

# KNOTTY NEWS

July 2025



## Message from the Executive Team

June brought a fantastic kick-off to the race season! We've now had several Wednesday evening races and a successful Lady Bligh. Trophies will be awarded at the end of the season for the boats that place in the various race events. We continue to encourage members to participate in these fun, somewhat competitive race events that are held throughout the season. If you don't want to race you can come out and "Follow the Fleet" and enjoy a Wednesday evening sail! Many thanks to Cookie, Shawn and Dick for their efforts in getting the season off to a solid start, and to all who helped with the cooking and clean up at Fathers Day breakfast!

There are many more great events coming up this summer, that we hope you'll join us for. Here are a few that are coming up quick!

- July 3-5 is the 60<sup>th</sup> annual Child's Cup and LEIR weekend! Race from Port Stanley to Ashtabula on July 3, and return home with our American friends on July 5. LEIR dinner will be 7-9 pm on July 5.
- Sailing school is happening July 21-25. If you have any availability to help with the following roles, contact Kerby.
  - Rig the boats (on Sunday); Pack up the boats (on Friday)
  - Registration, lesson support, and safety dingy personnel throughout the week.
  - Take out interested participants in the 'JAM Championship' on July 25.



**We want your  
Knotty News!**  
Send your photos and  
stories to  
[chelsea@creatingme.ca!](mailto:chelsea@creatingme.ca)



# KNOTTY NEWS

## June 2025

### Sailing 'Favourite 5'

Let's use Knotty news as a fun way to get to know each other a little better! We encourage any members to share their 'Favourite 5'. The concept is simple. The writer chooses any 5 categories of 'sailing favourites' they'd like. For example: Favourite sailing destination? Favourite boat? Favourite dinner on the deck meal? Favourite place in Port Stanley? Favourite Port Stanley wind? Favourite sailing joke? Favourite boat snack or drink?... you get the idea!

Send your 'favourite 5' to [chelsea@creatingme.ca](mailto:chelsea@creatingme.ca), along with a picture of yourself, for inclusion in the next newsletter.

#### Chelsea Hicks-Webster 'Favourite 4' (I'm too new to sailing to have 5)



- Favourite sailing destination: Being new to sailing and having young kids, our sails have mostly been short. We love sailing for 30-45 min, before anchoring at Little Beach for snacks and swimming. We have an inflatable raft that we tie to the back of the boat, so the kids have something to climb on, wrestle on, and jump off!
- Favourite sailing dream: We are excited for next year, when we will hopefully have enough sailing experience to make the family trek to Sandusky, Ohio and spend the day at Cedar Point. (We are working up to it. This year, we will go to Erieau and back for the first time.)
- Favourite boat snack: Anything we can buy at Foodland on our way into Port (kudos to families with two working parents who can ALSO prepare homemade picnics before their evening sail. It's a skill I may never master.) Usually we grab a fruit tray, chips and dip, sushi, and pizza buns, with many cans of Bubly.
- Favourite race crew: We have SO enjoyed race nights this year. The other PSS sailors have been awesome, and we've been excited to get two of our favourite families involved as crew. Most often, you'll see Warren racing with Al and Aleksy, while the wives and our 9 collective children cheer from the side of the channel. But you may also see the women and kids crewing later in the season!

#### Corrections from the May edition

In the May Knotty News, we thanked Maxine for all of her spring cleaning in the clubhouse, but neglected to thank her lovely partner in crime, Margaret Voorhaar. Thank you, Marg, for helping get our clubhouse ready for all to use this year!



# KNOTTY NEWS

June 2025



## Dinners on the Deck Continue!

17 people enjoyed various appetizers, and 2 special desserts. We also enjoyed rhubarb vodka shooters. PSSS may need a larger deck!! - Lynn Chantler



## Early birds!

Gil & Catherine Smith were early birds this season! Here's their first sail on Windrunner on May 10 - Shared by Shawn Buchanan



## Game for member use

Get ready to play ladder golf, corn hole, and disc toss. This set is now beside the clubhouse couch, and available for member use anytime. - Warren Webster



## A piece of history restored

Port Stanley Terminal Rail drive-by of the London & Port Stanley Railway interurban car #14, fully restored by the Elgin County Railway Museum, making its first trip back to Port Stanley since 1957 (photo taken May 24, 2025).

