



## Winter Newsletter

Chester, Nova Scotia

January 2021



# CYC Commodore Note, January 2021

Looking back at the note we sent to the membership at this time last year, our sense of unbridled enthusiasm ran through the reports; the racing and social schedule was packed, the new executive team had immersed themselves in the opportunities ahead and the anticipation of catching up with old friends lay comfortably on the horizon.

A new reality began to unfold, forcing us all to pivot in some way.

For those of you who were able to get to Chester this past summer, you had an opportunity to appreciate how Jennifer, Kim and the CYC team were able to pull together a range of events that respected the provincial regulations while providing an opportunity for members to enjoy the club. The custom burgers may continue post-pandemic.

The sailing scene, while toned down from our normal pace, was active and engaged. The Learn to Sail program kept the Front Harbour bustling and Thursday evenings were always well attended. 16 boats competed in the Blue-nose Championships, with the mantle being passed to Carlisle Norwood and his crew following close competition.

Many of you will have joined our AGM via Zoom, while not the same experience as convening at the club, the technology worked well and we had an engaged dialogue with the attendees. As Commodore, I had the privilege of presenting the annual award for the exemplary contribution of a volunteer. For a variety of reasons, I thought it would be a great opportunity to recognize, posthumously, John McCurdy and Dan Blain, for their consistent practice of including junior sailors in their big-boat crews. A reminder to us all of how important it is to offer a stepping stone beyond the dinghies and create an environment for mentoring.

From the financial perspective, our revenues have understandably been lower and a variety of

government facilities have been tapped into in order to cover many of our employment and maintenance related expenses. Our membership numbers declined this year, which creates a challenge going forward as our fixed costs tend to be covered through this revenue source. As with everything else, we look to this as a temporary development but will be keeping a close watch on how this unfolds. Thanks go to Lara Parsons, who has been fully engaged in managing our unpredictable cash flows.

Looking forward, while being guided by provincial regulations and those of Sail Nova Scotia, we can build on what we've learned over the past year and intend to offer a full racing schedule. We look forward to updating the membership on this as we move forward.

In the meantime, thanks to all for your support and understanding as we navigate through these challenging waters; we are grateful for our community and environment. I look forward to seeing you all as the year unfolds.

David Creighton, Commodore



# CYC Rear Commodore

It is safe to say many of us have been waiting to turn the calendar to 2021, and we made it. Firstly, I would like to thank the entire membership, family and friends of the Chester Yacht Club for their continued support and cooperation throughout the 2020 season. While it may be difficult to forecast what is in store for 2021, it's reassuring to know we now can and will be running our programs at CYC successfully and safely in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The year in review: Beginning the season, we were all unsure what our race courses would look like. To my surprise, numbers were as good and often better in terms of participation on water as years past. We saw many new faces and some new boats join across multiple fleets.

Our Learn to Sail program, led by the fearless team of Chris Tully and Christine Santimaw, as well as all their staff did an excellent job, working tirelessly to ensure that children could return to CYC to continue to develop their skills as young sailors all the while working with restrictive guidelines and protocols. We were fortunate to have extra assistance from provincial and federal funding programs to help offset the costs of programming while being so heavily restricted. The CYC thanks Chris for his years of service and dedication to the LTS program as he has taken a new job in British Columbia and unfortunately will not be returning in 2021. We wish Chris all the best in his future endeavors and the new year.

Looking forward to a new year: While planning has become increasingly difficult, we have learned a lot to take forward with us.

It is the intention of CYC to offer a full racing calendar for the 2021 sailing season. I expect with the help of the sailing committee and the fleet captains it will be finalized by the end of January and available for review and/or download.

Chester Race Week 2021 planning is fully underway. The CRW planning committee welcomes back Dan Conrad as Principal Race Officer and Pat Nelder as On Water Chair. As of now we expect to be running the event, although it may look a little different than what we

are used to. As previously stated, we feel with all we have learned about managing our own operation, and gathering information about others, we can successfully and safely execute an event of this scale – pandemic pending.

Although we were fortunate to see very few weather events causing great amounts of damage-unlike last year, we still found upon removing floats that our infrastructure continues to significantly deteriorate. Continuing with our infrastructure renewal plan, and assistance from grants provided by Sail Nova Scotia we expect to replace 2 floats for this coming season and repair a number of others to ensure everyone's safety while on CYC property.

