

# KNOTTY NEWS

## Summer 2024 Edition



### Commodore's Message

PSSS celebrated 60 years in 2024! Thanks to all members who made it a great season. Whether you enjoyed the racing events, the casual Fridays on the deck, afternoon sails, or just hanging around the club, I hope your summer was as memorable as mine. There's still time to order some PSSS wear to commemorate 60 years if you haven't already:

<https://www.sourceteamworks.com/collections/port-stanley-sailors-squadron>

Thank you very much to the hard-working executive that made the 2024 season what it was! - Lisa Freeman, Commodore



### Youth Sailing

The Ontario Summer Games were hosted in London with the sailing event taking place in Port Stanley. 36 youth athletes sailed Club 420s in this successful event, supported by many volunteers. The weather mostly cooperated, especially on Saturday, Aug 3 (the 2nd and final day of racing). PSSS received lots of compliments - My favourite quote " Those big clubs have nothing on this place!"



Sailing School ran July 22 - 26 this year. There were fewer youth and adult participants than 2023 but it was a great group and, as always, a great set of volunteers. Claire White did an excellent job as the main instructor and is quite interested in coming back for 2025! Let us know if you have youth or adults interested in next year's school. ~Kerby Waud, On-water and Sailing School coordinator

### Past Tents, Present Tents, Future Tents

You know the old saying, 'Be careful what you ask for'? Well Margaret identified Team Gil for a commendation. I agree and officially want to thank everyone who came to my aid, with no reservations, erecting and dismantling tents. I apologize if I left you out of these activities, but I promise to catch up with you next year. Only one more to go to cover Windrunner then I'm splitski for the winter. ~The Tent Guy (Gil Smith)

- P** P is for the PEOPLE we call our sailing friends
- S** S is for Friday SOCIALS at the week's end
- S** S is for SERENITY when the wind is just right
- S** S is for SEE you at the launch again when we all unite
- S** All the best and good health,  
From Mistress 1 (aka 'she is not a racer')



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### Team Kitchen!

They plan, plan, plan great things weeks in advance. They figure out logistics, delegate, shop, wash, chop, cook, bake, barbecue, serve and clean up. Team Kitchen (your social committee) is a group of members dedicated to enhancing the spirit of fellowship at PSSS by providing food and cheer from the kitchen of our beautiful clubhouse. Many of you have benefitted from their efforts, so let me give our team a big pat on the back! Supported by our board, they are championed by committee chair Diane Lesak. This year, events included lunch for dock building day, launch day, an opening party, haul-out, and dock removal days. Larger events included the Lady Bligh Breakfast, the LEIR celebration, and the 60th anniversary banquet. Each event requires a team that works, often for days in advance, to prepare fresh and fun meals. Congratulations to Diane, her faithful hive of worker bees, and those who pitched in along the way. Following years of a grand tradition, hundreds of meals were served out of that kitchen this year. - - Margaret Voorhaar



### Summer of Ones

It was a summer of ones: One broken elbow for Margaret, one torn tendon for Bob, one great sail on Windswept, and one unending stream of great parties at PSSS.

~~Cheers, RJ



### Flash Back

The picture above was taken the 2nd year after we bought Kettle Creek Marina (1987). We had taken down 1/2 of the boat barns. Our sailboat, The Ettrick, is the white one in pic, looking north to PSSS clubhouse. Does anyone know who the dark blue sail boat belonged to? (We have a guess, but would like to hear yours!)

~ Fiona and John

### Kids' Favourite Memories

Our family was new to the club - and to sailing - this year. Our kids wanted to share their favourite memories of their first summer:

- Mason: When Bob brought marshmallows to the party for us! And also, when we saw a bird eating a dead fish on the shore, but then the fish fell into the water and sank.
- Lincoln: When we got to take our friends on the boat! (Photo to the left.)
- Cadence: When we were sailing, and the boat tipped so much that I could touch the water!



### Big Guy, Small Boat

Cookie Kanter hasn't been around PSSS much this summer because he's got a new racing obsession in Hamilton harbour. The 2.4 metre boat is the smallest of the Metre Class. It's small but mighty and often times terrifying. Royal Hamilton Yacht Club is growing its small fleet of 2.4s and hosting the 2024 North American Championship. Stay tuned!  
~Cookie and Keri Canter



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### **Dinner on the Deck**

Friday night Dinners-on-the-Deck have become quite a tradition at PSSS! A way to celebrate the end of the work week and the start of the sailing weekend! At about five pm, a few members roll into the parking lot. Around six pm, the kitchen springs to life and the barbecue is fired up. Though it's essentially a "bring-your-own-food" event, often sumptuous surprises are tabled. Conversation flows smoothly. Stories are told and re-told. Advice is asked for and given. Information is exchanged. Much laughter rings out. The camaraderie of friends always makes food taste better. The gathering can roll on for quite a while when the daylight hours are long and warm, but are still much anticipated if a chill is in the air and daylight hours shorter. - - Margaret Voorhaar

### **Rescuing Paddle Boarders**

On the Labour Day weekend, I went sailing with Kristine and Mike. The wind was blowing out of the NW. As the day progressed, the wind increased, as predicted, until it was strong enough that I had to roll up half the jib. There were white caps within a mile of shore. We were sailing a couple of miles off of Little Beach when Kristine pointed out we were on a collision course with a woman sitting on a paddle board. The paddle boarder started waving her paddle at us. We sailed over to her and asked if she needed assistance. She said no, but her friends did. After looking south-east again we noticed two dots on the horizon. I started up the engine and we headed towards the dots.

