pl, Kelowna, BC V1X 8C8 | 250.763.1010 | www.kelownayamaha.ca

have their work cut out against a talented fleet that includes many experienced Kelowna skippers.

Although VYC did not host a Women's Racing Series this spring, we're proud to have *Varua* flying the Vernon colours in Kelowna. Entries are still being accepted, and *Margarita*, a **Santana 525**, is available for another VYC crew to join the fleet, whether racing independently or with a coach on board.

Best of luck to Sue and the *Varua* crew. Fair winds, close racing, and enjoy what promises to be another memorable weekend on *Okanagan Lake*. With several more regattas still ahead this season, we're looking forward to seeing VYC continue its strong showing on the race course.



# SY GRACE O'MALLEY PART 4

## VERNON YACHT CLUB'S PIRATE SHIP

### VERNON TO PENTICTON OR BUST

We made it. Penticton. If you remember Penticton in the 90's you will remember the forest of old pilings at the east end of the beach. Wicked, malevolent, rotten pilings. No place for a boat. With my 45 lb Danforth securely set in the south Okanagan mud, a safe(ish) distance from the pilings, I loaded the fam and the dog into the canoe. After a delightful day exploring Penticton an afternoon northerly blew up and we had to launch the canoe off the beach into the breakers. With *Hold Fast* and all that sailor stuff on the tip of my tongue, and the family safely embarked, I proceeded to weigh anchor. Sinking painters and old pilings can talk to each other, collude with the wind, plot, conspire. Don't believe me? Read on. With anchor aweigh and the pilings waving a disappointed farewell off the starboard quarter, I was congratulating myself on my seamanship. Just as I yelled to Sandy for more power I noticed the dinghy (canoe) making serious progress toward the stern, like really moving. When the canoe's bow hit Grace O'Malley's starboard quarter it



Captain Kidds



Grace O'Malley has No Mast Yet

was nearly pulled under before the Yanmar stalled. Yes we were now anchors aweigh, unable to restart the engine, securely attached to a 16' canoe with its stern 2' in the air... and drifting toward the mess of pilings that were waving a gleeful welcome. Timing IS everything, never more true than the situation we found ourselves in. By the time the anchor was hastily reset we were close enough to hear the pilings whispering to the painter: *well done, Grace O'Malley will soon be ours.* With the butcher knife in my teeth I

whispered back...*not today.* Ever wanted to dive over the side of a ship with a knife in your teeth? C'mon, who hasn't, all sailors are wannabe pirates. When it happens I don't recommend it be a not very sharp butcher knife with a one shot chance to keep a 32' concrete boat with 4 souls aboard from potential shipwreck. With shipwreck less imminent it was time to dive in, cut the painter free from the shaft, restart the engine, weigh anchor (by hand) again and head for Naramata. Relaxing, calm, sheltered from northerlies Naramata. Experiencing inexperience wasn't done with us yet on this voyage but Bob and Detmer say this is the end of this episode. Stay tuned. Aaaaarrrrggghhhh!!!

Dan Irvine

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

Past issues of Tiller Topics are on our website in the VYC Member Private Page, click on Tiller Archive.

# FROM YOUR FLEET CAPTAIN



Summer is here once again and boating at VYC is going full tilt, so here is a quick reminder of some useful information.

**The three most important things in our moorage regulations are:**

- 1) No refueling in the marina basin
- 2) Dead slow in the marina
- 3) Outbound boats have the right of way

