

2023 FALL EDITION



FULL AND BY

Britannia Yacht Club Bulletin



LISA SHISHIS Commodore's Corner

The summer flew by, and it was a great season at BYC. Thank you to all those who came out for the Sail Past in June. It was fantastic to see so many boats and smiling faces!

We've had a fantastic summer, with lots of new faces joining our community. We had a busy schedule with sold-out events, including Caribbean Night in July and Lobster Night in August, which brought together 175 enthusiastic attendees. Our harbour is now home to 15 new boat owners, and we welcomed 300 new members this season, making our BYC community even more vibrant.



Participation in Club programming has seen a significant increase across the board, and the activity on the Courts has been wonderful to see! Our award-winning Learn to Sail Program continues to thrive, with many new and returning young sailors. For the latest updates on our Race Teams, be sure to check out our recent announcements.

As we transition into the autumn season, the Board has been diligently working on budgeting and planning for the winter. We're excited to announce that we have some fantastic winter programming in the pipeline to enhance our members' experience. So, mark your calendars for a New Year's Eve gala at BYC this year! It promises to be a wonderful way to welcome in the new year.

While the sailing season comes to a close, we have had a great summer with many new faces and a fantastic turnout for our social events. As we move into autumn and prepare for the up-coming winter activities, we're eager to continue providing our members with exciting opportunities and a vibrant club experience.

I look forward to seeing you around the Club!

Lisa Shishis
Commodore



RANDY TIVY

Treasurer's Report

At the time of writing, we have our financial results to the end of September which I am pleased to share some of the highlights.

SO HOW ARE WE DOING?

Our balance sheet is strong.

Collections on membership and mooring fees have been very good this year and as a result we have been able to take advantage of very favourable interest rates on our savings account for the first half of the year. At September 30, we had approximately over \$ 455,603 in cash with over \$262,000 earning interest. As many of you know we will be spending some of these funds over the next few months on our programs and services as we wait for next year's membership and mooring fees to be received. We also must keep funds for our restricted fund and also in support of room rental deposits.

Mortgage payments continue with a principal balance of only \$95,862 to be paid at the end of September.

We expect to hit our budget on membership fees revenue which is a relief. We have had 143 resignations this year and 313 new members with most of the change in the Associate level. Total membership is 1142. Managing our expenses for the remaining months of the year is now the focus.

We have rented 214 of our 219 wet moorings. I was hoping for a full harbour this year, hopefully next year.

As many of you know our programs have been very popular this year. Learn to Sail was sold out and we have been worked with Management to find extra funds for programs where there was unexpected increase in demand from our members.

Food and Beverage has been very busy this year and we expect to do over a \$1 million in sales. Our members have been very supportive and outside events appear to be back to pre-covid days. Interestingly we have noticed a trend over the last few years and more notable this year where members' food sales and beverage sales are closer to 50/50. We are not entirely sure why but we do know that our members and guests are drinking less alcohol which is a good thing and that our weekly food specials account for the majority of our food sales. Table service that we introduced during Covid has continued by popular request.

In terms of the big picture, we are projecting total revenues from all sources of over \$2.5 million dollars and expenses of approximately the same. I am hoping for a small surplus this year.

In my April report I outlined some of the capital projects that are planned this year. On the horizon are some major projects that we know will require significant additional funding. The Eastern Wall Dam, Harbour walls/ electrical and the Western Berm {which has suffered erosion from recent floods} are the big ones. The finance committee has had one meeting so far to look at funding options with the view that we can assist the Planning Committee and Board on the timing of these necessary expenditures. This is a work in progress and more information will become available once the process of costing and prioritizing project components is completed.

Lately the finance committee has been focusing on the operations budget for 2023/2024. We have had at least 3 meetings and related correspondence. As I have mentioned in the past, predicting future membership and mooring fees is difficult and we do our best using past financial data and experiences. Renewal rates, staff wages and inflation are the big variables.

Our budget this year will be looking for a small surplus. Our calculations look at the costs for running all programs and a separate calculation for harbour direct expenses like wages, maintenance, crane rentals and also overhead like insurance, utilities etc.

Program fees, membership fees and mooring fees are then calculated to make it all balance.