- Shawn Buchanan

Ann Sanderson from Ontario Sailing, the official coach for Ontario Games 2024, dropped off a teal coloured dry bag full of race signal flags in honour of our 60th birthday! - Ruth Foster



# KNOTTY NEWS

June 2025

## Getting Ready To Race

Sailing season can't open until race marks are installed, an effort that has played out over many years at PSSS. Although I have participated in many of these, most with Cookie Kanter and his Explorer, this year had a slightly different outcome!

A well-planned excursion and a hearty crew are necessary to ensure marks are placed in the same GPS coordinates as in past seasons. Since the reduction of our Soling fleet, we have reduced the number of marks needed to host both the Wednesday evening series and other weekend events such as the Lady Bligh, Friday Night Main & Jib Championship and Regatta Racing Day. Thus, we have created a triangle course that uses only three marks to form a roughly 3.5-mile triangle course. The course starts just outside of the lighthouse, using the channel markers as start and finish lines, and racers then race around what we know (or knew) as B, CC & C marks.

On Friday, May 30, Dick Foster, Shawn Buchanan, Cookie and myself loaded Explorer and set out to drop our fist mark. Once the GPS location was reached, we dropped mark 'B' successfully. We then set out to the GPS location for "CC", one nautical mile to the SW - but when we dropped mark "CC", to our surprise, it did a flop and laid flat on the water! We quickly realized that the CC and C marks were refitted over the off season and the cement had not been included in the base, which keeps the mark upright in the water. So, it was back to the club to pick up 2 replacement marks. We chose marks "A" and "F", which were in better condition and had cement in the base. Fortunately, Cookie had the time to make a second trip to install the new marks. The second trip was successful and now mark "A" is the old "CC" and mark "F" is in the old "C", forming our triangle course.

Cheers! Ken Holland



→  
Some of the  
race marker  
installation  
crew.

←  
May 30, 5:35pm:  
Sky view of the  
storm that  
followed setting  
the racing marks.  
- Shawn Buchanan





# KNOTTY NEWS

June 2025



## First race of the season

On June 4, the first Wednesday night fleet headed out on the 6pm bridge. - Shawn Buchanan



## Esperanto

Esperanto looking good on race night, Wednesday, June 25  
-Photo by Ken Holland.



## Going for Gold

Team Grace C. and their cheering squad of 9 children are going for gold (Or silver. Or bronze. Or a good time.) in this year's Wednesday night race series. Our crew would like it to be known that we probably would have been able to squeak in a victory against Hurricane on June 11, if we had known which finish line to aim for. -Aleksy, Al, and Warren



## Sailors in training

Some of the children on team Grace C. are learning the ropes of sailing. Raeleigh (age 8) says: "Sailing is something I never thought I would do, but I went sailing and it was so much fun. I got to steer and made us do a circle and we jumped in the freezing cold water!"





# KNOTTY NEWS

June 2025

## Lady Bligh and Fathers' Day

15 people for eggs Bennie breakfast before the Lady Bligh race. Smoked salmon! Smoked turkey! Capers! Spinach! All on toasted calabrese bread and finished with hollandaise sauce. Pink Lady orange slices to make it purty! Margaret buttering bread, me coaxing the water to boil for the next batch of farm fresh poached eggs from Sylvia and Karl's chickens. Plates were licked, dishes were washed and then on to the boats to chase each other around the marks. A great start to Fathers' Day. Join us next year for a repeat.

- Diane Lesak



(Note from the editor: This picture is from Google - Diane's version was even more delicious looking!)



It was a fun day, starting with a delicious eggs benedict breakfast, before heading out on the race. The lady on the helm of Mistress 1 needs to get out on the water a lot more this summer to improve her performance for next year. - Diane Schlegel

(Photo credit: Ann Stevens & Marilou Gilbert)



# KNOTTY NEWS

## June 2025

### **The Unvarnished Truth of Sailing with Bob and Jane (a tale by Gil Smith)**

Once or twice in life you get an opportunity for an epic adventure. This came in an invitation to join Bob Shewan for a trip down the St Lawrence River. I seem to think the year was 2008?

Originally there were three of us but Bob met a lovely woman named Jane (may she rest in peace) at Barnacles two weeks before departing and invited her to come along for the ride. Jane had just retired at 60 from lifetime of teaching kindergarten. Jane had no sailing experience which became an endless source of entertainment and at times frustration. Jane demanded privacy befitting a single woman of her vintage and secured the v-berth, while Catherine and I had to sleep with Bob in the salon. Bob snores.

Each leg of the trip presented unique challenges. Upon entering our first lock we got a reprimand from the Lock Master for entering without permission and had to back out and wait for the next spot. This is broadcast over very loud speakers which the whole village can hear, oh for shame.