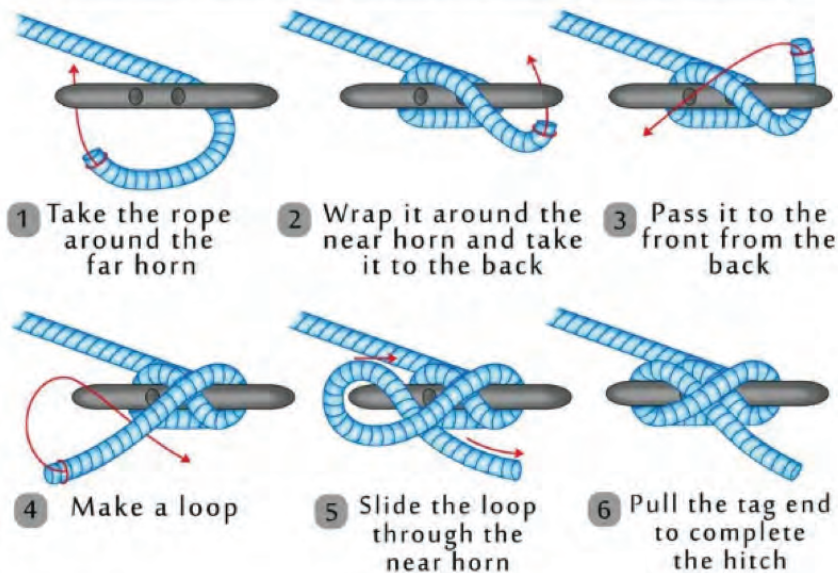
## Swimmers Itch

Last summer Kate and I were unfortunate enough to get a case of Swimmer's Itch in Lac La Hache. I'm not sure about Kate, but I didn't enjoy it at all. There have been advisories about Swimmers Itch at Ellison Park in recent memory, so if you are thinking of venturing there for an afternoon of swimming and sunbathing it's probably a good idea to check the BC Parks page for Ellison Park <https://bcparks.ca/ellison-park/> to see if there are any advisories just to be on the safe side.

## Tying up your boat

And here is a handy diagram on how to secure your boat with a cleat hitch just in case anyone forgot.

### Cleat Hitch Instructions



Liam F  
Fleet Captain



# THE END-TO-END GAME

The 2026 End2End race had 14 boats registered including *Vernon Yacht Club* boats *Pegasus* with skipper Greg L, *Blues in Sea* with skipper Bob A and *Varua* with skipper Sue R. There was a range of boat makes and models, with varying handicaps. Again, we had exceptional winds for both days. In fact, they were the best conditions I've seen in my limited entries for this race!!

The Saturday morning start at VYC had very strong winds. *Varua* (and her all-girl crew) started out on jib and small spinnaker and managed a great start on the front row! Although the wind direction was unsteady some boats tried to hoist their spin shortly after the start. *Calypso's* spin

*(article continues on next page)*

# THE END-TO-END GAME

*(continued from previous page)*

literally ripped in half during the hoist. *Honey Badger's* first attempt to hoist was not successful and caused them to broach mightily, with their bowsprit pointing straight at us and approaching FAST! We saw 7.1 knots on white sails so I decided not to hoist the spinnaker until we were in the main channel. The rest of the day we stayed with the front group and it was an incredible spinnaker run to KYC! There was just one lull in the final hour of the race before the wind picked up again and allowed us to finish. We were 4th overall on Saturday.

The evening was spent exchanging stories about the wild day and enjoying an excellent meal at KYC. Everyone was exhausted and had an early night.

Sunday morning start was at *Casa Loma* on the south side of the bridge and we were told the start would be at 9 a.m. sharp, regardless of wind conditions. The lake was initially pretty glassy. *Varua* managed to stick close to the committee boat and our speed started



*Sue and the Varua Crew Prep for the Start Line*



*E2E Committee Boat starring Art Boehm & Simon J*

PYC! We stuck with our larger genoa and kite on Sunday. All boats were able to finish. We were 3rd overall, on Sunday and 4th after both days were combined. Not too shabby!

PYC served up an excellent BBQ'd rib, chicken, and salmon dinner before the awards were presented. After some re-calculations *Whiskey Jack* was the overall winner. Many, many thanks to our yacht club organizers – Bob Annand (VYC), Kent Hardisty (KYC) and Darren Vipond (PYC). All three of these fine gents also received the Regattitude award for keeping racing alive and well between the yacht clubs. Finally, many thanks to Art Boehm, who dared to take on the role of statistician.

