

Gatineau River Yacht Club 2015 Annual Report



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Commodore's Report 2015

Welcome all to the 2015 GRYC Annual General Meeting.

Once again, another season is passed and it's time to look forward to 2016. This has been an unusual year for the board. Early in the season, we lost our treasurer and a little later our facilities and starboard fleet captain directors resigned for various reasons. Our port fleet captain and communications directors will be standing down after completing four years on the board so many thanks to them. Our starboard fleet captain, although resigned, has continued to contribute in a lesser role and the facilities director remained dedicated to watch over our governmental and Hydro Quebec issues. So we are hoping to elect some new candidates this evening, to fill the board vacancies.

All positions are up for grabs but the present vacancies include: a treasurer, a facilities director, fleet captains and a communications director. The remaining and current directors have agreed to stand for another year.

Our bookkeeper of many years, Pat Doyle, is in the process of retiring so it was necessary to hire a new bookkeeper. Pat and I interviewed two candidates. The first candidate came with an impressive work history in financial matters and I felt sure we had found our new bookkeeper. The 2nd candidate had no bookkeeping experience but she did not lack in talent and I was convinced, with the best interest in the club in mind, she would be the better choice, so we hired Katie Gray. Katie has already proved her worth by saving \$650 on the club's Bell invoice.

FACILITIES:

Much was accomplished this year including:

- New surveillance cameras and monitoring
- Implementation of the Chelsea Fire Chief's recommendations including proper fire extinguisher locations, BBQ and propane tank safety solutions, metal fuel. storage container.
- Main deck beam replacement and club house supports replacement
- Electrical system upgrades to the club house and tool shed
- Sun shades installed at the light house
- Planting to restore and protect the environment and prevent erosion
- Lots of painting and repair of the infrastructure in general and much more

This was to be the year when we replaced and reconfigured the Island docks and 2016 was when the swim docks were to have the foam floats replaced and the structure repaired. Much time was spent determining the best way to proceed and seeking estimates for the work. After many meetings a plan going forward was decided upon.

Basically, we are going to first replace the foam floats under the swim docks with Environment Quebec (EQ) approved plastic floats and any other remaining foam floats at the club. In order to

ensure safety and completion in a timely manner, we plan to contract this work to professionals with the proper heavy equipment. The island docks will not be replaced this year but a plan to reconfigure the existing docks is in the works so that they will have only one trail or access point leading to them. This will be a temporary measure in order to comply with EQ requirements by 2016.

The catwalk will be improved next year with additional floats and improved decking. Some of this improvement work will be done by volunteers but the really heavy lifting must be contracted to professionals for reasons already mentioned.

The clubhouse roof still leaks and we have created reserves to deal with the eventual replacement but for the time being we are going to get quotes from professional roofers for dealing the leaks while the roof reserve grows.

SAILING

Paul Place once again ensured another excellent year for our Junior Program, with a great set of Instructors led and supported by Amy Throop, our Youth Program Director, and the Junior Program Committee.

Our Annual Invitational Regatta this year was another great success mainly due to the efforts of Dan Gray and his staff of volunteers.

SOCIAL

Changes mandated by MAPAQ led to a new approach to the way we serve food this season. As with anything new, there will be problems but the food was great thanks to our rear commodore James Hargreaves and his volunteers.

VOLUNTEERING

This was the first year for the I Volunteer on line system. Despite some growing pains, the system worked well and makes the onerous task of tracking volunteer hours much easier for the administrators. Efforts are ongoing to improve the experience for everyone.

FINANCIAL

The position of treasurer was vacant this year but Jim Coderre, our last year's treasurer, kept his eye on things for us and is presenting the financial report this year.

And so

Many thanks to the board members who are standing down: Shona Moss-Loveshin, for elevating the level of sailing and condition of our dinghy fleet to its present high standard, Olivier Niquette and Laurie McKay who are stepping down after four years on the board - I am sure they will continue to contribute to the club in the future - and Louis Gaetan who got us through the difficult task of becoming recognized by EQ, Hydro Quebec, MAPAQ and the municipality, among many other things.

Special thanks to the board members who stayed the course and worked hard to provide for the membership and to all the volunteers who did their part as well.

In conclusion

I wish good health and happiness to all and have a wonderful winter, whether you are heading south or toughing it out here at home. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Bridge Down next year for another wonderful summer season on our beautiful Gatineau River.