We had a great run down lake Ontario and tucked in for a night on the hook behind Wolfe Island. Navigating the Thousand Islands, mostly with auxiliary power, was fun. I recall coming upon an island in the middle of the stream and looking for the fairway marker to ensure we took the correct route around the island. I was really frustrated that I couldn't see it, then I realized the damn thing was just enormous, dominating the horizon, I had been looking for something small.

Jane had two talents. The first was to always secure the shady side in the cockpit. She would lay down and proceed to break open peanuts, covering her belly with peanut shells while we sweltered in the sun. The second was her fondness for green tea which she would brew first thing in the morning and fill three stainless steel thermos bottles. She inevitably left them standing upright on the galley counter. Through the course of the morning as the boat rocked they would inevitably crash down onto the cabin sole and rattle around all day.

Up stream from Montreal the St Lawrence widens and gets shallow, which allowed us to anchor in midstream. Our engine had started overheating after 30 or 40 boats screamed by on a poker run chewing up the seagrass. By 7 pm it was starting to redline so we decided to drop the hook and investigate. While letting the engine cool, we cooked fresh salmon on the BBQ with a tasty white wine. We then got the water pump off and cleared the freshwater intake. By the time we got it all reassembled to was pitch black. We ran the engine for 20 minutes to ensure sure it was in order, then had to cut the anchor away because the rode was wrapped around the keel. Luckily, I looked up and saw a red and green light towering 30 feet above our head, coming right at us. I yelled at Bob 'HARD TO STARBOARD-FULL AHEAD!'. Criminy, we just about got run down by an ocean going freighter.

Locking down the St Lawrence locks was interesting. We spent a night at a private club, much like ours, in St Lambert and borrowed my sisters car to go into Montreal for dinner. We had a fabulous meal at Le Parchment with friends. Upon leaving we took one bill for 10 of us and everyone threw cash on the table for their portion. After dinner we left but only got half a block down the street when our waiter came running after us screaming obscenities in French because we did not leave a him tip. Not one of our finer moments I admit.



# KNOTTY NEWS

June 2025

## The Unvarnished Truth of Sailing with Bob and Jane - continued

The next leg took us to Trois Riviere. After quite a long day the sun set and it was dark and raining which made finding our next port quite challenging. We were running dark as the chart plotter was blinding us. At one point Jane panicked and picked up the radio and called a Pan Pan saying ' This is Excalibur, Excalibur, Excalibur, We are lost can you tell us where we are?' Definitely a quote for the ages. One can only imagine the Coast Guard bent over, howling in fits of laughter.

One of the highlights was entering the Louise Basin in Quebec City at dusk. Because of tides one needs to enter a small lock to get into the marina. Quebec City was celebrating their 400th Anniversary. We went out for dinner at a beautiful outdoor patio. It was Jane's habit that we all switch plates to sample the offerings. This got a bit old. My dinner arrived, three enormous beautiful white scallops on a bed of black ink linguine. Jane had ordered smoked salmon. She looked at me, begging a small taste, I looked back and gently shook my head. We could hear Paul McCartney with Wings practicing for a concert the next evening up on the Plains of Abraham and watched an amazing animated film projected on the grain silos on the east side of the basin from our cockpit. The four of us had the misfortune to use the same ATM to withdraw money and when we got home we found we were all relieved of \$1500.00 each.

We left Quebec City at high tide around 4 in the morning to catch the flood tide for a free ride downstream. Once off the dock everyone went back to bed leaving me on the helm. It was truly magical watching the day break over the river while everyone slept. Further down River at we arrived at the confluence of the St Lawrence and Saguenay Rivers we encountered a rare bright and sunny day. The area is famous for attracting whales of all species who come to feed. We saw belugas, minkie, humpback and blue whales amongst several others. We spent the first night in Taddousac Marina. It's a beautiful town with a lot of history. We went out for a bite and drinks at a local watering hole. The entertainment was a Zidaco band so I got into the action and played washboard for a couple of tunes.

It's fascinating how archetypes start to appear as a few pints disappear. Picture Bob, with his baseball hat pulled down tight, dancing like a gorilla with Jane sweeping her arms from side to side displaying her ample double G's. (Please pardon my French). I think it made me cry, my stomach hurt. We came back to the boat and went to bed. Bob though wasn't finished frolicking and went back to the pub for closing time. He returned around 2:30 and chummed the deck. I got up really early to hose the decorations off and made a point to stomp around over Mr Hangover's head.