See you on the water, **cheers!**

**TILLER TOPICS**

**Sue "Rua" from Varua**

out at 0.8/knot. However, we hoisted our spinnaker immediately, along with one other boat, *Whiskey Jack* and we slowly pulled away from the cluster of boats that were still trying to cross the start line. *Honey Badger*, *Controlled Skid* and *Shadowfax* also pulled away from the fleet and we were with that group for the rest of the day. The winds again picked up very nicely and it was another fantastic all-day spin run to

*Blues In Sea Sarah and Bob enjoy 2 Days of Downwind Racing in the E2E ▼*



*Pegasus Skipper Greg L Kendra and Zowie master the Spinnaker in their 1st E2E Regatta*



## IN MEMORY OF REGINALD "REG" MCCLELLAN (1955–2026)

The *Vernon Yacht Club* community was saddened to learn of the passing of longtime member Reginald "Reg" McClellan on **April 10, 2026**, following complications arising from injuries sustained in a skiing accident at Lake Louise.

Reg was known throughout the club as a friendly, approachable, and genuinely kind person. Members remember him as someone who always had time for a conversation, a warm greeting, or a familiar smile around the docks and clubhouse. His easy-going nature and willingness to connect with others made him a well-liked member of the *Vernon Yacht Club* family.

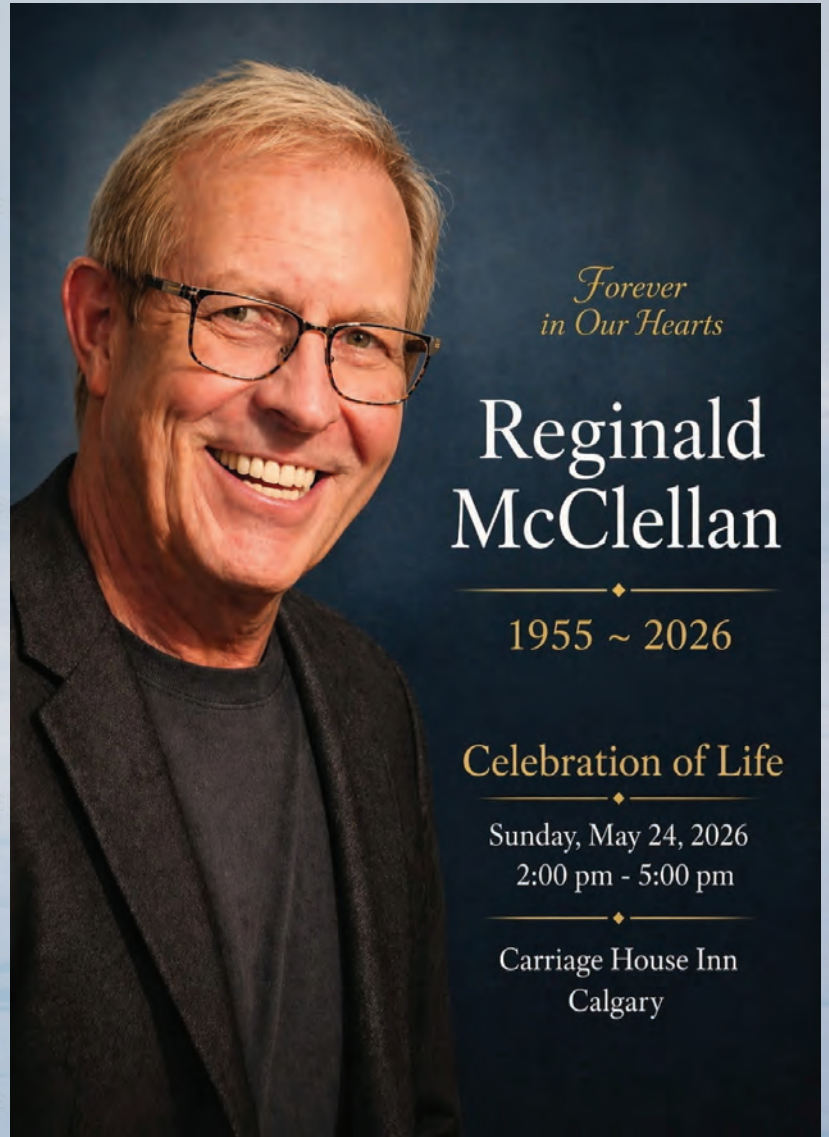
Boating and community involvement ran deep in the McClellan family. Reg's parents were longtime members of *Vernon Yacht Club*, and his mother was especially well known for her volunteer contributions over many years. Reg and his brother Dale continued that family tradition, both remaining an active members and maintaining strong ties to the club.

