

DRY ROT

COMMANDER'S REPORT

Our beautiful summer kicked off with the visiting Tall Ships Event on the Waterfront. We made arrangements with the Waterfront Trust to have a booth to display and promote our programs. It was very well attended and our volunteers were able to talk with many visitors of the event.

We hosted a **BBQ event** at our home for our Bridge Members and Instructors. It gave us the opportunity to celebrate Percy Brown's 87th birthday and Mike Kott's as well. Both were pleasantly surprised.

We are currently trying some contemporary methods to promote our education programs. We posted our **VHF/DSC course** this month on the website and are very pleased to report that half the attendees came from the website registration/payment process. We will continue to use this method to promote our programs.

There are other courses being offered by HPS in the New Year, the **VHF/DSC course** will run again on January 18, 2014. Please check the web site for further information on this and other courses.

Murray Thompson
Commander, HPS
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Upcoming Events PG4

- SOCIAL EVENTS
- UPCOMING CLASS REGISTRATIONS
- AGM/GRADUATION

Volunteer

If you would like to be part of the Hamilton Power and Sail Squadron, or get more involved in our programs, we welcome you to join us for a rewarding experience.



An Officer & A Gentleman
Ralph Ivor PROBERT, M.D., D.A., RCPGS

(ENGLAND AND CANADA)

November 6, 1914 – July 10, 2013

The Hamilton Squadron has had a bumpy ride the last while. It seemed no one was willing to come forward to help guide the ship. Thankfully this has now changed. After meetings, brainstorming, gentle nudging etc, we now have a good working Bridge. I have to draw attention to P/D/C Percy Brown for his experience and insight which was very instrumental in turning things around.

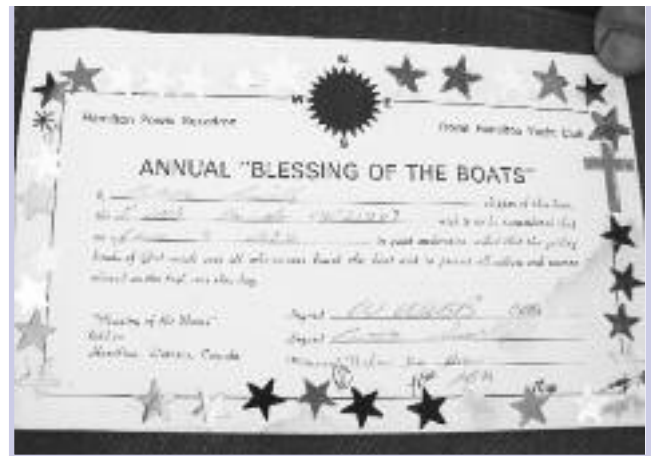
Long time and respected member P/C **Murray Thompson** has taken on the Commander's post. Murray's cheery outlook and "can do" attitude is refreshing and inspiring to us. We now have a well planned and appealing itinerary of courses and social events planned. A successful VHF course has already been completed in September. Please consult the list of events and mark these on your calendar.

Over the summer there were some Squadron events worth noting:

The **Annual Sail Past and Blessing of the Boats** was held on June 15th in conjunction with RHYC. It was held a bit later this year and for a change it was



Commander Murray Thompson presenting attendance stars to Vincent Coome and Bruce Smith



Anne Washington reading John Masefield's poem at the RHYC Blessing Of The Boats

a stellar day with bright sunshine with a perfect sailing breeze. Commander P/C Murray Thompson presented Bruce Smith and Vincent Coome with their stars which signify their 33 consecutive years of attendance at the Blessing of the Boats. It was terrific to again hear Anne Washington's preamble and splendid reading of John Masefield's wonderful poem. Tradition is everything!

On June 28-30 the Tall ships arrived in Hamilton harbour. P/C Ron Warby, P/D/C Percy Brown and Commander P/C Murray Thompson set up a tent near the ships. Walter Plater and Mike Kott also helped out with passing out brochures and promoting the Squadron courses.



On August 17, P/C Murray Thompson, Larry Thompson and Mike Kott attended the RHYC Easter Seals event at RHYC where many disabled children and their caregivers were taken out on the bay for a boat ride. A platoon of Hamilton firefighters and several Hamilton Wentworth police officers took care of loading the kids and wheelchairs onto the boats. It was a heart warming event and the excited smiles on the kids' faces said it all. RHYC put on a great event with an appetizing BBQ to start things off which allowed the boaters and the families to get together. All in all a very rewarding day.





The summer of 2013 is now officially over. I have to say it was one of the most enjoyable seasons we have had in awhile with a variety of heat, rain and temperate weather to have appealed to any outdoor enthusiast. The growing season was incredible and we are now enjoying Mother Nature's bounty. My wife and I marvelled at the incredible growth of the corn out in Flamboro on our weekly sojourns. In one week alone the stands grew about 18 inches. Now, that feed corn is getting a haircut and is being harvested for silage.

We look forward to seeing members and students out at the various Hamilton Power and Sail events this coming season.

*Mike Kott,
Editor Dry Rot.*

Upcoming Events



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2013
CLASS REGISTRATION:
MACASSA BAY YACHT CLUB

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SATURDAY JANUARY 18, 2014:
HALF DAY VHF COURSE

...

SATURDAY JANUARY 25, 2014:
HALF DAY VHF COURSE

...

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2014:
PIZZA & WING NIGHT

...