Marc Ranger
Commodore GRYC

Vice Commodore's Report

The first topic I would like to address is one that is dear to my heart and that is safety. As most of you are aware the vice commodore helps lead the oversight of safety at the club and I would like to thank all of you for making 2015 a successful and safe year on the water. I would especially like to thank our manager Warren Place and his team for their dedication in this regard. As I have mentioned in the past, safety is a shared responsibility and I congratulate all of you for your contribution this past season. A special thanks to the instructors this year as well, as I have heard lots of great feedback from parents and young athletes. Thanks for doing such a great job introducing future generations to the wonderful sport of sailing!

As chair of the GRYC harbor committee I am pleased to report that we are moving forward on a number of fronts to address both short and longer term issues related to our harbor infrastructure. Building on the work of Louis Gaetan and Olivier Niquette, we welcomed Doug Clancey to the committee this past summer. Doug has worked diligently in soliciting detailed bids concerning upgrades to the catwalk and Island dock infrastructure which he will be presenting to you this evening. I would like to thank Doug for his efforts in this regard. These revitalization initiatives, which will be presented for your consideration, will bring us in to compliance with provincial requirements and ensure critical upgrades that will serve generations to come.

In closing I would like to again thank all of you for your contribution and dedication to the club and I look forward to seeing you all when summer returns in 2016!

Sean Payne
Vice Commodore

Secretary's Report

Membership

A total of 22 members joined the Club this year, putting us once again at our maximum membership of 277 (38 Adult members and 236 Family members). Our waiting list currently stands at 16 applications.

Provisional membership

The provisional membership program seems to be working well. All but two families who joined in year one of the program have now signed off on all requirements and been accepted as regular members. Those who joined in 2015 are encouraged to complete their Provisional Membership Logs.

Online payment of membership dues

This year we offered a PayPal link on our website to give members the option of paying online. Despite the 2.5% fee that was added on to the total to cover the fee PayPal charged us to process payments (adding about \$10 to the cost of an Adult membership and \$15 to the cost of a Family membership), 48 members made use of this option. The Board debated whether to increase fees of all members in order to cover the actual fee charged by PayPal, which is 2.9%, but decided to continue with the present model for the time being, in order to avoid a nearly 3% additional increase in membership fees.

Club records

This year, member and archivist Edward Tompkins completed the process of cleaning up the Club's paper records. These records have now been catalogued and labelled by another volunteer, and are back at the Club house in their new, archival quality boxes.

Volunteering at the Club

A new system of publicizing and tracking volunteer jobs, the online iVolunteer system, was implemented this year. The system has made the volunteer work at the Club more transparent, in the sense that everyone can go to the website and see all of the jobs that have to be done. We believe this is a big improvement over the previous system, where many jobs were known only by word of mouth. There have also been some complaints, as certain kinds of jobs tended to fill up quickly, while other, less popular tasks were left for those who did not sign up early. In many ways, however, this was also true when sign-up sheets for Club nights and other events were posted on the bulletin board at the Club entrance. There is still some fine tuning to be done. Certain areas will have more jobs added, as we learn from experience which events need more volunteers.

Jobs not filled: Only about 80 job slots out of 800 were not filled this year, or about 10%. This is a very low percentage and indicates that people did volunteer for a wide range of jobs, including perhaps in areas that were not their first choice. The unfilled positions were in boat maintenance and facilities work, as well as a few crash boat operator and race official positions. These are the areas

where we really need help, and these are the jobs that have, over the years, always been the hardest to fill.

We also introduced team leader positions, in order to relieve some of the burden on directors, like our Starboard Fleet Captain and the Facilities Director, by spreading responsibility for organizing and coordinating work among more volunteers. Many thanks to those who stepped up to do this work. From the numbers available at this time (we have not fully completed reconciling all of the data for the 2015 season in iVolunteer yet), it appears that 14 Memberships (Adult/Family) did not volunteer at all (versus 12 in 2014), while 15 Memberships completed less than 50% of their volunteer requirement of 4 credits or 16 hours per person (versus 11 in 2014). The 2015 numbers do not yet take into account members who will be excused due to illness or other extenuating circumstances, so overall the numbers appear to be very similar to previous years.

Finally, many, many thanks to all members who volunteered in all of the many positions. Many of you did far more than your minimum requirement, and please know that your contributions toward running our Club are necessary and very much appreciated by all.