Beyond his involvement at VYC, Reg also volunteered his time in marine safety and search-and-rescue activities, working alongside fellow members Ciy Y and Bob M in support of boating safety on Okanagan Lake. Those who served with him recall his reliability, steady presence, and willingness to help whenever needed.

While Reg's passing came far too soon, his legacy lives on through the friendships he built, the service he provided, and the example he set through decades of involvement in the *Vernon Yacht Club* community. He will be remembered as a good friend, a dedicated volunteer, and a valued member of the VYC family.

On behalf of the members and Board of Directors, we extend our sincere condolences to Dale, the McClellan family and Reg's many friends. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.

A celebration of life was held on May 24, 2026, at the *Calgary Carriage House Inn*.



# THE STORY OF THE CAPTAIN'S CARE CLUB

Many *Vernon Yacht Club* members have enjoyed improvements around the clubhouse and grounds over the years without always knowing their origin. Televisions, patio furniture, racing marks, firepit enhancements, and other additions have gradually appeared, funded through the *Captain's Care Club*.

A notice still posted on the bulletin board near the kitchen, dated February 2011 and signed by Chairman Ken Smith, describes the *Captain's Care Club* as "a Club within a Club, created for the funding of special projects which benefit the general membership."



*Ken Smith passes the Gavel To Bob Annand*

The *Captain's Care Club* was established around 2010 following the conclusion of the *First Mates Club*. The *First Mates Club* had previously supported amenities such as the pool table, shuffleboard, and barbecue facilities. As participation declined and that group became inactive, the *Captain's Care Club* was created to continue supporting member-focused improvements.

From the outset, the *Captain's Care Club* raised funds through member-

driven activities, including the annual Rib-Off and later 50/50 draws. Funds collected were directed specifically toward club enhancements rather than general operating expenses.

Early projects included a flat-screen television, tables and chairs for the sundeck, and racing marks for the sailing fleet. Over time, additional contributions have supported outdoor furnishings, gathering spaces, and more recently, glass-topped patio tables now in use around the clubhouse.

The *Captain's Care Club* has remained member-funded and member-directed throughout its existence. The Executive is informed of projects where infrastructure is involved, while the fund itself remains member-driven, with priorities set through member participation.

After more than sixteen years of involvement, Ken Smith has decided to step back from managing the *Captain's Care Club*. Since its formation, he has guided its development and overseen funding for a wide range of improvements across the club.

As part of this transition, Ken has asked Bob Annand to assume responsibility for managing the *Captain's Care Club*. With Ken passing the gavel to Bob, the fund will continue under the same mandate that has guided it since its inception.

The *Captain's Care Club* remains a steady part of *Vernon Yacht Club* life, quietly supporting improvements that enhance facilities and member enjoyment. With Bob Annand now assuming leadership, the tradition of member-supported projects will continue.



A graphic with a blue background. On the left, there are three paper boats: a red one at the bottom, and two yellow ones above it. To the right of the boats, the text "Tiller Stuffers" is written in a yellow, cursive font. Below the text, there is a white box containing the following text: "A knot isn't just a speed — it's a measurement trick. Sailors used to toss a rope with knots tied at intervals overboard and count how many slipped through their fingers in a set time. That number = knots. (Ouch, if you grabbed wrong.)"

# COASTAL CONNECTIONS

## DAVE SIMPSON

Long-time VYC members **Dave and Sandi Simpson** have spent years exploring the BC coast aboard their trusty 32-foot C&C sailboat based in Ladysmith. Recently, however, they decided it was time for a change, trading wind power for horsepower with the purchase of a Camano 31 named *Osprey*.

"So far, no regrets!" says Dave.

When asked to share a glimpse of life aboard their new cruising home, Dave responded with a photo collage and a recipe that's just a little harder to recreate here in the Okanagan.