Lastly, I neglected in earlier posts to let you know who is on the Finance Committee. My thanks to Commodore Lisa Shishis, Past Commodore Rob Braden, Harbour master Al Malo, D'Arcy Craig, Mary Ellen Dempster, Sandy Struthers and Wayne Scrim. Our Club Manager, Paul Moore and Club Accountant, Mark Walton prepare monthly financial/management reports and attend our meetings.

Wishing you all fair winds and good health,

Randy Tivy, FCPA

Honorary Treasurer and Rear Commodore



AL MALO Harbourmaster Report

THANK YOU

It has been my privilege to serve as the Harbourmaster and Vice-Commodore since 2018 but now it's time for me to hand the portfolio over to another member. I thank everyone who has supported me during this time and will provide my support to the new Harbourmaster wherever I can to ensure continuity and a smooth transition.



THIS YEAR IN REVIEW YARD STAFF

I want to thank our yard staff, Andrew, Quinton and James for their dedication and professionalism. In addition to launching and hauling boats, they take care of maintenance tasks and increasingly with providing additional services to members such as stepping and un-steeping masts hauling boats mid-season when urgent repairs or inspections are required. This year they even braved the cold spring waters to raise a boat that sank on it's mooring. It's not an easy job and we are lucky to have them on staff.

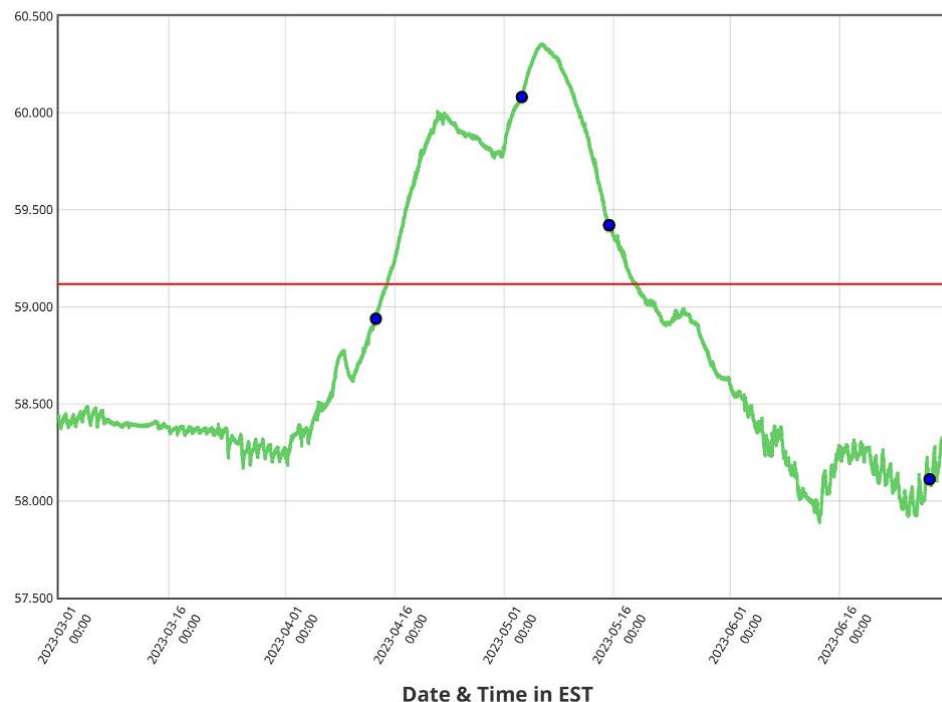
SPRING FLOODING

I want to provide a summary again to reinforce how important our infrastructure is to manage the annual spring flooding. The flood gate was first deployed in 1981 in response to the exceptional flood of 1979. Since then, there has rarely been a year when the gate was not required to control the flooding and prevent damage to the harbour infrastructure. In response to the historic flooding events of 2017 and 2019, our former Projects Director, Guy Grimard led the efforts to reinforce and increase the height of the walls and improve drainage at the front of the Clubhouse which has made it much easier to deal with high water in the future.

