NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2026

TILLER TOPICS



REPORTS

NEWS FROM OUR COMMODORE



Summer 2026 was certainly not the best boating season on record. Wildfires, smoke, low water levels, and Stage 3 water restrictions made for some challenging times. Despite these challenges, Crane Day went well, and the yard currently has 76 members taking advantage of winter storage at the club.

Our AGM, held on October 29, initially had 58 members in attendance. Two additional members arrived at 7:05 PM, and, with the consent of the members present, we proceeded to call the meeting to order with a full quorum.

We welcome three new Directors to the Executive: Mike F, Wayne H, and Dean vO. Returning to the Executive in previously held roles as Vice Commodore and Staff Captain are Susan M and Gerald G. Ashley B continues as Secretary, while Robb P has moved into the position of Rear Commodore.

I would also like to extend a sincere thank-you to Dave G, Pat L, Bill McK, Deirdrie L, and Ron R for their time, dedication, and contributions to the Executive. Your efforts and commitment to the club are greatly appreciated.

(The Commodore's Report will be continued on the next page)

IN THIS ISSUE:

News from our Commodore	pg 1 & 2
Executive Intros - Fred H / Susan M	pg 2 & 3
Executive Intros - Robb P / Liam F	pg 3
Exec Intros - Gerald G / Marta B / Ashley B	pg 4
Exec Intros - Angela R / Simon J / Wayne H	pg 5
Exec Intros - Mike L / Dean vO / Mike F	pg 6
Membership Director Report	pg 7
Plastic Roads?	pg 8
Witchy Women Ladies Night	pg 9
Crane Day Pictures	pg 9
Mama Mia!! Here We Go Again ...	pg 10
SY Grace O'Malley - part 6	pg 11 & 12
2026 Turkey Trot Social Sail	pg 13
A Tropical Wind-Up	pg 14 & 15
Santa Brunch Anouncement	pg 15
Jim Forster - Celebration of Life	pg 16
Gangplank Winter Hours	pg 17
Tiller Topics Article Deadlines	pg 17
VYC Executive Directory	back

COMMODORE's REPORT

(continued from previous page)

Kudos to our staff for organizing a fantastic *Grey Cup* watch party! A special thanks goes to the ever-resourceful Ryan, who organized game square draws, a 50/50 draw, and an impressive assortment of swag for the draws in the Gangplank. Grace and Rebecca kept everyone refreshed with special drinks, while Chef Rob created a special Game Day menu. Everyone in attendance had a great time, and it was wonderful to see our members coming together to enjoy the event.

Looking ahead to 2027, my goal is to continue leading the *Vernon Yacht Club* toward positive growth and long-term financial stability. An important focus for the coming year will be increasing member involvement and encouraging more members to become active participants in club activities and spend more time enjoying everything the club has to offer.

Our club is at its best when our members are involved, engaged, and taking pride in their membership. I look forward to working with the executive, staff, and membership to build on our successes and make 2027 another positive year for the *Vernon Yacht Club*.

Fred H - Commodore

EXECUTIVE 2026/2027 - Introductions



Fred H –
Commodore

From the highly polished and cluttered desk of the Commodore, I'm Fred Haight. My Grandfather was a lobster fisherman in Nova Scotia and I have fond memories from the Bay of Fundy as a small boy barely being tall enough to see over the gunwale to shore, so boating and being around water has been an enjoyable pastime.

I was introduced to the *Vernon Yacht Club* in 2007 at the *United Way Charity Regatta*, met some nice people while being part of a crew in the event and was convinced to join. Getting involved with the operations started with the Boat Show and then different positions on the Board and now I'm your Commodore for the 2nd year.

Susan M –
Vice Commodore



Hi, for those of you who don't know me my name is Susan Mathews. My husband Rob and I have been members of the yacht club for about 15 years. In that time, I have been on the executive board in various positions over a period of 5 years and Rob ran the boat show for 4 years.

I think as a club run by volunteer members we all need to do what we can to contribute. It's not always easy when also raising kids, working, looking after parents and grandchildren. I know some of you have done a LOT and the club wouldn't be where it is today if it weren't for you and your endless volunteer efforts.