### Bounty of the Sea 101

*A simple recipe for the freshest seafood dinner you'll ever enjoy.*

#### Ingredients:

- One Camano 31 flying a proud VYC burgee
- A healthy appetite
- A little patience
- A spectacular BC coastline

#### Directions:

1. Launch your boat proudly displaying the VYC burgee.
2. Catch a few rockfish—some for dinner, some for bait.
3. Rescue an abandoned crab trap, repair it, and let it soak overnight.
4. Drop a prawn trap into about 250 feet of water and leave it overnight.
5. Dig a handful of fresh clams and steam them on the BBQ until they pop open.
6. Haul your traps, gather the day's bounty, and prepare a feast of fresh fish, crab, prawns, and clams.

**Serving suggestion:** Pair with a cold beer or a crisp white wine while watching the sun set over the water.

Some recipes simply can't be duplicated inland—but thanks to Dave and Sandi, we can all enjoy them vicariously through their adventures. Fair winds...or should we say, happy cruising!



*Osprey with VYC Burgee*



*Dave and the Rock Cods*



*Step 3  
Find and repair  
a crab trap*



*Plenty  
of  
prawns*



*Clam Bake ▼*



*Sandi enjoying the Feast*



# **CLASSIFIEDS**

## **FOR SALE – 1976 Fiberform Santa Catalina Class, “White Beauty”**

Includes 1980 Calkins **Trailer**, Rewired and New Tires 2016  
Currently moored at *Vernon Yacht Club*

**\$7,900.00**

### **Details:**

- Length 20” with Swim Grid
- 165 Horse Mercury Inboard/Outboard with approx. 500 Hours
- New Top, Upholstery, Carpet replaced 2005
- Depth Sounder added 2012
- New Windshield 2016
- New Battery May 2026



Contact **Sherry MacFarlane**,  
at **250-549-0096** or **250-549-3572**

I am only the 2<sup>nd</sup> owner. I purchased the boat in April 2003 from the original owner in Kelowna. All Maintenance Records are available at Valley Marine during my ownership.

---

## **FOR SALE – 22.5 foot “Double Eagle”**

**\$5,000.00**

Project boat with refinished hull,  
rebuilt Volvo Penta engine and drive  
with trailer.

It has a flybridge and 2 sets of new  
instruments.

Boat has a head.  
Asking \$5,000.

Email me at  
[daoldskier@shaw.ca](mailto:daoldskier@shaw.ca)



# RECOGNITION

## 2026 VERNON REGATTA

Another successful regatta is in the books, and it took a small army to make it happen. On behalf of the *Regatta Committee*, thank you to the many sponsors, volunteers, participants, and supporters whose generosity and hard work made this year's event a success.



Awards Table with Mount Gay Rum and Sandhill Wine

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the **Rémy Cointreau Group** and their local representative, **Richard Blanchard**, for their generous donation of *Mount Gay Rum* prize bottles and the iconic red racing ball caps that have become a favourite regatta tradition. We also thank our local winery supporters **Sandhill** and **Larch Hills** for their prize bottles, along with **Evolution Sails** for their generous swag, **Okanagan Spring Brewery**, and member **Barb R.** for her *Whiskey Island Rum* prizes.

Thank you to the **Okanagan Quality of Life Society** for making their pontoon boat available for race committee use. We are especially grateful to our race committee volunteers aboard *Heaven Can Wait*—**Gerald G., Simon J., Art B., and Barb R.**—and especially to *Race Officer John H.* of **NOSA**, whose professionalism kept the racing running smoothly. Thanks also to **Ashlin** for operating the NOSA crash boat throughout the regatta.

Our appreciation also goes to **Debbie Z.**, whose work with Regatta Network registration and as race statistician kept the results accurate and timely. Our gratitude also goes to **Keith D.** for

preparing the Sailing Instructions and Notice of Race, and to **Dave Pollock** for organizing the fleets and reviewing the PHRF ratings before racing began.