This year started off looking like we would have a relatively easy flood season but one thing I've learned over recent years is that predicting spring flooding is a bit of a fool's errand. The graph below shows that water level increased rapidly this spring reaching a level of 60.335 meters on May 6th. This is a level just shy of the 2017 peak. Thanks to the wall improvements, we were able to weather this event without sandbags or damage. The gate was installed on April 14th and removed on May 24th.

The red line on the graph indicates the level of 59.1 meters when the water starts overtopping the sidewalks in the harbour. Note that even after the water dropped below 59.1 meters, there was another small rebound which is something we always have to be on the lookout every year when deciding to remove the gate.

Water level (unit values) (m)





MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS EAST DAM WALL

Our walls have been in place for a long time. The mortar holding the stones together and some of the stones themselves are deteriorating in places. At the beginning of June, a small section of the East Dam Wall collapsed. Guy Grimard undertook the rebuilding of 10 to 12 feet of the wall. This repair was done in a timely manner and damage to the roadway was avoided. This type of repair can be repeated if needed pending the larger project to repair the East Dam Wall.

There is another area on the north wall where 10-to-15-foot section of the wall will need to be repaired. The Club is looking for a contractor to repair this area and this will hopefully be addressed early next year.



BROCKVILLE DOCK – WEST WALL INNER BASIN

In response to damage to the Brockville dock on the west wall of the inner basin, and several other issues such as rotting boards and loose metal plates, a repair of the spine of that dock was undertaken. Guy Grimard did the planning and then the repair. In addition to repairing the deck, this project allowed us to develop the approach to doing the repair and estimate the cost of such repairs. The Brockville docks were already old when the Club acquired them and the experience of doing this work will now be used to elaborate the relevant sections of the AMP to allow for the repair of the remaining Brockville docks over the next few years.



LIFE RINGS

Jean-Guy Goddard and Guy Grimard also worked to refurbish and reinstall the line rings around the harbour. Several new life ring stations were created and new rings and throwing lines were put in place as required.

ELECTRICAL

Our electrical power supply in the harbour is old and is subject to the strain of shifting ground and aging connectors and plugs. For the last several years we have made it a matter of routine maintenance every spring to get an electrician to examine each outlet and repair boxes, GFCIs and broken wires or connections. In recent years, this has included the replacement cutoff switches and circuit breakers to ensure the equipment is maintained to proper standards. This maintenance will now take place every spring before the boating season starts and the Club will make the repairs recommended by the electrician.

PLANNING

A major concern for me this year has been to focus on planning. In 2016, Harbourmaster John Wright and the Board commissioned Oaktree Engineering to create an Asset Maintenance Plan. At the time, this plan was preliminary as it was beyond the scope of their work to create detailed plans for each element of the plan. It did however, provide a framework within which the Club could work to do more detailed planning and estimating. In order to work on the elaboration of the AMP, I brought several issues to the Planning Committee this year to illustrate the types of issues that need to be addressed. It's not only a question of what needs to be done to maintain the infrastructure as it exists but to decide if a better strategy would be to eliminate, replace or reinvent/reinvest rather than simply repair. I am currently working with a sub-committee of the Planning Committee to elaborate a strategy and plan for the sustainability and maintenance of our docks.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Club has an extensive infrastructure with walls, flood control, electrical, cranes, support equipment and buildings all of which are relatively old and in need of maintenance or reinvestment. Much of this is Harbour infrastructure and planning should be a particular focus for the next several years. In the meantime, the Projects Director has taken charge to moving the Club forward on two of the most critical elements of Harbour infrastructure - the East Dam Wall and the Western Berm including Sherwood Point. These will be very complex initiatives requiring a significant amount of time and we will all need to provide our support and expertise to help complete these projects.

Al Malo

Vice-Commodore/Harbourmaster



DAVID FOY

Fleet Captain Report

Wow, where did the summer go! As I sit here trying to figure out where the summer went, I am glad to see that there is still lots of sailing and racing left. As far as long distance races go, we have everything from a short 8.5 mile Queens Park race to the infamous and challenging 100 miler. The Kelpie Cup and the Mount Gay Long Distance trophies are still up for grabs with no clear winners yet. Let's see who's going to win them this year. Remember, you have to be in it to win it.