(Susan's message will be continued on the next page)

(continued from previous page)

This time as Vice Commodore (my last time in this position was during Covid so as you know we weren't even allowed to congregate) I would like to put some smaller groups together that would only take up a few hours of your time a month, such as the long-term planning committee. That committee can take in your ideas and wish lists of where you would like the club to go and find out if they're feasible and what the costs would be so then they can be voted on and put into the budget. I'm sure you all have an idea or two.

I'm looking forward to a productive year at the club with lots of fun and events along the way.



Robb P –

Rear Commodore

Robb relocated from Calgary at the end of 2021 and immediately joined VYC. Robb is an avid sailor and enjoys participating in the *VYC Sailboat racing league*. In addition, Robb is also an avid skier, hiker, cyclist, kayaker and paddleboarder.

As you might expect, Robb absolutely loves the outdoor lifestyle that Vernon has to offer and loves being a member of VYC. Robb retired at the end of 2024 and has filled his days with numerous volunteer activities: consequently, he doesn't miss work a bit … Robb also sits on the board of *North Okanagan Sailing Association (NOSA)* and is currently Vice-Commodore of *NOSA*. Last year, Robb joined the VYC board as a Director at Large and this year took over from Bill M as Rear Commodore, with responsibilities for maintenance activities at the club. Bill M has done an excellent job as Rear Commodore during his tenure and Robb realizes that he has big shoes to fill. As a former professional Facilities and Real Estate Manager with a major oil company, Robb brings experience with maintaining commercial facilities. He's looking forward to working with our VYC Maintenance Manager - Ryan and is also hoping to help build on the spirit of cooperation that NOSA and VYC have been building over the past few years.



Liam F –

Fleet Captain

I grew up in Ottawa where I learned to sail on *Dow's Lake* on the *Rideau Canal*, the lake is about 6 feet deep and not a particularly delightful place to fall into, but I somehow still managed to accomplish that.

We moved to Vernon and joined VYC in 2014 and were lucky enough to get a slip in mid 2015. We launched in June and were greeted by several of our members who, unasked, offered to help splash the boat and step the mast. That help was much appreciated and really made us feel like we had made the right choice of clubs. We are still here, still sailing and happy to be able to volunteer our time to help with the operations of the club.

Both Kate and I are active with the weekly racing at VYC though not on our boat, that we use for overnights. I always say the cheapest boat to race is somebody else's.

I joined the VYC board in 2020 and have been the Fleet Captain since 2022.



A Peaceful Afternoon at Ellison with Friends ▷



Gerald G –

Staff Captain & Past Commodore

Hello everyone. Guess what? I'm back and ready to party, are you?? On Dec 13th we are having our Santa Brunch, and I have it on good authority that Santa will be there.

Our New Year's Eve Party on Dec 31st with music by James Taylor will be awesome!! Menu and ticket prices TBA soon, so get ready to grab your tickets early - it will be a sell out!!

My wife, Annie, and I have been members of the *Vernon Yacht Club* since 1996, and we have enjoyed the Club immensely. Annie and I have thoroughly enjoyed all the social events, meeting fellow members, and forming lifelong friendships. We especially enjoy boating and spending time with other members who share our interests. We also love volunteering at the Club, which has been a truly delightful and rewarding experience. I have been a member of the Executive Committee for about 10 years, Commodore for 4 years, and I am now the new Staff Captain.

Marta B –

VYC treasurer



I have been a member of the club with my husband Steve since 2010.
We are avid boaters and strong supporters of the club and its' events, and we (along with our wonder dog, Reggie), look forward to many more happy years being involved with the club.
We are particularly proud of our groundbreaking, fully-Electric Motor Yacht, the first of its kind on the western seaboard. Stop by and see us on D-Dock for a bevy this summer!



Ashley B –

Secretary

Hi, I'm Ashley, and it's a pleasure to join the *Vernon Yacht Club* Board of Directors. Being part of a community that shares a love for Okanagan lakes and the outdoors makes this opportunity especially meaningful.

My family and I have called the Vernon area home for over 15 years. Since 2017, I've worked as a local REALTOR®, following more than a decade with WestJet, where customer service, teamwork and building lasting relationships were central to my career.