Finally, after much thought, consideration and consultation with various members the executive has decided to pull and redraft the tender policy created this past year. We have decided that we will not put a restriction on the amount of personal tenders stored, but will continue to have a policy containing many of the originally drafted guidelines. Standby for the updated policy for your review.

In closing, I would like to again thank all our membership, family and friends as well as the CYC staff, volunteers, officers and executive for continuing to frequent and support the Chester Yacht Club. With that said let us not forget that although it is a new year, we are still in the midst of a global pandemic. Please take the time to refresh yourself on CYC's COVID-19 protocols before visiting the club.

Wishing everyone a safe and prosperous new year!

Sean Pearce, Rear Commodore



# Vice Commodore

Let me start by wishing you all a Happy New Year. I'm hoping that you have all been successfully able to purge the ugly bilge water that was 2020. The year past was significantly disruptive. We did however do our best to make the best of an unfortunate situation.

Considering all the obstacles we were able to do a number of new things socially. We introduced Kayak storage racks at the club to extend on-water activities. It was nice to see many regularly out on the water for an early morning paddle. We conducted our traditional July 1st Scavenger hunt with a bit of a new twist. In fact we had several participants compete using their kayaks; no small feat. We even ran a Kayaking triathlon with outstanding participation by a very competitive group. I'm looking forward to seeing this evolve and grow. We introduced a karaoke evening on the deck well attended by the Junior sailing crew.

The social committee ran 2 outstanding Tea's at the club bringing back some very old traditions. Both were sold out events leaving no more than a few spoonfuls of whip cream in the end. We also once



again had our fall corn boil. We were also able to return to holding (modified) sponsored events to close off the season. Thanks go out to South Shore Insurance Agency (Aileen Heisler), The Fo'c'sle Tavern, Voctata, and Wells, Lamey, Bryson, Schnare & Mailman (Sam Lamey) for your continued support.



My thanks go out to all those who assisted over the past year. It takes a team to do many of the activities and events we hold. Thanks to Kim and the staff for all they do in keeping everything running smoothly at the Club. So much is done behind the scenes; stepping up to deal with a pandemic was a yeoman's task for everyone.

So Enough of 2020; a very good season in spite of the sholes in the way, but also one with so many missing and unable to make their way back to Chester and CYC. You were missed!

As I look out over Chester Bay this New Year's morning I'm reminded of how beautiful this area is and appreciate all that it has to offer. I'm beginning the new year with a renewed sense of positivity for the coming season and getting back to hopefully a return to the way things should be.

I'm looking forward to the 2021 season and I especially looking forward to all of you finding your way through the dissipating fog from near and far once again.

Fair winds and following seas are ahead for us in the coming season.

Here's to 2021! Cheers!

Jennifer Chandler, Vice Commodore



# 2020 Junior Program Overview—New Years Review



It goes without saying that 2020 was full of surprises. Pre-season for our junior program meant operational plans and then pivots, so many that I lost track.

Although it may seem strange to say under the circumstances, the overwhelming consensus within the junior program family is that 2020 was the best summer at least on recent record. While there are likely dozens of factors that contributed to this sense of success, I think a large part of this was, one, the sense of team – even family – among the phenomenal coaching staff we assembled and, two, the pure joy our junior sailors found in the simple ability to hit the water in a time of great uncertainty. Together, this made for a summer to remember.

The summer of 2020 was about getting back to basics. Programming was what many of us would remember it to have been when we took lessons at CYC. Full days on the water, lots of brown bag lunches on islands... pure and simple fun. Combined with the fact that there were no traditional regattas, our coaches and sailors all seemed more rested and consistently keen. Stress down; positivity way, WAY up!