This summer we saw a nice increase in the number of boats registered and in participation. This is a good sign looking forward as we start to plan next year's schedule. If you have any ideas or would like to help plan and organize some of these races / events, please contact the Fleet Captain.

The sailing committee is also seeking nominations for the Mayu Rock award, Broken Prop award, Sportsmanship award and the Cariad Crew award. Nominations must be in writing and delivered to the office, addressed to the sailing committee before October 9 (Thanksgiving Day).

I want to give a huge shout out to our volunteer race officials. BYC has had volunteers at several regattas this year, only 2 of these were BYC regattas. The regattas BYC had volunteers at are: Ottawa Valley ILCA Masters (BYC); NOD - J22 Canadian Championships (NSC); National Capital Regatta (BYC); Sail Canada's Sail Central - Fruitbowl (Hudson yacht club); LYRA - J80 East Coast Championships and PHRF Fleet course racing (Kingston Yacht Club); Opti Cork Team racing (32 races in 1 day!) and CORK Opti International. Way to show them that not only can we sail, but we can run races too! In the words of one of the PRO's we have worked with, "You all deserve a cookie".

David Foy
BYC Fleet Captain





ELIZABETH THREADER

Marketing/PR/Membership Report



In order to ensure all of our new members are provided with an orientation to BYC, our Committee developed an Experience BYC! Orientation Sessions using a Knowledge Café format to move new members through various BYC programming tables to encourage their knowledge and participation of all that BYC offers. The 8-10 minute sessions included a short description of the program and how they can get involved. To date three sessions have been held which has been very positively received and resulted in some great new ideas. The Club has welcomed over 300 new members this year!

THE FOLLOWING TABLES WERE SELECTED AND TABLE LEADS RECRUITED TO BEST PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF BYC.

- **Table 1** - Harbor
- **Table 2** – Sailing/Learn to Sail/Youth
- **Table 3** - Courts
- **Table 4** – Programming/Social
- **Table 5** – Board of Directors/Volunteering

Each member received a BYC lanyard to hold their membership card as well as a copy of the BYC Spring Full and By Bulletin and a revised BYC New Members Guide. Input from the sessions has resulted in scheduling tours of the club as well as adding additional Pickleball – Learn to Play, Paddletit and Yoga dates. It's important that all of our members feel that they can take part in all of our programming.

A BIG thank you to the BYC Board of Directors for their support in providing leadership at many of our tables and to their committee members for coming out to speak to our new members as well as to our Membership Committee members Bruce Topping and Pamela Best for their commitment to its success!

A **BYC Members Guide** is being created that includes all of same New Members Guide orientation information along with BYC Regulations and Policies to ensure all of our members are provided with the most up to date rules and regulations that govern our Club. The Guide will be sent out by email as well as posted on the BYC website.

A new Members wine and cheese will be held on Tuesday, October 17th to learn about membership renewal and some of the new winter programming that are putting in place to encourage year-round activities and participation.

The **BYC Women's Speaker Series**, which is held the third Monday of each month (except July/August) started off with a bang and will continue again in September. This is an excellent venue to bring a guest and introduce them to the club. Tickets are \$35 pp which includes a beverage of choice.