Outside of work, our family enjoys boating, biking, hiking and spending time with friends on the water. The lifestyle and sense of community here are what make the North Okanagan such a special place to live.

I look forward to meeting more members, supporting the club and contributing to another great year at the *Vernon Yacht Club*.

FUN

Everyone may have their own lake monster. Loch Ness has Nessie. Okanagan Lake has Ogopogo. In the 1800s, sailors insisted Ogopogo could swim faster than a steamship. Wouldn't that be something, Ogopogo passing you during a race?

Angela R –
Director



I am a sailor at heart, now sailing the Caribbean in the winter months and pontoon cruising on the Lake in the summer. I have recently retired from my profession but I continue to work on a part-time basis to ease into the transition. I also am a marine canvas fabricator and my husband David and I operate *Dockside Custom Canvas* in town.

Being on the Executive has allowed me to meet so many of our members, understand the challenges the Club faces, and contribute my energy to making the Club a place where our members want to be.



Simon J –
Membership Director



Kim and I have been VYC members for just over five years, and Coldstream residents since the summer of 2021. We relocated from southern Ontario when I retired, and made sure to trailer 'Tabasco', our thirty ft Red Wing sailboat with us. We're thrilled to be here. Since joining the VYC, Kim and I volunteer with the *Bill West Flashlight Brigade* and can be found a couple times per month, strolling the docks, peering at flashing beacons, and checking fenders and lines.

We've carved the prime rib, butchered the pig, helped with launches and haul-outs, dined and danced with the best people in town, and just generally enjoyed ourselves. We have a fun club here, so don't be shy. This place is so much more than boat moorage and storage.

Wayne H –
Director



My wife Darla and I joined the *Vernon Yacht Club* in 2019. We got to know several members of the club on a group trip to Türkiye in 2018. During the planning of the trip, we visited the club several times as guests and we really enjoyed the warm and welcoming environment. Darla had previous experience sailing, and it was something that had always interested me, so we decided to give it a try and started crewing during the Wednesday night racing. We did a couple small courses at the club including taking the *Learn to Sail* course. In 2023 we bought our first sailboat and have not looked back, enjoying any opportunity to get out on the lake.

I am planning to retire early in the New Year, so I made the decision to join the executive this year. I look forward to getting involved in the club activities and spending more time on the lake sailing.

I've spent my whole career in the airline industry as a pilot.

After graduating I was successful in getting that illusive first job flying small bush planes. Later I flew corporate jets for the BC Government. In the 80's I left the Government and joined multiple airlines to fly commercially.

In 2016, I retired from active flying but stayed on part time as an instructor pilot until Covid hit, then I retired again!

Mike L – Director



In 2019, we moved to Vernon and joined the *Vernon Yacht Club*. I am married to my wonderful wife, Oana who is a Pathologist at VJH. We have a blended family with 5 kids (3+2), aged from 36 to 27. For my club activities, 4 years ago I moved into Keith Danielson's very big shoes as I took the reins of Crane Day. I can't thank Keith enough for keeping a close eye on me and making sure I didn't step in a pothole! I am also sitting on the Technology sub-committee, which is an interesting job.



Dean vO – Director at Large

Dean grew up in Vernon boating on the local lakes and turned that passion into a career. He brings more than 40 years of business experience, with a background in marine electronics, custom boatbuilding, rigging, and marine mechanics. Dean and Liz enjoy spending time on the water and taking part in *Vernon Yacht Club* events. Liz paddles competitively with a dragon boat team, while Dean spends much of his spare time working on custom cars, trucks, and boats. As *Director at Large*, Dean looks forward to working with fellow directors, the executive, and members to support club events and improvements. He takes members' concerns seriously and makes a point of getting back to people when they reach out.

Mike F – Director



I am looking forward to the privilege of stepping into the role of Director.

My professional background was with CP Rail, where I spent 35 wonderful years. I started in Montreal as an office boy in the IT Department and progressed through the ranks in various positions and management roles until I retired in 2007. Following my retirement, I spent two years doing IT change management consulting.