We came upon a women with a child sitting on a paddle board, we estimate a 5 year old. I asked if they needed assistance and she said yes, but asked if would help her friends first, who were farther from shore. She appeared to be ok so we headed out to her friends.

At least 5 miles off Little Beach we came upon a women sitting on a paddle board, dragging another paddle board, and dragging a man wearing a pfd in the water. I asked her if they needed help and she responded, "No, I think we're OK."

I slowly drove away, basically circling them, watching their progress. By now she was paddling directly into 40 knots of wind. The guy was struggling, unsuccessfully, to keep his face out of the water while being dragged. Also, the second paddle board, which was being towed, kept flipping out of the water and landing on the guy's head! He was in distress! I motored back up to the pair and told the guy to get in my boat, he didn't argue. Once on board we could see he was shivering violently. Mike grabbed a couple of towels and we directed him to go below to get out of the wind and warm up. The woman got onboard, I tied both paddle boards to the stern and we motored back to the women with the child. They climbed onboard and I tied their paddle board to the stern. We then motored to the first woman and she climbed on and I tied off her board.

Their story? They had launched from Little Beach, we're out playing, and didn't notice that they were being blown into the lake, a direct heading to Ashtabula. The guy couldn't get back on his board. The three woman were not wearing pfd's, only the guy and the child. Another example of people not respecting Lake Erie and how quickly the weather and the sea state can change. Foolish people. ~~Stephen Aubut, SV Helm's A-Lee



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### Fire on Kettle Creek

This year we had a fire on Kettle Creek (photo to the right). Three boats were destroyed and debris filled the creek! ~ Ruth Foster



### Vessels That Sold in 2024

- Scorpio stayed at the club after Tom Por sold her to Mike Hensen.
- Dick and Ruth Foster sold Grace C to the Webster family, who joined PSSS. (Thankfully, Dick and Ruth moved Moonstruck to Port Stanley and remained docking members of PSSS.)
- Excalibur made a return to the club by Kelly Shewan and David Schroeder.
- Jane Paterak, Ed Finlan, and Terry Kuipers sold Vertigo, which sailed away to Leamington.
- Kristine Glasgow and Mike Cormier sold Kilt, which sailed away to Port Colborne.

### Farewell to Vertigo

The sailing season 2024 was a different one for our crew. After 7 years of sailing on Vertigo she was sold to a couple from Leamington. Saying goodbye to Vertigo was more difficult than we had imagined. When she sailed out of our harbour for her trip to Leamington, Jane and I had a few tears in our eyes. She sailed for several years with Tony and Diane and we were the fortunate ones to continue that journey with her. Vertigo gave us many wonderful sailing stories and memories with good friends - our trip to the North Channel with club members and the times we spent with friends sailing on beautiful Lake Erie will be in our hearts forever. As Rumi said: "On a day when the wind is perfect, the sail just needs to open and the world is full of beauty." ~ Jane & Ed

### The Warmest of Welcomes

We started this year brand new to sailing and a little overwhelmed. We didn't know boat part names, how to unfurl a jib, or how to come about. But this incredible community made our entry to sailing an amazing one. First, Ed, Jane, and Terry gifted us a soft entry into this new hobby by leasing us a portion of their boat, Vertigo, and taking us out for many lessons. Ed, knowing everyone, also made tons of introduction! When we finally felt ready to buy a boat, Dick and Jane sold us their baby, Grace C., and offered more sailing lessons and much-needed advice. That same, warm welcome was extended by every single club member. Diane ran all the way to the bridge to photograph our maiden family voyage. Each of you welcomed and engaged with our young kids. Every exchange was warm and welcoming. Thank you! ~Warren and Chelsea Webster

### Our Visitors Felt Welcome

My brother, Joe, and his lovely wife came to visit from Newfoundland and participated in the closing party, White Night. Joe loved helping to put the tent up for the party and was overwhelmed by his welcome and the camaraderie of our club. They thoroughly enjoyed our awesome club members, the lovely meal, learning the history of the club, and had an overall lovely time. They also enjoyed dressing up! (Newfies love dressing up!) Oh, and we fit in a lovely sail, too! ~ Catherine Smith