Honorary membership category

The category of Honorary membership is not defined in the by-laws except to specify that Honorary members are exempt from annual dues and from volunteer requirements. Therefore Honorary membership has always been granted at the discretion of the Board of Directors. In the past, members were often given Honorary membership in thanks for a major contribution such as serving as Commodore or leading a significant initiative. After much discussion, last year's Board decided to grant Honorary membership to all those who had been active members for 40 years or more, rather than rewarding certain individuals for their contribution by exempting them from paying dues.

This year a proposal was made to grant Honorary membership to members age 75 or older, since many of our older members are no longer able to volunteer as much as they did when they were younger, and are generally living on lower incomes. The Board believes this proposal has merit, but would like to consider it in greater detail. Furthermore, the Club does not collect data on members' date of birth, so in order to know how many members would be affected, we would need members to self-identify their age. Therefore we will be requesting this information on a voluntary basis in our next membership renewal campaign.

Membership management software

The Club urgently needs to replace its Excel-based data base with a more sophisticated software to manage its membership information, dues and fees, online payment, event registration, Junior Program registration and more. A committee is needed to assess the various options and make decisions about the when and how or implementation. If you have some IT experience or would like to be involved as a member at large, we would like to have you on the committee.

Barbara Schultz-DesBrisay
Secretary

Communications Director Report

E-mail Communications

There were a total of 22 newsletters and informal notices of events were sent to members during the year, with an average of 60% of recipients opening the newsletters. *MailChimp* was fully implemented as the software used to communicate newsletters.

Special Projects - Technology

The Director of Communications spearheaded two special projects this year; the creation and implementation of volunteer software; and, the creation of a new website.

i-Volunteer Software

Under the extraordinary guidance of Jill Kearney, GRYC launched software used to register as volunteers and events. The primary objectives of this software were to:

- provide transparent and up-to-date information to members and to event leaders regarding volunteer needs and how they were being met;
- provide a method for members to register for events such as Club Nights, so that the Rear Commodore could accurately anticipate the amount of food required;
- provide more accurate and efficient reporting regarding the volunteer hours completed by members.

The system was implemented at the beginning of the season, and actively used by almost all members. Almost everyone found the system to be very user friendly. It met the three objectives outlined and provides a record for future years of volunteer positions, the hours required, and the total volunteer requirements for the club.

GYRC Website

The creation of a new website commenced in April 2015 as a one year project, replacing the former website that had been in use for several years. A website Committee identified the purposes of a new website:

- Provide a bilingual site where viewers toggle between languages;
- Allow users to more easily view the website from mobile devices;
- Leverage new technology, making the website easier to update and thus reducing the need for a dedicated Webmaster;
- Present information in a more modern way (e.g. expanded use of graphics, maps, etc.);
- Easily integrate with key software such as Paypal, scoring software, etc.

We are fortunate to have a team of highly experienced individuals working together on the site, most notably Jean-Francois Ruel, Jeff Meldrum and other editors and translators. The timeline for the website to go live is the beginning of the new season 2016. Expenditures for the site are \$0.

Many thanks to Erik Rask for his continued efforts as Webmaster!

Lorraine McKay
Communications Director

Fleet Captain's Report

Sailing season 2015 at the Gatineau River Yacht Club was a very positive one. Specific successes were:

- Spring, summer, and fall series Sunday morning races were held, facilitated by club volunteers and participated in by club members. Of note, the keelboat fleet saw impressive participation throughout the full season.
- The GRYC Annual Regatta once again was a wonderful event. Great sailor participation, reasonable winds (light to medium in strength), and generous volunteers made it an enjoyable event to be part of.
- The Saturday Learn To Sail (LTS) program was run successfully throughout July and August. Participation in the LTS, like every year, is on a drop-in basis so participation from week-to-week varies, however this year we had some relatively consistent participants who achieved significant improvements in their sailing skills. LTS is an important educational service that the club offers its members so that those who are new to sailing be able to have some guidance in learning to sail.
- The GRYC was very fortunate this year to have a manager who is an active sailor of both dinghies and keelboats and who thus was particularly dialed in to the sailing program and also keenly aware of the sailing and safety motorboat assets. This had a positive impact on how smoothly the club sailing program ran.
- GRYC hired four youth - experienced sailors - to perform the role of Dock Crew. This is a vital role to support club members in finding their way around in the dinghy docks and in providing rigging and sailing guidance. Further, the Dock Crew perform a vital role in the maintenance of the club's dinghy sailboat assets.
- The GRYC junior program was well subscribed to and reports from participants were largely positive. The fleet renewal initiative that concluded a year ago has been shown to be very positive as now the club has a range of sailboat designs, which allows instructors more flexibility to match sailboat type to student according to student experience level and size and for the wind conditions. Sailing is not easy to learn. The goal of the junior program is to provide an environment where youth can tackle the challenge of learning to sail, hopefully beyond just sailing in calm wind and water conditions, and develop the interest in and confidence for tackling bigger waters elsewhere. Having a range of sailboat types helps provide this environment. Also, honestly, this year we had an amazing group of instructors who are all experienced sailors and who are all people who genuinely like to help others learn. The successful GRYC race team is a great example of those who have gotten the sailing bug and wish to go and experience what sailing has to offer in bigger wind and water.
- The new online volunteer system made the available sailing-related volunteer roles more visible and thus the opportunities to help run sailing-related events become more visible, and thus the lack of volunteers to run sailing-related events at the GRYC became more visible.
- Several non-competitive sailing events were held this season: Sail-O-Rama, the Commodore's Sail Past, and Moonlight Madness (the weather did not cooperate for this one unfortunately). These events are tons of fun.

- GRYC hosted the regional youth sailing championships in June, which was a success as multiple sailors from other clubs in the region came to participate and many quality races were held.
- The GRYC had a reliable fleet of safety boats this year. This is no insignificant feat, so kudos to all those who made this happen.
- Sailboat fleet maintenance by club members is starting to show some development.
- As evidenced by the sign-out log in the Pram shed, club members do come down to the club and just plain go sailing in club boats just for the fun of it.

Huge thanks are extended to all those volunteers and staff that make all of the sailing-related activities happen at GRYC! The social component of the sailing activities tops off what are fun sailing activities, so many thanks to all those volunteers that make all the meals and clean up, run registration, coordinate logistics, etc.! Including the board of directors, a few of the key volunteers that behind the major sailing initiatives at the GRYC this year were:

- Learn To Sail - David Newing and Marc Ranger
- GRYC Annual Regatta - Dan Gray, Kim Guntzel, and Barb Martin
- Regional youth regatta - Paul Place
- Sunday morning races - many people coordinating volunteers, running the races and driving safety boats.

Thanks to our dock crew this year: Cal Gray, Gabe Sanchez, Timothé Yung-Hing Rainville, and Jennifer Gagnon.

Looking forward to upcoming years, the challenges will be to further engage members in sailing activities at the club. I am finishing up my role as Fleet Captain after 4 years in this role. I have seen a lot of development in these past 4 years however I would love to see more sailing happen by club members. The fleet renewal saw in total about \$90,000 spent on new boats. The club owns over 30 boats: 7 420s, 4 Bytes, 3 Albacores, 9 Lasers, 3 Laser Picos, 8 Open Bics, and 1 Sandpiper. We even have two sailboards that the club rigged up this year for club use. Having access to these boats so freely is not all that common compared to other sailing clubs. Having access to these sailboats in such a beautiful setting is doubly impressive.

The GRYC has welcomed a lot of new members in the past few years and has also invested significantly in new sailing assets, but the percentage of new members that take advantage of these is still relatively small. Often new members participate in a few events in the first year of membership but then their sailing participation drops after that. One must ask what the barriers are for continued participation. It is harder than it seemed? Kids find it not that much fun? It is complicated to rig up club boats to go sailing? There isn't a boat right for one's needs (too tippy, too slow, too small...)? The majority of kids who are active at the club come from families with prior experience in sailing so they know what to expect in terms of what is required to learn the sport. Perhaps asking recently joined members would shed some light on this question.