In September of 2010, we moved to the Coldstream-Vernon area for the climate, the more relaxed pace of life, and the friendly community to enjoy our retirement years. Since moving to Vernon, I have enjoyed giving back to the community by volunteering with the *Navy League*, as well as volunteering as a member of the *Vernon Rotary Club*.

After being here for two years, we were bitten by the urge to be back on the water. We decided to build and purchase our wheelchair-accessible pontoon boat and proudly joined the VYC in 2012.

We spend as much time on the lake as we can from May until the end of September. Family time out there with our kids and grandkids means the world to us – especially watching the grandkids continue to experience the joys of being on the water, learning new water sports, swimming, or just enjoying quiet time fishing.

Being a member of VYC has enabled my wife and I to maintain our independence by providing accessible access to my boat, for which I am incredibly thankful. I look forward to giving back to this great community in my new role.

FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



Well, that's a wrap on another boating season. Crane day has come and gone and so has our AGM. I'd like to say thank-you to all who found the time to participate, so, "Thank-you"!

Another AGM means we have some new faces on the board too, replacing those who've stepped away from their club management roles. Welcome Dino vO, Wayne H, Michael F, and Ashley B. They are introduced on the previous pages of this issue. They're filling the vacancies left by Bill McK, Ron R, David G and Deirdrie L. Thank-you for all you've done, to those stepping away.

Our parking lot is now filled full of fiberglass and aluminum (see cover), patiently awaiting the arrival of Spring. The tarps are wrapped and tied, and the Shrink Wrap is tight, and protecting our boats from the elements. At this time of year, we are distracted by other interests; vacays in warmer climates, ski destinations, the next big holiday, preparing the backyard for winter, perusing the latest *Steveston Marine* catalog. The list goes on.

Some of us now forget about the VYC, until the snow melts and the rocks show through, to signal that seasonal change, but I'd like to point out, the yacht club is still open. If you're considering a Christmas Party, an AGM, a wedding or wake, we're available. The kitchen and bar may have reduced hours over the Winter, but Chef Robs' culinary delights, and Rachel, Grace and Rebeccas' glasses of your favorite 'nectar of the gods' are still here, bottled, or 'on tap'.

Some things to look forward to over the winter months ....
Stevie 'B' will be hosting a few Karaoke sessions. To all you shower and car singers, this is a perfect opportunity to break loose those vocal cords and entertain the masses! I have first-hand knowledge that the *Ladies Night* committee is also hard at work 'brainstorming' future events to entertain us through the grey season. Santa tends to visit the club for brunch, sometime in December. Hey, the jolly man didn't get big eating carrots and lettuce! He's a big fan of Chef Robs' hard work, and our 'famous' *VYC New Years Bash* is a date to circle on the calendar. It's not too far away either.

Enjoy your non-boating season. Mid-April is only 5 ½ months away. I hope we'll see many of you over the winter months.

Your Membership Director
Simon J



PLASTIC ROADS?

Plastic waste has become a real problem over time. One only needs to be boating on our lovely *Okanagan Lake* and see plastic bottles floating by. In the past number of years several community partners and *Okanagan College* students have teamed up to determine the quantity of microplastics in *Okanagan Lake* and our municipal wastewater. It doesn't look pretty. Barely 5 percent of plastic discarded each day makes it to recycling facilities. The rest winds up in our waterways, landfills, illegal dumps and streets, or is burned in open pits, poisoning the air.

There is definately a call to action for our VYC members to look after their own plastic and do some lake cleanup. An easy way to help is to pick up the plastic water bottles you see floating and don't add to it. It's a bigger problem than we realize. It is important to hydrate out there, but make sure you recycle those bottles in the recycling bin the club has provided, located by the dock entrance gate.



For these recycled bottles there is a solution, a Singapore-based company has engineered a way to transform how plastic waste is managed, by turning it into materials for building roads. Using innovative technology, a large percentage of the plastic waste, including contaminated materials like hospital disposables, is processed into NEWBitumen, an alternative to conventional road materials.



Microplastics found in Okanagan Lake



An engineer inspects paving blocks made from recycled plastics

These plastic roads are being tested and built in more and more countries as the world's plastic pollution becomes more of a problem. India has installed over 60,000 miles of these roads already. Meanwhile, the technology is gaining ground in several other countries, and started building their first plastic roads only recently. Canada unfortunately hasn't caught on yet.

