



fore' n aft

Email: theforenaft@gmail.com

Vol. 11 No. 4 September, 2022

PUBLISHER & EDITOR

Christine Flett

CONTRIBUTORS

Dona Neves

Gary Lambert

Rick Tinga

David Flett

Peggy O'Brien

IN THIS ISSUE

Sky Hawks give parachute display in Belleville.

Hidden in plain sight:
Historic 1964 watercolour of club building on the hill.

It takes many hands to keep the Club moving forward.

Starry Stonewort, obstacles in channel, water soldier and other weedy things.

Just because its herbal doesn't mean it's safe to use.

Cobourg Marina earns Diamond Elite rating.

Waupoos race results.

Good turnout for family Day

Cooking on Board:
Sweet & Salty Skor Squares.

Sky Hawks parachute team performs at West Zwick's Park



Pictures by Dona Neves

These pictures of the Canadian Sky Hawks have nothing to do with boating, but they were taken by a Club member, Dona Neves. You have to admit they are stunning! The team gave a public demonstration, Aug. 20 at the soccer fields at West Zwick's Park. Based at CFB Trenton, the Sky Hawks are Canada's only military parachute demonstration team. Bringing their parachutes in close proximity for these acrobatic maneuvers requires great precision, skill and courage. The Sky Hawks have been performing as a team for over 47 years. Formerly based at Edmonton, the team moved to CFB Trenton in August 1996.



Available on Facebook
Ask to join CFB Trenton
Yacht Club Group.



Dona Neves



Dona Neves

Hidden in plain sight: historic 1964 watercolour sketch of original Clubhouse on the hill

By Christine Flett

This picture depicts a slice of Club history that almost no-one today has ever seen – that of the club house in its original location on the hill overlooking the Bay.

The building was moved to its present site in 1969 to make way for the Baker Island Community Centre. Once moved, the verandah was enclosed and the building given a pitched roof. Further expansions resulted in the clubhouse we know today.

The painting was done in 1964 by J. Selma Almira, an American artist who was attending an International Rendezvous held July 6 to 8, at the newly completed Yacht Club on Baker Island. The event was organized by local Power Squadrons from Trenton, Peterborough, Presqu'île, Belleville and Picton. Boats from all across the Great Lakes region came to compete for one of the 13 trophies at stake.

During the three day event, Selma Almira sat down with her canvas board to sketch the Yacht Club building. The resulting watercolour was gifted by the artist to RCAF Trenton SQN, who then loaned it indefinitely to the yacht club.

The painting was displayed in the Club for many years, but at some point, perhaps during a renovation, it was moved to a corner above the filing cabinets in the Supervisor's office.

Little is known about the artist beyond that she was an American born in 1902, and passed away in 1999 at the ripe old age of 97.

An internet search found one other painting by J. Selma Almira, also a watercolour with a nautical theme entitled "Race Day." This was listed by a Florida Gallery at US \$300-500.

The Gallery was unable to provide any information either about the artist or the painting.

Over sixty years, the colours have faded a little but this is still a desirable painting. It is also a snapshot of very brief period – from 1961-69 – when the yacht club had pride of place on the hill overlooking the Bay.

Now that the story behind the painting is known, the Club plans to have it properly mounted and reframed, after which it will be given a suitable position in the building, along with a plaque to explain its historical significance, so that it can be seen and appreciated by everyone for what it is.



1964 watercolour of the original clubhouse on the hill by American artist J. Selma Almira (1902-99). An inscription on the back reads: "On loan to the RCAF Trenton Yacht Club from the RCAF Trenton Power Squadron," signed by Grace Bailey.



Race Day by J. Selma Alvira, date unknown.



1964 International Rendezvous at Baker Island, RCAF Trenton SQN.



Somewhere over the *Rainbow* ...



If the end of a rainbow marks a pot of gold, then the loot must be on Eric Lawler's boat!

Dona took these amazing pictures from the deck of *Take Your Time*, during the Club races on August 31.



Above, Another view of the same rainbow taken from the club deck. No gold after all. Ed.

It takes many hands to get the work done at the Club



When it comes to docks and moorings, it seems the work is never done. There's always another job for those who are willing to help. Here, David Craig crosses concrete anchors off the 'To Do' list. He was able to get eight completed in one afternoon on August 24. In fact, it was a productive day with a cement truck *and* a weed harvester at the Club getting things done.



House and grounds has also faced challenges this year keeping up with the outside maintenance. In these pictures, Dona Neves swaps her camera for a reciprocating or "sozzle" saw to deal with the badly overgrown and diseased shrubs along the shoreline between B dock and D dock.

Dealing with Starry Stonewort



Starry Stonewort has been particularly troublesome this year. It took Nick Demarco of WeedsBGone two days of work at the cost of \$8,000, to remove it from the navigable parts of the harbour.

A type of filamentous algae, Starry is related to, but much more invasive than, native Chara. Since first being identified in Presqu'île Bay in 2009, it has spread rapidly through the region including the Murray and Trent Canals. There is no approved treatment, removal is the only option.