The role of the fleet captain is to try to support the club membership in getting out sailing whether in club events or on their own. Looking forward, there are some suggestions that I have:

- The majority of people join the GRYC primarily for social reasons, to take advantage of swimming in such a beautiful surrounding. This is different than most sailing clubs where

being on land is often just hot and uncomfortable and therefore if you are going to pay the membership fee it is really in order to get out on the water. This social aspect of GRYC is a big positive feature, so we just need to keep valuing this for the sailing program. Thus, enabling members to take advantage of the sailing opportunities at the GRYC should continue to be the main priority of the club. Sunday morning races are actually very welcoming, however, maybe we have to get better at communicating an invitation and ensuring that there are supportive sub-groups (e.g., moms, we actually already have coaching for the youngest of our sailors) that help facilitate positive experiences. For certain, we need to communicate that there is something such as the Zulu (beginner) category which has its own start. Could people get together to have lunch together afterwards? A cottage feel with a fun morning activity is what is sought. Sailboat racing is like a big game of chess, it is a game that you go out and play; it really doesn't matter if you win or not because it is playing the game that is fun. It isn't necessarily racing that will get people sailing, but possibly more non-competitive social event that could be thought of and organized. Could a few adventure dinghy sailing trips be organized? Is there a possibility of camping somewhere up the river?

- Having boats in good working shape is the basis of having easy access to sailing. One needs sailing rigging educated and/or motivated individuals to keep boats in proper condition. For example, it would be wonderful to have our Albacores available to be sailed. Building another beach dock on the island system of docks with space for two of them could be a possible idea, as well as ensuring that their rigging is simple and works well. Albacores are a good boat for families to get into and get involved in club sailing because there is space inside and they are responsive boats to sail. We need to keep pushing to improve the culture of taking care of our sailing assets. These boats are ours, not 'the club's'. Learning how to use a screwdriver, do epoxy repairs, and figure out how to tune the rig of a sailboat is worthwhile for our youth to figure out, however they need adults to guide them along the way.
- We have great volunteer participation from many at the GRYC; we just need to ensure that people choose to volunteer in sailing related roles as well as other types of roles. Stepping outside one's comfort zone to run a race should be seen as something that is welcome (because it is!). Further, if people have wishes to run various new sailing activities at the GRYC, I would fully encourage them to take a leadership role and start the process of getting it organized.

Finally, having sailed pretty much my whole life and having had some very memorable sailing experiences, and now watching my kids and seeing how difficult but satisfying learning to sail is for them, I encourage you all to take full advantage of what GRYC has to offer in terms of providing the basic sailing skills to go cruising in the Caribbean or around the Canadian Great Lakes, go sail in big waves and strong winds (my favourite!), and for youth: get your sailing instructor accreditation and teach abroad, or go and travel via participating in sailing competitions.

Shona Moss Lovshin
Starboard Fleet Captain

Rear Commodore's Annual Report

EVENT CALENDAR AND VOLUNTEERS

From the club's point of view the 2015 season has been very successful with the normal line-up of races, regattas and social events all slotting into place in the calendar, and very ably organised and administrated by various key club members assisted by a host of enthusiastic volunteers. An especially big thank you goes out to all those who took the helm as well as to those who stepped up and volunteered for the less glamorous tasks. Someone has to do the washing up at the end of the day and we were never short of willing hands to assist with the menial, but essential, housekeeping work that goes on behind the scenes of any social event. Thank you all.

MAPAQ

As many members may know at the end of last year the regional office of the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ) was informed by someone local, and nearby, that the club was not conforming to current health regulations. As a result the club was warned that it would be receiving a visit from the local MAPAQ representative at the beginning of this season who would compile a report relating to our kitchen facilities, hygiene, food handling practices and water potability. The expectation of this inspection meant that we had to completely re-think and re-organise the way which food has been traditionally served at social events held at the club. The biggest challenge was that MAPAQ informed us that all food served at the club's events must be prepared in a licenced kitchen which would be subject to regular and unannounced inspections.

As the new incoming Rear-Commodore I was walking into a totally different situation with regards to food preparation and the catering for events than had historically been the case. After much consultation with previous Rear-Commodores as well as those who had been preparing the food for the club's events for many years, in particular Mary Johansson, I decided that rather than continue to use a member's private kitchen we would use local caterers who were already MAPAQ licenced and approved. The obvious major difference was going to be cost. Mary's home-cooking style had served the club extremely well for many years, and very economically at the same time, but we needed to move on to an accountable, transparent catering system that would conform to health regulations and stand up to official scrutiny.