This innovation has already diverted significant amounts of plastic from incineration. By offering a sustainable solution to the plastic waste crisis, the initiative highlights how industries can reduce reliance on natural resources. It would be kind of fun, wouldn't it? To be driving over a slurry of used plastics — shredded and melted bags, bottles, and snack wraps — that otherwise were destined for a landfill?



Shoreline clean up on Okanagan Lake



For Tiller Topics
Detmer Deddens

WITCHY WOMEN LADIES NIGHT OCT 22, 2026

What happens when 40 – FORTY! – witches come together at the VYC?? We have a Wildly Wicked Time, and that's exactly what we did – *insert witch cackling here*! Linda W is very, very good at this and she facilitated the evening for us. We had a delightful meal of appropriately spooky delights including worms and dirt for dessert.



Corrie insisted we do the witch's dance. You've gotta google it and find out what that is. Zhilia from *Norwex* handed out her mop handles for those witches who did not have their brooms handy. Thank you to *Norwex, 5th Avenue Jewelry, Shaklee,* and *The Happy Dotter* for being vendors.







Tanya Lipscomb sang her selection of perfectly themed songs. She said "walking into a room full of witches was a surreal experience. It was (bleeping) cool!" We love having Tanya entertain at our club.

The special guests, Mandi and Sandy, were set up in the basement and did their brand of card reading for those who made appointments. I personally booked with Sandy as I was curious what photo therapy was. I had a great reading and Sandy was delightful.

Once again, the planning committee did an amazing job of transforming the club into a perfectly witchy warren. Thank you ladies!

Thank you to all you witches that came. The assortment of good, bad, wild, sexy and whatever-witch-you-want-to-be made the evening a success.

Kim M



Crane Day Fall 2026 Well Underway Before Sunrise



John H moves Scotch Mist into Position With His Restored 1940s-era Dodge Pickup

MAMA MIA!! HERE WE GO AGAIN .....

Our first Ladies' Night event of the season on October 1st SOLD OUT! Every lady was dancing and singing along to ABBA at our Mamma Mia-themed event!



DJ StevieB kept the great music rolling and I've never seen the dance floor so busy... ALL NIGHT LONG! Our bar tenders were hopping too. The kitchen served up some super Greek style food with amazing baklava for dessert. And it was a BIG piece, too.

I want to extend a GIANT THANK YOU to Corrie, who was the inspiration behind this theme. She and her Mom, Connie, are also fabulous event decorators and put together delightful table centerpieces.

AND Linda! She knows just the right amount of sparkle necessary for every Ladies' Night. She did a terrific job of facilitating the night and handing out spot dance prizes.





Our new committee knocked it out of the park and transformed the Club into an amazing over the top disco. One night only! We literally had thousands of twinkling fairy lights everywhere. StevieB also brought along his DJ light show. AMAZING !





A HUGE Shout out to Dora, Daphne and Leslie for all their time decorating and un-decorating.

We had two of Corrie's friends, Kim and Wynnita pitching in to help.

THANK YOU ALL !!





Dora donated two stunning gift baskets from Ecotecture here in Vernon. Winners Linda and Kathy were sitting at the same table. The fix was surely in. We had a spectacular 50/50 draw made possible by Corrie and Connie! The lucky winner took home $395!!

I personally had soooo much FUN! Shall we do it again next year?? **Kim M**



SY GRACE O'MALLEY PART 6

VERNON YACHT CLUB'S PIRATE SHIP

THE SAIL FROM HELL



Grace OMalley Launches for the Turkey Trot
(that article can be found on page 13)

The anchor was set and so was the stage. The wine was open and the cockpit table laid out. A picture perfect Okanagan evening anchored just below Canadian Lakeview was about to play out when mother nature decided to rewrite the opening act. She started by elevating one dark eye-brow over the treeline above *Parker Cove*. "Just checking", she seemed to be saying. Having been subjected to her moods a time or two on Okanagan Lake I kept an eye out, wary of her intentions. Exposed as we were to the south it didn't take a rocket scientist to know what was to come once the know flat black bottom of the cumulonimbus was fully formed over west side. We were about to get hammered and not the good kind. It was bug out time. Main up, sail up to the anchor, weigh anchor, hoist genoa and sail to a sheltered mooring ball at Fintry … right? Not so fast said the theater director.