I would say that this subtle but overall 'culture shift' was our biggest success this summer. In addition to

our exemplary group of sailors and coaches (one who even let his sailors shave his head after losing a bet with them), we built extremely strong ties with our friends at nearby yacht clubs, especially Lunenburg, where our sailors would meet halfway for full days on the water and fun races. With no formal regattas on the docket, Rob Barbara (Learn to Sail Director, LYC), Chris Tully (CYC Head Coach) and I organized the inaugural Sail Jam regatta (combination of CYC's canceled Opti Jam and LYC's Sail Fest). Sail Jam was raced off of Mason's Island over two days. Registration for each sailor was a \$10 membership to MICA, the **Mahone Islands Conservation Association**. MICA's mission is to protect and conserve the natural environment of the islands and shoreline of Mahone Bay, and the traditional, social and recreational opportunities valued by its various communities. We had representatives from MICA speak to the sailors at the end of Day One about the history of the Bay and their duty to respect and conserve our beautiful islands. We plan on making this an annual event.



The upcoming summer again holds much uncertainty. As a board member of Sail Nova Scotia, we are telling all clubs to prepare to operate under similar circumstances as we did in 2020.

## 2020 Junior Program Overview, *continued*



We also have changes within our ranks. Our beloved head coach Chris Tully has moved on to a great position coaching in BC; Hannah Carling will take over the head coach position this coming summer. We also have a number of coaches moving on and perhaps many out-of-provincers unable to return. So, to our coaches: thank you for your unwavering commitment to your sailors and to the program: Chris Tully, Hannah Carling, Audrey Bowen, Julie Mosher, Sean Connolly, Sierra Fahrman, Will Dickson, Soren Wilde, Henry Bowen, Spencer Dalzell, Luca Graham and Jeremy Fraser – we appreciate you.



In 2021, we will continue our commitment to our

grassroots Chester sailing culture; invest in and grow our current coaches abilities; continue to foster relationships with sister clubs, like LYC and Hubbards; ensure the program is accessible within the community and to sailors who traditionally have been unable to access a spot; and explore the next step for us, which might include an eventual transition in our double-handed program to skiffs.

**To achieve these goals, now more than ever we require your support.** Fundraising is the absolute core of our program and obviously we were unable to hold a fundraiser in 2020. Please consider a donation to the program to ensure we can complete basic upkeep and maintenance this spring and throughout the summer of 2021.

Everyone in our junior community - including sailors' families, our general membership, executive and *especially* Kim and her outstanding staff - are to be commended for their work this summer under challenging circumstances. Thank you to all, we are so grateful for your support.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions whatsoever. Happy New Year.

Christine Cragg Santimaw, Learn to Sail Director

[christine@santimaw.ca](mailto:christine@santimaw.ca)

# Chester Bluenose Fleet Report



## Chester Bluenose Fleet 2020

Back in the spring we barely thought that we'd be allowed to have two sailboats within a mile of each other, even if you would have been allowed to launch them.

Half the the town was missing behind locked borders, and the stranded souls of Chester, sick of drinking wine and reading about politics, were dying for distraction and keen to sail.

Communiqués bounced back and forth concerning minimum impact racing possibilities; rabbit starts off the CYC wharf as it would not be possible to have a race committee, or maybe no sailing at all as any mishaps would put the rescue crews at risk and distract critical medical personnel; and certainly no gathering at the club.

As regulations thawed, the bluenose class seemed the class of the year, as perhaps two person crews could manage being socially distanced barely six feet apart in our class with the skipper hard astern.

However, the gathering limits loosened further, and the Bluenosers had a season of exemplary participation. As the only game in town, quarantined would be participants

waved from front harbour terraces, and observer boats with nowhere else to go cheered regular races from June.

We had fantastic weather for a Championships this year with 16 boats, only a smidge shy of last

year, and the observer craft numbers rivalled the Americas Cup.

Right into September, every race where there wasn't a gale, we had double the regular number of old salts.

Internecine politics concerning the disparate qualities of our so called one design fleet were thankfully pushed off to next year, where we hope to celebrate the 75th anniversary of little bluenoses in big style and with a full quorum of come-from-aways.

Congratulations to Carlisle Norwood for cleaning up in the championships, Stewart Creaser for 48 races this year.

And thanks to Dawson, and all the mark setters, tender drivers, Kim and CYC staff for adapting to the circumstances, Chris Tully who may return from Victoria to brighten another regatta for us, Ray and Deb calmly observing, Steve Swinamer and Emily managing his flock offering post race tuning commentary, Shawn whisking away the crashes and winning by a mile when he deigns to join us!