We were very fortunate when it came to the actual MAPAQ inspection. The representative who visited us made a scheduled appointment and was positive, helpful and encouraging throughout the tour of the island. Once the inspection was completed we were given a copy of the report and left with no uncertainty with regards to what we can and can't do in the club's modest kitchen facility. The main thing we cannot do is cook, however we can prepare simple foods like soups and we can heat already prepared food which we have brought in from outside. The regulations are complicated and baffling – for example we are not allowed to buy in ready-cooked pizzas from the local pizza place but we are allowed to buy frozen, ready-made, uncooked pizzas from the Freshmart (or

anywhere else) and cook them in the oven on the island. I won't bore you with minutia but it is sufficient to say that the rules are complex, frustrating and mind-curdling. For this reason I decided to opt for using Une Boulangerie Dans Un Village, a local caterer in Old Chelsea, for all of the social events this summer and personally I believe that they did a fantastic job at very competitive prices. It is my intention to continue to use this company in the future as long as their prices remain reasonable. Additional food related purchases were made throughout the season from the Freshmart and other Chelsea suppliers. We intend to continue our policy of buying from local producers and artisans whenever possible and avoiding impersonal, 'big box' retail outlets such as Costco and Walmart. It is felt that GRYC dollars can have a very positive impact on the local economy if directed in this way.

BUDGET

There was an excess of expenditure over income on the Social budget of \$1315.55 this year. As Rear-Commodore I am responsible and accountable for the budget and with that in mind I considered it was necessary to increase the price of our social events this year to balance the greater expense we anticipated by having to use outside caterers exclusively for our food requirements. However, there was no allowance made for the use of outside caterers when the budget for 2015 was forecast at the end of last year and despite the price increases there was still a shortfall in revenue. In addition some items, such as the purchase of kitchen equipment, were not included in the budget, and some items were grossly underestimated such as propane use. Members can rest assured that every effort will be made to adjust this next year.

I have asked for a slightly larger budget in 2016 to allow for increases in outside catering costs and additionally I would like to continue to ameliorate the kitchen equipment and service capabilities.

EQUIPMENT AND KITCHEN FACILITIES

The purchase of the three hot serving dishes made a big difference this year and I would like to buy three more as well as a portable induction stove to complete the table service upgrade and enable us to serve hot food for longer. My other acquisition will be a water boiler for the kitchen – MAPAQ informed us that the water contains a potentially infectious strain of E.coli bacteria and cannot be used, even for washing up, unless it has been boiled first. This has proved to be problematical at the end of the events as there are sometimes big pots and pans to wash and we have had to boil many saucepans full of water one after the other to get the job done which is not only time-consuming but also potentially hazardous.

SOCIAL EVENTS

I listened to the suggestions of many long standing members before I made my plans and there was considerable interest displayed in more varied culinary events. With this in mind I put together eight different club nights each with a different theme. Overall I would say that this concept worked very

well, notwithstanding the price increase, but there were still members who wanted their club nights to be less formally organised and more economical food-wise. For this reason in 2016 I will be looking at the idea of reducing the number of organised, themed club events to four and alternating these with a 'pot luck' style club night where everyone can contribute and eat more economically in a more intimate social atmosphere. This would also help to balance the budget by reducing the number of outside catered events. I would be very interested in having your feedback and suggestions for next season so that we can move forward with new ideas for other entertaining, but also more economical, social events. One thing is certain though the season will open with a Lobsterfest which was probably the most popular event of the year.

2016 SEASON

It is sincerely hoped that the membership enjoyed the social events that were organised this year and as I plan to continue for a second term I look forward to receiving your positive ideas and suggestions towards making the social life of this club entertaining and gastronomically flavourful next season, but most importantly of all making it lots and lots of fun. Thank you all for your support.

James Hargreaves
Rear Commodore

Youth Commodore End of Season Report

Finale Régionale 2015

We hosted the Outaouais regional for the second time this year. Once again, we ran a successful event with 25 participants competing in the Optimist, Laser Classes and Byte classes. 10 of these youth were representing the GRYC. The highlight results from this event were Sam Place coming in second place in the Laser fleet and Julia Gilmour coming in first place overall in the Byte class. A big thanks to the race committee lead by Shona Moss Lovshin who did a great job running the races and to Olivier Niquette for his work on the results.