# KNOTTY NEWS

June 2025

## The Unvarnished Truth of Sailing with Bob and Jane - continued

We left that morning for a trip up the Saguenay River. It is without a doubt, one of the most beautiful fjords in the world. We ventured upriver about 30 miles and spent the night in a couple of wonderful little marinas. Up river there is an enormous white statue of Mary of Saguenay on the top of the mountain, it can be seen for at least 10 miles down stream, unforgettable. Back again for another night in Taddousac before crossing the river in pea-soup fog. Sailing in fog, in a heavily trafficked river without radar is not for the faint of heart. Me on the bow as a spotter listening for ships bells indicating the bow and fog horns for the stern. It was only 3° and really cold in spite of wearing my one piece Mustang floater suit. We arrived at Rimouski safely and spent a couple of days exploring.

It had been our habit when going out for dinner, that one of us would pick up the tab, Bob, Gil, Catherine, Bob, Gil, Catherine and so on. Finally our last night in Rimouski Jane offered to take us out for Chinese food. I had ordered a couple of spring rolls to start which I like to cut down the length to apply soya sauce and plumb sauce then cut sideways twice for three bites. WELL.....Jane couldn't resist the kindergarten teacher urge to inform me that I should only cut my food one bite at a time. My higher self lept into action to inform her that in Europe, the birthplace of etiquette, when having a fête they would often serve a roast lamb on a huge platter, leaving the diners to rip off a leg with their bare hands and proceed to eat it with grease dripping off their elbows then tossing the bones over their shoulders after they licked the bones clean. So much for proper etiquette.

Due to time constraints we had to take a train home. We left Bob with a bottle of good Scotch and a beautiful blueberry pie as a parting gift. Jane met a 'gentleman' in the marina and bummed a ride to her destination in Nova Scotia leaving poor Bob to his own devices. Sadly Jane passed two years after her adventure.

The day after we got home we got a midnight call from Bob . He told us that he had left Rimouski in the rain against a flood tide and wind and only made 10 miles (?) after 12 hours of sailing. He was exhausted so he dropped the hook in a little bay in the dark. It seems he didn't provision the boat before casting off and only had Scotch and blueberry pie for sustenance. He said he was so tired he started hallucinating, talking to the life-ring thinking it was Catherine. We could hear the seals barking on the shore in the background. Bob was concerned that a new weather front was going to put him on a lee shore and was pondering pulling the hook and continuing.

It brings a tear to the eye just thinking about it all. If you think I'm exaggerating, just ask Bob. This sailing life is definitely risky business but you can't tell these stories if you never leave the dock. - Gil Smith





# KNOTTY NEWS

June 2025

## Blast from the Past!

### Dr. Waud Walks Around – Part 2

Here are some more photos, originally taken by my grandfather, Dr. Russell Waud, around 1959 or 1960. He liked to go for walks around town to document what he saw. I hope you enjoy them. I also hope that other members can share Kettle Creek photos from different time periods in future editions of the Knotty News. ~ Kerby Waud



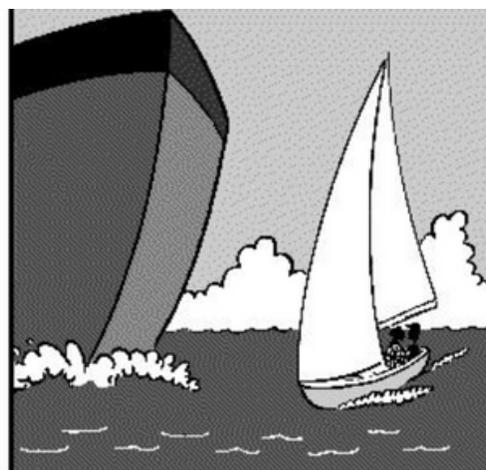
This is perhaps the most intriguing photo for PSSS Members. There was a large brown building where Kettle Creek Marina and the PSSS Clubhouse now sit. I am curious about the purpose of the brown building. I believe this building was gone by the early 70's as I do not recall it in my earliest Port Stanley memories. The seawall and docks were looking pretty rustic at the time. Perhaps our current clubhouse was just behind the brown building but I'm not sure. There is also a strange leaning wooden 'gate' beside a sail in the centre left of the photo.



This photo shows an earlier sailboat in the outer harbour - perhaps after a boat parade. It may be Friskin which was owned by early PSSS members Gerry Kernohan and Vic Blackwell. My father is in the foreground.



This is a view of Stan's marina.



Don't worry... according to the rules they have to give way to us.