A katabatic wind is a downslope wind. Wind coming from the west off the high ground above west side has no place to go but down. Getting caught with too much sail up, running rigging not controlled from the cockpit, and a poorly secured staysail laying on the foredeck under these conditions can make for lump in the throat sailing conditions. They say that big sailboat disasters start out small and build from there. This was there. My plan to sneak down the shore placed us exactly where the wind switched from barreling down the hill to flattening out onto the lake. It hammers you from above in swirling patterns you don't see coming. Our course was looking like a child's zig zag drawing and the situation had escalated to emergency main dumps, hoping the genoa didn't flog itself to pieces in the roundups … and trying to remember just how close I could come to the docks south of the point. We were that close. A friend who watched us go by from their cottage said "there was a lot of bottom showing". With the lake rinsing off the cabin sides it was getting tense. And then it happened.

The staysail realized there was no stopper knot in the sheets and decided that now would be a good time to exploit the half assed attempt at securing it I had made. Yup, the staysail decided it would hoist itself about halfway up the stay and send it's lazy sheet thwipittythwapping about the foredeck, making any attempt to secure it is inadvisable, even if I dared leave the cockpit.

(article continues on next page)

SY GRACE O'MALLEY – PART 6 – The Sail From Hell

(continued from previous page)



Reminder Knot

When a sheet gone wild like this encounters a working sheet that is alternately flogging with the sail it's trying to control, and periodically being jerked bar taut, a knot can start to form (see pic to the left). With each flog and thwap the knot adds another wrap. This knot by the time things settled down was as big as a cantaloupe and as hard as a cannonball. I still have it. It's called the "remember your stopper knot" knot. The wind eventually did ease but not until it decided that Fintry was not where we were going to spend the night. We blew right by. By the time we were tied up to a mooring at Caesars Landing all thoughts of a barbeque and a bottle of red were gone. Tired, a little bruised, and in possession of a helluva souvenir knot we thanked our lucky stars, christened this voyage "the sail from hell" and went to bed.

I was going to include the Kelowna hurricane / broken bronze cleat / bent bowsprit / near shipwreck in front of Rosies story here too but my editor won't give me another page.

Until next time,
Dan Irvine

– To be continued in the next Tiller Topics.

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



2026 TURKEY TROT SOCIAL SAIL

The 2026 Thanksgiving *Turkey Trot Social Sail* delivered everything we love about fall sailing: sunshine, mild temp, spinnaker action, good company, and just enough wind to keep us hopeful! Monday, October 12 was a picture-perfect day on the lake as ten boats set out from the VYC start line at 11:05 AM, heading west toward the *Eveley Forestry Camp* and the elusive mooring ball marking the turning point and shortened-course finish.



Liquid Asset at the Start Line

For much of the morning, spinnakers were launched and doused as crews tried every trick in the book to catch *Razzle Dazzle* and make their way west. The breeze was shifting, swirling, and occasionally disappearing altogether.


Pegasus Cruising to the Forestry Camp

As the fleet approached the halfway point, the wind began to fade. What had started as a pleasant sail gradually turned into a test of patience, persistence, and the ability to make forward progress with the tiniest breath of air.

Congratulations to Tyler R. and the crew of *Razzle Dazzle*, who were first to find the finish mark at 1:54:50 PM, earning well-deserved line honours. The rest of the fleet followed, although the disappearing breeze made for a long afternoon. Those final stretches seemed endless, particularly for *Pegasus* and *Sea Raven*, as they persevered when the wind energy had all but vanished.