The race committee prepares to start the Optimist fleet moments after the start of the Laser Radial fleet

Open Bic Racing

This was the second year of our Open Bic Racing Program aimed at encouraging participation of sailors 9-12 years old in GRYC races. We continued to offer coaching for beginner-intermediate sailors at GRYC Sunday morning races focussing on the Bic class. Participation in this program was slightly down from last year but the overall goal of getting Open Bics out racing during weekends was still achieved. Feedback from participants was also very positive. We concluded our Open Bic racing season by sending a team of young sailors to the Nepean Sailing Club Open Bic regatta.

Another highlight from the season includes the resurrection of the Jackson Trophy event given out to the top youth sailor at the club in the Open Bic class. We look forward to continuing with this event next year!

GRYC Youth Race Team

This summer, we continued to grow and expand our Youth Race Team. The club was able to support several sailors at several out-of-club regattas and training events. Highlights from the summer include:

- Supporting a large group of 13 sailors at a training camp at the Nepean Sailing Club with their race team

- Attending the Sail Central Regatta at Hudson Yacht Club Fruitbowl
- Large presence at the GRYC Invitational regatta top results include Alex Sanchez 3rd place in Byte fleet and Gabriel Sanchez 3rd place in Laser fleet
- Julia Gilmour and Eric Guimont winning Gold and Silver medals in the Handicap fleet at the BYC National Capital Regatta and GRYC winning the award for **Top Junior Sailing Club at the National Capital Regatta**
- Sending sailors to **the Sail Canada Youth National Championships** at CORK Sail Kingston with Sam Place and Gabriel Sanchez achieving a 28th place in a 100 boat 420 gold fleet



Gabriel Sanchez, Renée Davies, Sam Place and Soren van den Berg representing the GRYC at the Sail Canada Youth Nationals Championship in Kingston

Looking forward to 2016

- Continuation and improvement of Sunday morning Open Bic racing program
- Continuation and improvement of Youth Race Team
- Continuation and improvement of the Jackson Trophy Youth Event
- New youth events at the club



Julia Gilmour and Soren van den Berg sailing together in a 420, Devlin Lovshin sailing a Byte at the TRY regatta at the Pointe Claire Yacht Club in Montreal

*Paul Place
Youth Commodore*

Junior Program Annual Report

Registration

Thanks very much to the Registration Team comprised of Tracy Carefoot, Christine de Groot and Karyn Steer, as well as the help and support of our Grant Team Isabel Depelteau and Yves Gringras. Their continued dedication and many years of service to the Junior Program are greatly appreciated.

A total of 70 campers attending the camp this summer. Some campers attended multiple sessions depending on the sailing level they were attempting, filling 95 registrations this season.

Unfortunately we only achieved 82% attendance from the previous years.

Session 1 was greatly affected by a scheduling error, which had the first session starting before the Quebec school year had finished by two days. Next year we will confirm with both the Ontario and Quebec schools before setting the calendar next year. On the other hand this could lead to difficulty with staffing as CeGep can conflict with Session 4 and our instructors availability.

Multiple avenues of advertising were used to bolster the attendance for the remaining sessions, both paid and unpaid (on-line newsletters); minimal effect was seen. We thank greatly the individual members who worked with the local schools, some young members presenting to their classes, for their support.

We attempted to offer a 5th session to offset the loss of attendance in the first session. There was little interest and as we could not justify the cost of the instructors we decided to cancel the extra session.

A 5:1 camper to coach ratio was kept and attendance for all sessions was capped at 30 sailors (only needed in Session 2). Sail Canada's recommended maximum is 8 students per coach but due to the specific conditions of our river / facilities and in the interest of providing a better-quality learning experience for our campers we adhere to a 5:1 ratio.

Over last year there was a 12% increase in children of members vs. non-members. In 2014 members represented 31% of total registrations. This year that percentage rose to 43%.

2015	Total Registrations	Members	% of Members	Non - Members	% of Non-Members
Session 1	17	8	47%	9	53%
Session 2	30	9	30%	21	70%
Session 3	26	15	58%	11	42%
Session 4	22	9	41%	13	59%
TOTAL	95	41	43%	54	57%

2014	Total Registrations	Members	% of Members	Non - Members	% of Non-Members
Session 1	28	10	36%	18	64%
Session 2	30	14	47%	16	53%
Session 3	30	6	20%	24	80%
Session 4	28	6	21%	22	79%
	116	36	31%	80	69%

Number of Campers	CanSail 1-2	CanSail 3-4	CanSail 5-6	Total
	51	34	10	95

Financial

This year the JP generated \$61,791.36 in revenues, a decrease of 4.41% over 2014 (\$62,308). We were fortunate to receive \$12,601 in grant funds this year. We also noted the continuing trend of having a larger percentage of registrations coming from members, who pay lower JP fees than do non-members, which will affect the total revenue. The most significant loss was in attendance at the first session, which will be rectified by correctly scheduling the start of the Summer Program next year.