Spring is almost here and the wave of young blood howling their voodoo calls at the start line await to put fear into the hearts of the white haired.

May there be no flaws in any vaccines!

Nicholas Lewin for the Bluenose Association  
(Aka, first sea lord )

# Chester IOD Fleet Annual Report 2020

This year started with high hopes and great expectations for the Chester IOD fleet as we had signed on to host the IOD Worlds in September. Preparations were under way and the boats worked on to ensure they were at their best. New mains were ordered, and our other sails checked to make sure they were evenly matched for the regatta.

February came and the first cracks in our plans started to appear! The beginning of the worldwide pandemic dominated the news headlines. It soon became clear a major uncontrollable event was to dominate the world, the people, the economy and the politics! By mid-March countries were closing their borders, quarantine became the most used word in our vocabulary, and we learned two new words: Coronavirus and COVID-19! Those words would dominate our conversations for the next 9 months. In Bermuda, we had already made the decision to cancel the annual Bermuda International Race Week. With lockdowns and flight restrictions into the Island, it was clear that it would be impossible to hold this Spring regatta. This would be the first of many cancellations of IOD fleets' regattas worldwide! In Chester, we agonized over what would be the correct path for us regarding hosting the IOD Worlds. We gathered as much information as was available at the time, all of which pointed to Chester

having to cancel the Worlds. Reluctantly, we informed the WCA of this decision and in hindsight it proved to be the correct one.

Months went by as the Nova Scotia Government and the Nova Scotia Sailing Authority wrestled over social distancing, numbers of people in a boat etc. Finally, they put together some guidelines and sailing in Mahone Bay began. Our fleet is made up of two types of owners: the first is local ownership and the other is what Maritimers call "Come from away!" In the Chester IOD fleet the split is 50/50 as half the fleet is local and the other not. The coronavirus had an immediate effect on fleet participation as us "Come from away" owners were prohibited from entering the Maritime bubble. The local IOD owners quickly grabbed the opportunity to go sailing and immediately turned out for the PHRF racing in Chester on Thursday evenings and weekends. This continued throughout the summer and Peter Wickwire found success in winning 2 of the Thursday evening series. The normal turnout for these races was a complement of 6 IO's which shows how hungry they were for some competition.

Our Fleet was able to get in two One Design regattas during the summer. The first was hosted by the Chester Yacht Club in early August. Under clear skies



## **Chester IOD Fleet Annual Report 2020 *continued***

and fair winds, Peter Wickwire in Squall prevailed beating out Evan Petley-Jones, with new boy on the block Ivan Fitch in Hustler finishing third. Hustler is the renamed boat that Ivan and Casey bought from Timmy Dittrich. They are loving it!

The second One Design regatta was hosted by the Lunenburg Yacht Club and appropriately called the “Welcome Back Regatta”! Six IODs turned out for this event and the race was hotly contested as usual. This time Evan Petley-Jones beat out Peter Wickwire by a single point with Ivan and Casey coming in third place.



The Summer wound down as Fall approached but the enthusiasm for racing continued in the PHRF races until early October. All this to say this year was certainly the most challenging we have faced but our owners and members adapted to the new norm and made the most of it by participating in as many races as that they could. I expect more of the same for 2021 but we now know what we are dealing with and

the unknown has now become known. Hopeful the borders with the Maritimes will be open and all of us “Come from away” folks will be able to get back on our IODs and enjoy the sailing and comradery that is Chester and Mahone Bay.

Respectfully submitted

Richard Thompson, Chester Fleet Captain

## Chester Classics

While 2020 did not bring an opportunity to get the Chester Classics boats out of the sheds and fleet events off the ground, there was more time for admiring the activity in preserving nautical historic vessels online and in the pages of the magazines stalwartly delivered by the post throughout. Some took the year to take on larger projects that are difficult in a single off season. All took a moment to dream about their next summer afloat. As Frog says: "Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

For the classic skippers of Chester who have sailed across generations and decades, it was a tough year. We lost some true pillars of our yachting community. They've left behind some large shoes to fill and one wonders if we could ever live up to the stories of their shenanigans on and off the water. This is the moment, if you have such a story or remembrance to get it down somewhere to share. As we exit a year like no other and sail into the hope of a fresh new year, we could all take a moment to raise a glass and share a story of the sailors who've left us and gone across the bar.