Grace OMalley Underway


The Blues Crew Sarah K and Dave D

The 2026 Turkey Trot Results

Place	Boat	Mark Rounding Time	Awards
1st	Razzle Dazzle	1:54:50 PM	Line Honours
2nd	Blues in Sea	2:30:00 PM	
3rd	Liquid Asset	2:37:30 PM	Mystery Time Winner
4th	Rapid Transit	2:51:10 PM	Mystery Time Winner
5th	Pegasus	3:05:45 PM	
6th	Sea Raven	3:31:00 PM	Special Perseverance Award
7th	Cygnus*	3:40:37 PM	Estimated Finish at Mark
8th	Heron*	3:42:13 PM	Estimated Finish at Mark



Liquid Asset Phil Wins Rum

Cygnus and *Heron* were given honourable mention for reaching the GPS point that was provided in the sailing instructions, which was actually 0.2 NM short of the racing mark (an old GPS point near the *Forestry Camp* boat launch that needs updating). *Grand Cru* and *Grace O'Malley* also receive an honourable mention for joining the fleet and taking part in the day's festivities.

Congratulations to all six boats that rounded the mark, our honourable mention finishers, and all skippers and crew who ventured out for the day. You helped make this year's Turkey Trot a success. A big thank-you to *Pegasus* and *Blues in Sea* for lending a hand towing in boats that needed assistance. Finally, a special thank-you to the race committee for organizing the event and keeping the fall sailing social alive. Here's to another great Turkey Trot!

A TROPICAL WIND-UP

TO THE 2026 SAILING SEASON

Seventy-five sailors, partners and guests gathered for the *2026 VYC Racing Wind-Up Party*. The evening featured tropical attire, games, a slideshow, season highlights, awards, plenty of laughter and an incredible potluck buffet. A huge thank-you to everyone who contributed to the feast. There was so much food.

The evening celebrated another memorable season of racing on Okanagan Lake, recognizing not only the winners but also the many volunteers who make racing possible. Special thanks went to our committee boat crews, scorers, crane day organizers, race committee and the club's office, maintenance, kitchen and bar staff.



Table Quiz and Ticket Sales



Sarah K and the Potluck Buffet



Wheel of Fortune!



Bon Apetit Jay J



Dragonfly Patrick gets into Hula

Pamela M Gets a New Kite ▷



Congratulations to our 2026 winners!

A Fleet: 1st Ayesha, 2nd SCR, 3rd Split Decision

B Fleet: 1st Stormy, 2nd Valuta, 3rd Cimarron

Hot Rum A Fleet: 1st Razzle Dazzle, 2nd SCR, 3rd Ayesha

Hot Rum B Fleet: 1st Stormy, 2nd Cygnus, 3rd Blues in Sea

A special congratulations went to Debbie Z., recipient of the Rob Ladan Memorial Trophy. This award recognizes her outstanding contribution to VYC sailing, sportsmanship, enthusiasm and willingness to jump aboard and help wherever needed.

There were plenty of laughs during the special awards, including the Spinnaker Foul, Cap'n Crunch, and Rubber Ducky awards. Keith D. and Liam F. received Unsung Hero Awards for their years of dedication to racing and crane day organization.

A special thank-you to Dell W., who generously donated her share of the 50/50 draw to the Captain's Care Club.

(article continues on next page)



Wind Up Best Dressed

A TROPICAL WIND-UP TO THE 2026 SAILING SEASON



Kate S and Cindy K get Tropical



50 50 Dell W Donates Winnings



Keith D Got Bumped Into the Most Times when Racing

(continued from previous page)

Looking ahead, 2027 promises more collaboration among Okanagan sailing clubs, winter gatherings, and regattas lined up for sailors to enjoy.

Feelings from the attendees can be summed up with: "Job well done, congratulations everyone!" A big thank-you to our Wind-Up Party planning team: Debbie Z, Cindy and Ben K, Carol and Don C, Kate S and Liam F, Fred and Debbie M, Sarah K and Bob A. Your hard work and creativity made for a wonderful evening!

See you on the water for the *Cold Beer Series* over the winter and then on to 2027!