Authorities in Ontario are only now waking up to the economic threat posed by Starry Stonewort to recreational boating and related tourism.



Starry Stonewort, so named for the tiny white starlike bulbils that overwinter in the mud.



Weeds are stored on board the harvester until they can be discharged to a suitable disposal site on shore. Once cut, it is illegal to allow the weeds, to re-enter the water.



With Nick wearing an ear piece, we could communicate by phone during the harvesting. This allowed us to discuss the precise conditions in real time, and to prioritize the scope of work.

Starry Stonewort is mechanically conveyed from the harvester to the trailer, also equipped with a conveyor belt. It was then trucked to a site at the end of the roadway for disposal.



Look, no Starry! Nick noted a significant improvement in the amount of weed/algae growth around D-dock. A good sign as it means the bubblers are beginning to turn things around. If only we could expand our aeration systems into the main channel.



Off-loading from trailer onto weed blankets. This looks like a lot of weed but it will disappear in a couple of weeks leaving only grit. Just hold your nose as you pass!

Looking for obstacles, resetting channel marks, pulling Water Soldier, treating weeds ...

All in a day for the weed management team

OBSTACLES IN THE MAIN CHANNEL

After reports of boats hitting objects in the channel, the weed team spent four hours August 26, probing silt in an attempt to mark the hazards. There's nothing scientific about this – we use two long poles, marked at one foot increments to measure water depth, one of which doubles as a rake. Unfortunately, without accurate location identifiers, finding buried objects is like looking for a needle in a haystack. We noted two "high" spots where available depth was down to six feet. By moving the green marks we excluded these from the channel. We did not find any large obstacles such as cement-filled barrels. This doesn't mean they don't exist, just that we couldn't find them.

The harbour was originally a Seaplane base – the bottom is littered with old concrete anchors buried in silt. The fixed red-white navigation buoy marks what remains of a large seaplane mooring – believe me, you don't want to hit that! The Club has no sure way of removing or even identifying such obstacles. At best, we can mark the hazard, but this requires precise location, preferably GPS co-ordinates.



With Bob Forgues driving the pontoon boat, Dave Flett and Eric Lawlor check for obstacles in the channel.



RESETTING THE CHANNEL MARKS

In light of low water levels, we have adjusted the marked channel by moving the green marks into deeper water. As of late August, average centre channel depth east of B dock was 7 feet. Boats with deep keels should stay centre or north of centre for the remainder of this season. Caution is advised. Should your keel strike an object, please note your position as precisely as possible and report it to the weed team so the obstacle can be charted. With Starry gone and the remaining weeds treated on Sept. 2, speed is no longer necessary to get through the channel.



REMOVING WATER SOLDIER PLANTS

Five Water Soldier plants, found east of the dock, were recently pulled from the South Beach. That's the good news. The bad news is that Water Soldier was seen floating through the harbour. One plant was pulled, but the rest were too far away to catch. They will float with the current, eventually washing up in a bay where they can establish new colonies. For those living downstream, that could be your beach, so beware. Water Soldier is invasive, it will quickly render your shoreline unusable.



The Trent River had the only known Water Soldier colonies in North America. Environmental groups have tried to eradicate the plants to prevent downstream migration, but it has now reached the Bay of Quinte. If you think you've seen Water Soldier, you should immediately notify the Ontario Federation of Angers and Hunters (OFAH) or local Conservation Authority.



DEALING WITH THE 'OTHER' WEEDS

With the channel cleared of Starry Stonewort, the Club applied Reward herbicide on Sept. 2 to deal with Milfoil, another troublesome invasive weed. We treated the main channel, focusing on the easternmost end, with spot treatments elsewhere.

Left, preparing the tanks are Bob Forgues, Eric Lawlor and Gary Lambert. Right, on the boat are Bob Forgues, driver, Gary Lambert and Perry Petrie, spraying with Dave Flett controlling spray tank volumes.



Just because it's herbal doesn't mean it's safe to use

Recently, a restaurant in Markham was closed by health officials when a dozen people fell ill with what was suspect to be aconite poisoning.

Aconite is a poisonous herb commonly known as Monkshood or Wolfsbane. Many people grow it as an ornamental plant, yet it's considered to be one of the most poisonous plants in the world. In ancient times it was applied to hunting spears and arrows.

According to the National Capital Poison Centre, all parts of the plant contain toxic alkaloids, but the compound aconitine is particularly deadly. Just two milligrams, or about the size of a sesame seed, can be a lethal dose for an adult human.

Aconite poisoning is rare in North America, and generally occurs accidentally. In this instance, it was likely mistaken for an edible spice that was purchased by the restaurant.

However, in Asian cultures, aconite is used medicinally to treat joint and muscle pain, despite little evidence of its effectiveness.

This raises the concern that with increasing popularity and availability of herbal medicines in Canada, aconite poisoning could become more common in this country.



The effects of aconite poisoning occur quickly, sometimes within minutes. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, cramping, numbness in the face, mouth and limbs, as well as muscle weakness. More serious symptoms can follow including low blood pressure, cardiac arrhythmias, coma and, if enough is ingested, fatal respiratory paralysis.