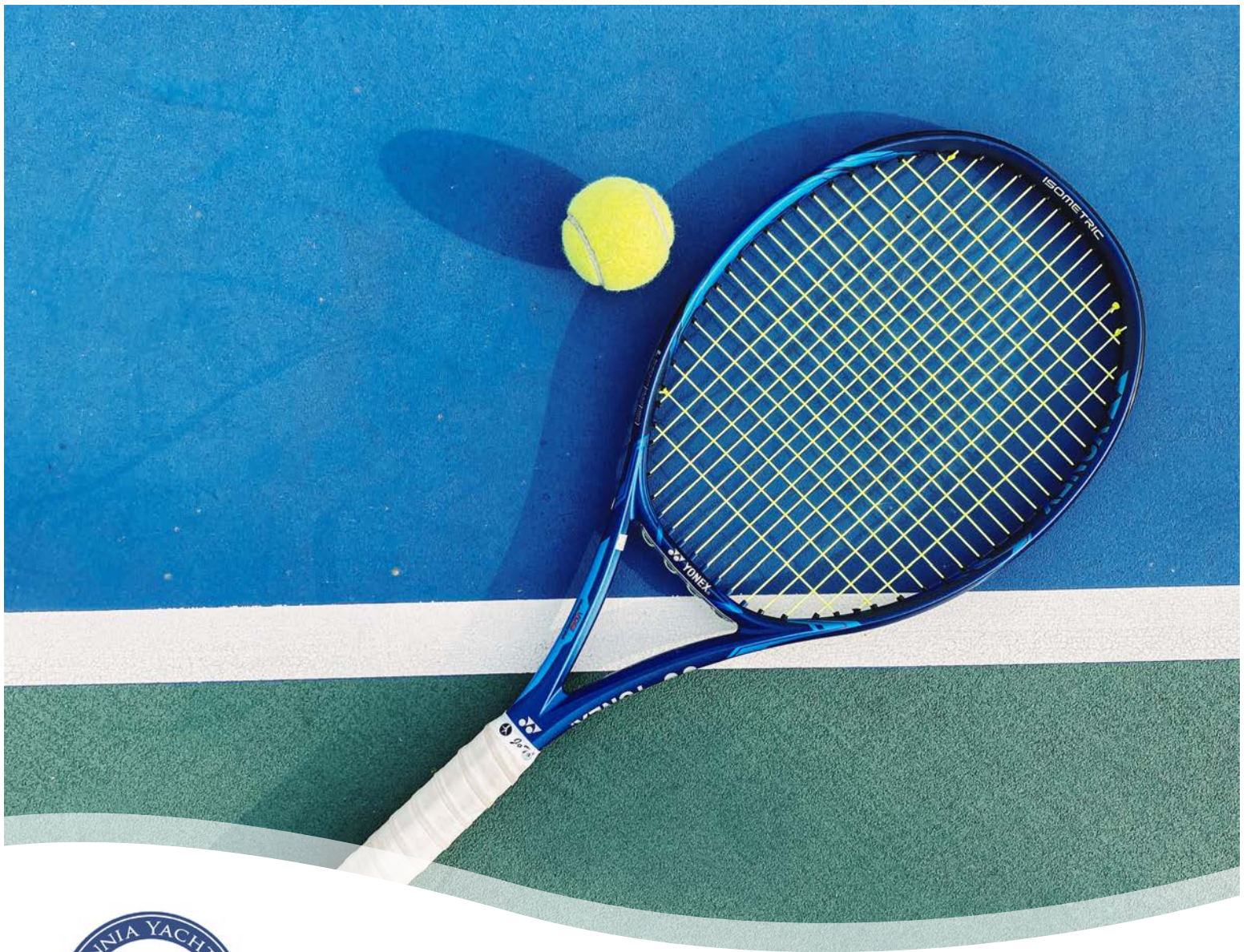
UPCOMING SESSIONS INCLUDE:

October 16 – Women and Wine with Sommeliers from the Savy Company and wine tastings.

Are you interested in volunteering your time? Do you have idea to increase our programming throughout the winter months. Remember, meaningful volunteer involvement meets the needs of both the organization and its volunteers, where people feel happier, healthier and more welcome.

If you would like to become involved in helping make the Britannia Yacht Club a stronger more connected club, please reach out and contact me!

Elizabeth Threader
Director, Marketing/PR/Membership



DAVID HAYES

The Courts

The Courts have seen many new people. They have grown and are thriving. We have had many social events this season. Of note is the Wimbledon event that drew numerous people with the delicious addition of strawberries and cream. We have had several social event/BBQs with amazing attendance and lots of fun. The last social in August had 70 people attend. Wow!

Our court pros were fantastic. Free lessons on Wednesdays were full and private lessons were in high capacity. Our BYC courts players are getting super strong skill sets.

Our introduction of quiet pickleball paddles and play times has been hugely successful. Many thanks to the pickleball action team for making this happen. At courts, we strive to include all BYC members. We have had some repairs done to the courts and more are needed and are in progress. The courts team has done a great job making all these events happen. Notifications for the Tennis and Pickleball tournaments have gone out from the office. The Awards Banquet for courts will be November 2nd. The year-end Courts Annual Meeting will occur at the end of October. We are working on a final date. An announcement will come out soon.