Bob Annand
Racing Chair

COME AND JOIN US FOR BRUNCH WITH SANTA AT THE VYC



$27 MEMBER
$29 NON-MEMBER
$12 KIDS

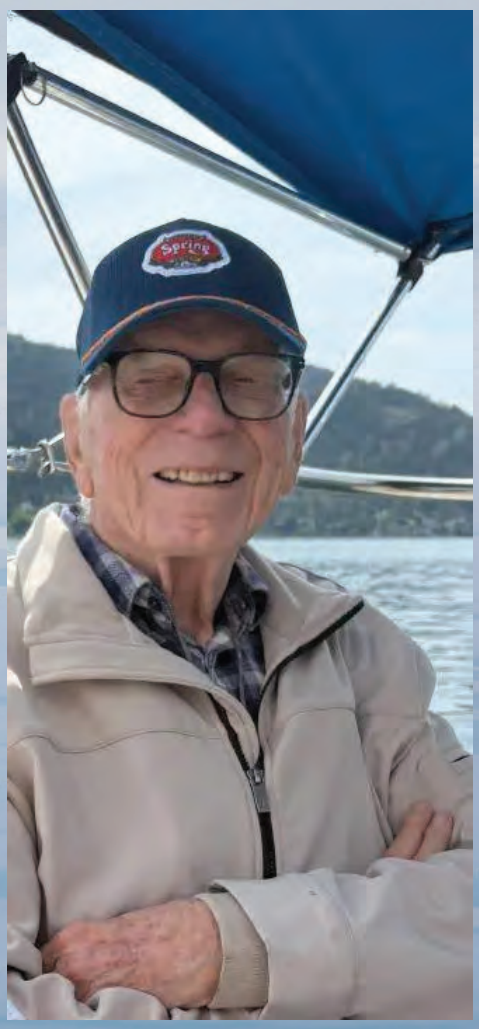
SUNDAY
13 DEC 2026
10AM - 1PM

FOOD HAMPER DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

JIM FORSTER - CELEBRATION OF LIFE

In Loving Memory - August 16, 1937 - September 29, 2026

James Willis Forster, age 89, passed away at *Vernon Jubilee Hospital* in Vernon, British Columbia, on September 29, 2026, following a brief illness.



His full obituary can be found in the Morning Star archives or this link: https://vernonmorningstar.com/2026/10/14/james-willis-forster/

Sailing connected Jim to the close-knit community of the *Vernon Yacht Club*, which became an important part of his life for many years. When he wasn't sailing, Jim could often be found in his woodworking shop, working out a new jazz piece at the piano, or playing chess.

Jim leaves behind his daughter, Shannon Forster; his son and daughter-in-law, Geoffrey and Roberta Forster; and his grand-daughter, Grace. He was predeceased by his wife, Coralie, in 2008.

Family, friends and fellow VYC members gathered at the club on November 14, 2026 to say goodbye to Jim. The family is establishing a ***Learn to Sail scholarship*** through the *Vernon Yacht Club*, reflecting Jim's lifelong love of sailing and his many years as part of the Club's community. E-transfers may be sent to: payments@vernonyachtclub.com with "Jim Forster Memorial" in the memo field.

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

EPROPULSION
victron energy
MINN KOTA
CANNON

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 (778)-692-3024



GANGPLANK - WINTER HOURS

FOOD SERVICE HOURS & MENU

Monday:	Closed	
Tuesday:	Winter Menu	**5:00pm - 8:00pm**
Wednesday:	Winter Menu	**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 - 1:00pm**

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	**9:00am - 3:00pm**

OFFICE HOURS

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

Bar staff can be reached at **250-545-5518** *during Gang Plank Hours.*

Tiller Topics ARTICLE submission DEADLINES!



Mon FEB 1, 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)*
Mon SEP 13, 2027 – Sep/Oct issue *(Summer Event reports)*
Mon NOV 15, 2027 – Nov/Dec issue *(AGM & Executive introduction edition)*

VERNON YACHT CLUB DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Fred H	Commodore	commodore(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Susan M	Vice Commodore	vice-commodore(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Robb P	Rear Commodore	rear-commodore(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Liam F	Fleet Captain	fleet-captain(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Gerald G	Staff Captain	staff-captain(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Marta B	Treasurer	treasurer(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Ashley B	Secretary	secretary(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Angela R	Director (1 year)	director2(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Simon J	Membership Director (2 yr)	membership(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Wayne H	Director (1 year)	director3(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Mike L	Director (2 year)	director4(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Dean vO	Director (1 year)	director(at)vernonyachtclub.com
Mike F	Director (1 year)	publicity(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