There is no known antidote to these toxins. If someone is known or suspected of having ingested Aconite, medical advice is NOT to induce vomiting, but to call 911 immediately.

Cobourg Marina earns Diamond Elite rating

Cobourg Marina has received a Diamond Elite Rating in the 2022 Clean Marine program, an initiative in which the town has participated since 2017. In the first year, staff introduced ways to improve recycling and waste reduction, fuelling practices and other procedures. This resulted in a Five Green Anchor ranking. Cobourg is only the second marina to receive so high a rating after a first audit.



The Clean Marine self-assessment was completed last winter, qualifying Cobourg for an audit by Boating Ontario. This resulted in a score of 96.01 per cent, the highest possible rating offered in the program. This year saw the introduction of several new initiatives including updated water testing, modernized fuelling and pump-out practices, and a new spill containment system added to the fuel dock.

The marina also installed a Seabin Trash Skimmer. Described as a floating garbage bin, the device can intercept floating debris including macro and micro plastics. It also cleans the water of contaminated organic material such as leaves and seaweed, and can be equipped with absorbent pads capable of absorbing petroleum-based surface oils and detergents.

The Clean Marine Eco-Rating Program was developed in Ontario as an environmental initiative that encourages marine facilities to follow best environmental practices to reduce water, air and land pollution associated with on-water activities.

Imok takes 3rd in Round Waupoos Island race

Trenton did well in this year's race Round Waupoos Island with Carol Bailey (Imok) taking third place. First and Second place went to Bob Halworth and Tom Willison respectively of Presqu'île Y.C.

Out of 13 boats registered to compete in the race, eight were from Trenton.

The event is a pursuit-style race in which the handicap is factored in to the start time so racers place in the order they finish.

The table opposite gives the full race results. Thanks to Rick Tinga for the information.

Boat Name	Skipper	Boat	PHRF	Start Time		Placing
				Min	Sec	
IMOK	C. Bailey	C&C 27	227	0	0	3
PENGUIN	R. Forgues	Aloha 32	222	0	57	7
TOMFOOLERY	T. Willison	Tarten 30	210	3	14	2
STORM BOY	R. Jones	Sirius 28	199	5	19	4
MOONLIGHT	B. Halworth	Tarten 30	198	5	31	1
STACE A LEE	M. Simic	Hunter 32	189	7	13	9
FAN A SEA	G. O'Brien	CS 30	184	8	10	8
INTERLUDE	D. Koshman	CS 30	180	8	56	5
LITTLE WING	D. McCracken	Mirage 29	180	8	65	11
COUNCIL FLAT	L. Abrahms	Mayflower 48	156	13	29	6
DEFI 1	S. Creamer	Beneteau 351	150	14	38	10
CELTIC SONG	B. Didenhofen	Bayfield 40	150	14	38	12
AVALON V	M. Game	CS 36	126	14	11	DNS

Good turnout for this year's Family Day at the Club

Held on August 20 in perfect weather, this year's Family Day event was a resounding success. Members brought their children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces to the Club for all kinds of fun activities on land and water. These included a scavenger hunt, dinghy rides, kayaking, water fight, life ring toss, lawn games, and plenty of crafts in the clubhouse. As you can see, the kids had a ball.

Lunch was a bargain \$10/family for which you got the choice of a hotdog or burger followed by a frozen dessert.



Dona Neves



Dona Neves



Dave Flett



Dona Neves



Sweet & Salty Skor Squares

These squares, inspired by Peggy O'Brien who submitted one of the recipes, are perfect for any occasion. The combination of salty Ritz crackers paired with the sweet taste of toffee is sure to satisfy even the sweetest sweet tooth. Top them with chocolate or cream cheese icing and you have quick no-fuss dessert. What's not to like!!

One box original Ritz crackers, about 2 1/2 cups.
1 packet (200 g) Skor chips
1 can sweetened condensed milk
1 packet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Line 8x8 baking dish with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, roughly crush the ritz crackers.

Add Skor chips, reserving some for top.

Add condensed milk and combine all three ingredients.

Transfer the mixture to the baking dish, press down firmly and evenly around the edges

Bake for 22-25 minutes, until toffee has melted and the top is golden brown and edges are bubbly.

Remove from oven, sprinkle the chocolate chips on top. The chocolate should melt. If it doesn't, pop it into the oven for one minute, then take it back out.



Using a spoon, smooth chocolate out into a layer
Sprinkle the rest of the Skor bits on top.

Let cool for 10 minutes then cut into squares.

Allow to cool completely for 30 minutes before serving.

1 box of Ritz crackers, crushed
1 can sweetened condensed milk
1 packet 200 g. Skor chips (reserve some for top)
Cream cheese frosting for topping

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees.

Line 8x8 pan with parchment paper.

Combine crackers, condensed milk and Skor chips.

Put in pan, press down firmly and evenly around the edges.

Bake for 22-25 minutes until toffee has melted and top is golden brown.

Cool ten minutes, then cut into squares. Allow to cool further before topping with cream cheese frosting.

Sprinkle with remaining Skor chips and serve.