FRIDAY APRIL 25, 2014:
GRADUATION & AGM



TANKFULL

I did not go on any major trips this summer, but experienced great enjoyment just being aboard and tending to things. There is nothing quite like messing about in boats; several projects from the job jar were completed. I continued work on the DC electrical system ensuring that circuits are adequately fused, removed unused wiring, rerouted wiring to shorten lengths and generally tidied up. I installed a main house battery disconnect switch, rewired the start/house battery combining switch so that the start battery can be disconnected quickly and easily. This work was all done to improve safety aboard. The work completed was well justified – during this season at least two major boat fires on the bay were started by electrical problems.

Another project I tackled was setting up a diesel fuel “polishing” and fuel management system. *TL* was originally set up for long distance cruising with her two generous fuel tanks and very efficient diesel engine. This presented a problem due to the very modest amount of cruising I now do. It is not a good idea to use stale fuel in any engine – whether diesel or gasoline powered. You also need to have plenty of fuel aboard to get out there – and back! Rather than install a permanent polishing system, I simply used the existing fuel manifold – which allows drawing from either of the two tanks – the existing Raycor fuel filter/watertrap, an after market electric fuel pump, 25 feet of fuel proof hose, plus various fittings. To prevent spills I used a tapered wooden bung to temporarily seal off the loose end of the hose. I would suggest using nitrile gloves to keep hands clean and have plenty of rags handy to wipe up any spills.

When polishing fuel (circulating the fuel through a filter), the pump inlet is plumbed into to supply manifold then used to draw fuel from one of the tanks. The pump output is connected to the hose which is simply inserted into that fuel tank’s deck filler. To transfer fuel from one tank to the other, I simply draw from one tank, then insert the hose into the other tank’s deck fitting.

I completely removed approximately 300 litres of stale fuel in one tank by-passing the fuel filter and pumping it into 20 litre containers which are about the limit of my carrying ability. The pump that I used runs on 12 volts and draws only about half an amp. It takes about 16 minutes to move 20 litres. With care and patience there was no fuel spilled. If needed, this same set up could also be used to transfer fuel to another vessel.

PROBERT, Ralph Ivor M.D., D.A., RCP&S (England and Canada)

November 6, 1914 – July 10, 2013

Loving husband of Marion Joy (Bramwell), father of Janice (Dave Ledson), and grandfather of Joanne Ledson. Fondly remembered by his former wife, Helen.

Ralph was raised in Welland, Ontario. He attended Welland High and Vocational School, where he excelled academically. He attended the University of Toronto, attaining his medical degree (1940), and interned at the Toronto General Hospital (1940-1942).

Following World War II, he received his diploma in anaesthesia from Oxford University, England (1946), and subsequently was granted fellowship in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (England and Canada). Ralph volunteered for the Canadian Army in the Second World War and, served in the European theatre from 1942 to 1946, by war's end he had achieved the rank of major.

Following the war, Ralph returned home to set up private practice in Hamilton's hospitals – both Civics and St Joseph's Hospital. He became the Chief of the Department of Anaesthesia at Hamilton Civic Hospital, and after retiring, he maintained an appointment to the Honorary Staff in the Department of Anaesthesia with Hamilton Health Sciences until the time of his death.

Ralph's favourite recreational activity was boating. He was a well known yachtsman of both power and sail and attained his Celestial Navigation designation with the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons (CPS).

Ralph shared his knowledge with recreational boaters, beginners and advanced as well as the police of Hamilton and Halton. He was a respected Past Commander of the Hamilton Squadron, Past District Commander for the Niagara District, and Past Vice Commander at the National Level. In 2007, Ralph received national recognition in Ottawa for his 50 years of much appreciated service to CPS.



PIR/C Ralph Probert and P/C Cal Traver

P/C Vicky Grimshaw and I were present at that ceremony for Ralph who received a prolonged, enthusiastic and emotional standing ovation. A moment in our lives that Vicky and I will remember with great pride for our friend and mentor.

I took the basic boating course in the mid 1960's while I crewed on a boat owned by a charter member of HPS and shortly after that time we moved away from the water and my boating hibernated for many years.

In the 1990's I purchase a sailboat and soon decided that a refresher course with CPS would be a good thing to do.

The courses at that time were presented in the Navy League igloo, the instructor was Ralph Probert. Ralph always presented dressed in full regalia, blazer, shirt & tie replete with navy blue trousers and black footwear.

He is well remembered for instructing with a quiet, competent, easy manner.

Ralph was humble and unassuming; I didn't learn that he was a doctor until 5 years later.

I eventually became an officer of the HPS Bridge and it was there that I again had the privilege of associating with Ralph. His quiet, dignified, and knowledgeable approach to the HPS Bridge operations and the respect with which he treated all was exemplary.

Ralph will be fondly remembered by all who were fortunate to have known him and associated with him.

Ralph presented two trophies to HPS – one the *Ralph Probert Angel Award* which is presented to an officer or volunteer of the bridge for extraordinary effort in furthering our cause. The other is the *Blockhead Award* presented to unfortunate members who made egregious errors – either logical or mechanical – in seamanship.

At Ralph's funeral, six officers of the Bridge formed an Honour Guard as Ralph's coffin was carried to the hearse. P/C Vicky Grimshaw and I attended the graveside for the interment service. Although we mourn Ralph's death, we celebrate his life; he was an exemplary role model for how to be toward one-another. It was an honour and privilege to have been a part of the HPS Bridge with Ralph.

**We fondly remember his kindness and grace toward others –
Ralph Probert was truly
an officer and a gentleman.**

*Respectfully submitted
P/C Cal Traver*

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MOVING?

Please direct address changes to:

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Membership _____

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