*(article continues on next page)*



525 Fleet Winner Jelly Bean



A Fleet Winner Shadow Fax



B Fleet Winner & Over All Winner Blues In Sea



Debbie Z Statistician



Committee Boat In the Action



Atanua



The E2E Front Runners



Blues in Sea Bob, John, Christine, Dan, Liam, missing Kris



Butter Tart



The E2E Fleet - Russel K photos



Overall Winner Trophy and Award

# RECOGNITION - 2026 VERNON REGATTA *(continued from previous page)*

In-person registration and sales were in excellent hands thanks to **Kate S.**, assisted by **Darla H.** and **Pamela M.** and thanks to **Sarah K** for making the rounds for a special 50/50 draw. A noteworthy thank you goes to **Fleet Captain Liam F.** for handling reciprocal arrangements, IT support, photography, and countless other tasks. A special thank you goes to **Sue R.** for coordinating breakfast, and with **Del W.**, the awards presentations. **Robb P.** was a big help on banquet set up and late night take down!

The social side of the regatta was every bit as enjoyable as the racing. The **McKinleys** had everyone dancing to their outstanding music, while our **Starry Night** regatta shirts sold out completely, thanks to the cool design created by member **Jay Johnson** of **Bamko**. And our puppies thank **Can Am Pet Treats** for the bags of treats.

Behind the scenes, **Corinne, Trevor, Chef Rob**, along with volunteer **Annie G.** worked tirelessly to prepare an outstanding banquet dinner, and the BBQ smokie lunch. Thank you to our bar staff—**Rachel, Grace, and Rebecca**—for their friendly service and for hosting the popular *Mount Gay Rum* tastings. We also appreciate the efforts of our office and maintenance staff, **Marjon, Hilda** and **Ryan**, whose work often goes unnoticed but is essential to a successful event.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you to the skippers and crews of the **14 boats** representing clubs from up and down the Okanagan. Your enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and friendly competition are what make this regatta worthwhile. We hope you enjoyed both the racing and the camaraderie, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back next year.

**Bob Annand**  
**Regatta Chair** 



*Blues In Sea*



*Calypso*



*Chaos*



*Kate, Darla, Pamela on Sales*



*Eagle Moon*



*Lucky Dog*



*Rapid Transit*



*Cygnus*



*ShadowFax*



*Split Decision & Jelly Bean*



*Stormcastle Rock*



*Varua*



# GANGPLANK



## 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 - 10:00 pm
Sunday:	10:00am - 8:00 pm

## OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday thru Friday	9:00am - 4:00pm
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 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)
- Mon JUN 14, 2027 – Jun/Jul/Aug issue (Commodore Sail Past & Summer edition)



# VERNON YACHT CLUB DIRECTORY

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Fred H	Commodore	commodore(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Dave G	Vice Commodore	vice-commodore(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Bill M	Rear Commodore	rear-commodore(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Liam F	Fleet Captain	fleet-captain(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Pat L	Staff Captain	staff-captain(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Marta B	Treasurer	treasurer(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Deirdrie L	Secretary	secretary(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Angela R	Director (1 year)	director2(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Simon J	Membership Director (2 yr)	membership(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Robb P	Director (1 year)	director3(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Mike L	Director (2 year)	director4(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Ronald R	Director (1 year)	director(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Gerald G	Past Commodore	past-commodore(at)vernonyachtclub.com

## YACHT CLUB MANAGERS

Marjon F	Office Manager	office(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Ryan H	Maintenance Manager	maintenance(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Rachel R	Lounge Manager	gangplank(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Corinne K	Kitchen Manager	kitchen(at)vernonyachtclub.com

## REGULAR VOLUNTEERS

William W	Security	security(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Bob A	Sailing Committee	annand(at)shaw.ca
Terry R	IT/Webmaster	webmaster(at)vernonyachtclub.com

## TILLER TOPICS TEAM

Detmer D	Publisher / Layout	dkdeddens(at)gmail.com
Bob A	Tiller Topics Editor	annand(at)shaw.ca

Find us on social media!



(at)VernonYachtClub



(at)VernonYachtClub



(at)vernonyachtclub



**Vernon Yacht Club**  
7919 Okanagan Landing Road  
Vernon, BC V1H 1H1

Phone: 250-545-5518, Fax: 250-545-0388  
Email: office(at)vernonyachtclub.com  
www.vernonyachtclub.com