	2014	2015
Revenue	\$59,182	\$61,791
Expenses	-\$41,894	-\$40,342
Net Revenue	\$17,288	\$21,448
Shared costs		\$27,479
Net Revenue after shared costs	-\$12,123	-\$15,851

Federal Grants	2013	2014	2015	% change
	\$13,003	\$10,312	\$12,601	18%

Note: the amount of grant money included in the JP revenues

Program Delivery

We were fortunate this year to have a good selection of instructors who were interested in working at the GRYC. As a result we were able to hire five excellent full-time instructors and two instructors/dock crew. This both provided the club with experienced and active participants in the sailing culture managing and repairing equipment as well as the opportunity to offer instructor experience to an additional sailor.

We were extremely fortunate that Paul Place returned as Head Sailing Instructor and continued to develop and expand the Summer Racing Program. While the Racing Program continues to bring esteem to the GRYC as a sailing school it does require the Head Instructor to be away from the camp for periods of time throughout the summer. It was with this in mind that we re-instituted the role of

Junior Program Manager so there was no disruption in the daily administration, operations and safety of the sailing camp.

The structure of the Summer Program consisted of a one-week orientation program for instructors. This time was spent developing lesson plans, determining special events, ensuring the vessels were in good operating condition as well as providing clear direction to instructors regarding Club & Program expectations.

The general consensus was that the Summer Program was safe, fun, and the instructors performed well in their duties.

Amy Throop
Youth Program Director



The Allan Richens Memorial Fund 2014 & 2015

About Allan Richens

On December 31, 2012, the last surviving founding member of the Gatineau River Yacht Club, founded in 1962, passed away. Allan was an extraordinary man - an avid supporter of our club throughout 50 years and also widely recognized by our Chelsea Municipality and the community generally as a leader of a very broad range of community service activities.

Allan Richens Memorial Fund

In consultation with his family we have agreed to set up a permanent Allan Richens Memorial Fund in his memory, fittingly dedicated to both providing youth sailing bursaries to deserving young people sailing in our Junior Program and to supporting our increasingly successful Youth Racing Team.

Please donate generously. Your donation recognition is cumulative over time - so we encourage you to donate annually and move your recognition to the next level.

Donation options

By cheque payable to "The Gatineau River Yacht Club (Allan Richens Memorial Fund)".

Mail cheque to:

Gatineau River Yacht Club,
Box 1766, Chelsea QC J9B 1A1.

By credit card or Paypal – see link on the GRYC web site

<http://www.gryc.ca/MembersInfo/richens.html>

Levels of recognition

- All who have donated \$50 will be listed on our website as a Friend of the Fund
- All who have donate \$100 will be listed as a Silver level Friend of the Fund
- All who have donated \$250 will be listed as a Gold level Friend of the Fund
- All who have donated \$500 will be listed as a Platinum level Friend of the Fund
- All who have donated \$1000 will be listed as a Diamond level Friend of the Fund

Please note: Levels of recognition are cumulative of all donations made since 2014

NOTE: Although GRYC is a non-profit organization, it is not a charity. Therefore, donations are not eligible for tax receipts.

Allan Richens Memorial Fund financial report 2014 & 2015 to date

Total Donations Received	\$ 4,702	Cumulative since 2014
Total Expenditures	(1,110)	
		Three bursaries for Junior Program as recommended by the Starboard Fleet Captain = \$510
		Support for the GRYC Racing Team + Junior GRYC Regatta Coaching as recommended by the Youth Commodore = \$600
Balance in Fund to carry over to 2016	\$3,592	

Plans for 2016

- Ongoing appeals for private donations by members.
- Extending appeal to local private sector sponsors via Chelsea Commerce
- Special Events – definitely including another Ian Tamblyn Allan Richens Fund Fundraising Concert / BBQ

To enquire about further donations and recognition, or to volunteer to help raise funds, please contact:

David Newing

Past Commodore Tel (819) 827 2418 E-mail: pastcommodore@gryc.ca