Thank you all for an amazing 2023 season.

Hope to see you court side,

David Hayes
Courts Director





Youth Sailing

It has been a very busy spring over at the Junior Club as preparations were underway for sailing season for BYC's high performance laser and opti teams, our new development laser team, and an almost sold-out Learn to Sail program. I'm pleased to report that the clubhouse received some much-needed upgrades and we're continuing to address areas of improvement. A special thanks to the BYC Foundation for a new TV for training videos and a volleyball net. Everyone should consider making a

donation to this worthy organization that continues to support BYC's next generation of sailors! With regattas almost every weekend now, I want to wish all our young sailors every success in their upcoming races.

Sonja Garvey
Youth Director



From the Desk of the GM

November 12th, 2023

Dear BYC Members,

As the sails are furled, and the boats gracefully exit the harbour, we find ourselves reflecting on another incredible season at Britannia Yacht Club. The camaraderie, the wind in our sails, and the shared passion for the open water have once again made this summer unforgettable.

As the vibrant hues of autumn surround us, we anticipate a shift in the seasons and the arrival of cooler weather. Yet, our enthusiasm remains undiminished as we eagerly look forward to the engaging winter activities that await us at the clubhouse. Winter at Britannia Yacht Club promises to be just as vibrant and engaging as the summer months. We have an exciting lineup of events, including Movie Nights, Social Bridge, Breakfast Club, and much more. These gatherings provide us with the perfect opportunity to continue building lasting friendships and sharing the warmth of our BYC community during the colder months.

In particular, mark your calendars for the upcoming events that promise to bring joy and merriment to the clubhouse:

Christmas Cheer: Join us for a festive celebration filled with laughter, and the warmth of the holiday season. Let's come together to share in the spirit of giving and gratitude.

Wassail: Embrace the winter season with our Wassail event, that offers fun for the whole family!

New Year's Eve Gala: Bid farewell to the year in style at our glamorous New Year's Eve Gala. Dance the night away and welcome the new year with fellow members.

Robbie Burns Day: Honour the Scottish tradition with a special celebration and meal on Robbie Burns Day.

A special note of gratitude is extended to the phenomenal food service staff whose dedication and hard work have undoubtedly contributed to the success of this season. The culinary delights served with a smile have added an extra layer of enjoyment to our time at the club. Please join me in expressing our heartfelt appreciation to these individuals for their exceptional service.

We welcome any new ideas our members may have for winter activities. Your input is invaluable, and we encourage you to share your suggestions to make this upcoming season as enjoyable as possible.

As we bid farewell to the boats and prepare for the winter ahead, let's carry the memories of this splendid season with us. Thank you, each and every one of you, for contributing to the welcoming and vibrant atmosphere that defines Britannia Yacht Club.

We eagerly anticipate the winter months and the joyous moments they will bring.

Sincerely,

Paul Moore

General Manager
manager@byc.ca



2023 & 2024 IMPORTANT DATES

EVENT	DATE
Remembrance Day	Saturday, November 11 th
Sailing Awards Presentation Dinner	Saturday, November 18 th (Tentative date)
BYC and BYCF AGMs	Wednesday, December 13 th
Christmas Buffet	Friday, December 15 th
Wassail	Sunday, December 17 th
Christmas Cheer	Wednesday, December 20 th
New Year's Eve	Sunday, December 31 st
Social Bridge	Every Tuesday afternoon November - April
Movie Night	Every Tuesday Night starting at 7:00pm during the winter
Robbie Burns Event	Friday, January 26 th , 2024
St. Patrick's Day	Sunday, March 17 th , 2024
Easter Brunch	Sunday, March 31 st , 2024
Commodore's Weekend: Commodore's Cocktail Reception & BBQ, Tucker-Rodger Regatta, Pick-leball & Tennis Tournament, Sailpast	June 7 th – 9 th , 2024
Canada Day BBQ	Monday, July 1 st , 2024
Wimbeldon at BYC	Sunday, July 14 th , 2024

More events will be added as dates are confirmed for 2024.