As a member of that group, John Wurts was a real handful this summer. He did not like being quarantined and railed at losing a year of sailing Universal Rule boats and missing friends this summer in Chester. However, he did find that sailing his plastic classic, a 1976 Seafarer designed in the early days of the MORC rule, on the Larkspur lake in TN was one way of passing the time during a pandemic. At approaching 85 years young, he says he's certainly had a good run but he's not going to act foolishly and go out and try to get the virus!

As we enter 2021 with tentative and cautious baby steps, we look forward hopefully to the



possibility of a 2021 sailing season and returning some historic boats to the waters of Mahone Bay. As clubs and fleets have taken this time to re-asses schedules, events, and programs, the Chester Classic fleet stands by to continue and adapt as needed our mission to encourage the preservation of historic yachts and sailing traditions and to provide as many sailors as possible ways to experience and sail with the classics in a family friendly and corinthian format. Stay tuned as we see how new and modified pieces and schedules come together!

Topher Wurts



## CYC Membership

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! I would like to wish everyone a healthy, safe and excellent year ahead.

We, at CYC, thank you all for your past and ongoing support and we look forward, public health regulations permitting, to welcoming back old and new members including hopefully, members from across Canada and the U.S.A. You were all missed this last summer.

January 1st here in Chester, sees a brilliant blue sky with the sun shining, reminiscent of a typical summer's day if you ignore the temperature outside!

So, with this image in your mind, we look forward to sharing happy days ahead in the idyllic settings of Chester and Chester Yacht Club.

Again, thank you for all your past and current support of the Club

Carol, CYC Membership Flag Officer



# Club Manager

Please read and follow CYC's Covid-19 Protocols as restrictions may change as we continue to follow public health directives.

I want to give a 'Shout Out' and Thank You to our CYC staff for adapting to new ways of working at the clubhouse this past season. Many Thanks for all your hard work Carlee Mulrooney, Jacqueline Nauss, Olivia Dunn, Katie Dickson, Taylor Morris, Sam Morris, Greg Otto, Charlie McInnes, Shanelle Tremblay, Jack Natolino, Trish Finlay and Dawson Baker.

**Membership Dues:** You will receive your Annual Membership dues notice in the mail later this month. Annual dues are payable on, or before March 1, 2021. A late payment charge of \$100.00 will be added to the fee if membership is not paid by July 1, 2021. The name of any member whose dues are not paid by June 1st will be posted at the club and the member will be suspended from the club.

**Bar Accounts:** CYC Bar Accounts are available to Senior members in good-standing. A Visa or MasterCard MUST be provided at the beginning of the season to activate your bar account. If there is an outstanding balance at the end of each month, it will be charged to your credit card on file. (If children are allowed to charge to your account please leave a permission note with the bar staff naming your children or grandchildren.)

**Seasonal Moorings:** Preference will be given to returning renters, 2020 holders of seasonal moorings will be invoiced with the 2021 membership dues. Signed mooring agreement & payment must be completed & received by CYC no later than April 15, 2021 or the mooring will be rent-

ed to the next member on the wait list and the renter will be placed on the bottom of the waiting list. Seasonal Moorings are ONLY available to Senior members in good-standing.

**CYC Crane:** Crane is for the use of CYC Senior members in good-standing (with the exception of Race Week participants). Fee for usage & signed waiver is to be provided BEFORE access is granted. Crane is available by appointment only. Crane fee is \$150 (+HST) per season per boat.

**Guest Reminder for Members:** Your guests are very welcome to come with you to CYC & we encourage you to invite your guests to join you for sailing & to socialize at the club. If your guest enjoys the club, please urge them to become a member of CYC. Remember that they must be signed into the CYC Guest Book at the Bar. In order for the club to comply with NS Liquor Laws please ensure that your guests are only signed in a maximum of 3 times per year.

**Club Rentals:** If you are interested in renting the club for a function; a meeting, wedding, birthday party, etc. please contact CYC at email below.

Best Wishes for a Happy & Healthy 2021.

Kim Johnson , CYC Club Manager  
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