

**OFFICER'S REPORTS**  
**Gabriola Power and Sail Squadron AGM 2022**

.....

**Commander**  
**Covering Period from AGM 2021 to April 21, 2022**

**CHALLENGES, VOLUNTEERING and ACHIEVEMENTS**

The past year's challenges were substantial. The COVID 19 continued unabatedly although vaccines were helping. The problems with the CPS National website continued, especially with membership renewals, registering of members online, and registering new courses on-line. And in our Squadron the position of PRO remained vacant for most of 2021.

We managed well throughout the year, considering the challenges:

- Our **Educational Department** under the leadership of **Agathe Gaulin** made tremendous efforts and did very well, offering PCOC, ROC(M) as well as blended online courses for Boating 2+3 and for Boating 4, with many students and ensuring income for the Squadron. A first "again in-person" seminar about Collision Regulations was held in December 2021 and a series of in-person PCOC and Radio study sessions and exams, seminars and a 2-day boating camp for youth are currently underway. The educational department (**Agathe** and **Nigel**) is assisted by **Gary Small, Don Butt, John Bullas** and **Sean Lewis**.
- "Boating Tips", articles about Boating Safety were written by several Bridge members, for publication in the Sounder. Authors included **Sean Lewis, John Bullas, Don Butt** and **Ivan Bulic**. **Agathe Gaulin** was the driving force behind these.
- 2022 saw our new Public Relations Officer **Li Decosas** getting in action as we have not seen before, reconnecting in person with our existing sponsors and connecting with new ones (the Squadron now has 10 new sponsors), and advertising and publicizing our courses and seminars, on the Gabriola Community Bulletin Board, under "Upcoming Calendar Events" in the Sounder, and on our Sandwich Boards.
- The closing of the Shipyard on Gabriola lead **Bob Derksen** to conceptualize a "Boaters' Guide" for Gabriolans. Subsequently **Don Butt, Li Decosas** and **Agathe Gaulin** took on the cooperative task of developing the concept. The "pamphlet" evolved and will now include Services to Boaters (with a focus on Gabriola services), Sponsors' logos, Squadron General and Squadron Course Information.
- Our Membership Officer **Elaine Pearce** worked hard assisting existing members with renewals and in helping new members.
- Our finances have been managed well under **Jude Briscoe's** watchful eye.

- The 2021 RVCC or boat check season was again very successful under **Bob Wood's** leadership.
- Scuttlebutt continued to be published on schedule with **Don Butt** at the helm. Don Butt also has kept the Squadron members informed of all the happenings.
- Our microsite on the CPS website was kept up to date by our webmaster **Andy Hunter**.
- Under the leadership of **Ivan Bulic**, our Squadron took on the responsibility of monitoring the light trap at Silva Bay (Page's dock). Several Squadron volunteers and other Gabriola volunteers are monitoring the number and the size of Dungeness megalopae and instars, every 2 days, from April 15 to September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
- And last and most importantly, the Minutes of our Bridge Meetings continued to appear on time, like clockwork, thank you **Carole Lemieux**.

My thanks go to all the above people who volunteered so much of their time to the boaters and aspiring boaters on Gabriola.

#### **AREAS THAT REQUIRE SPECIAL EFFORTS**

The two areas that require our attention in the coming year are membership and even more visibility in the Gabriola Community. These areas had been affected by the COVID pandemic, which forced our courses to move online, thereby attracting less Gabriola students that could potentially become members. The recent efforts with the series of in-person study sessions and seminars are already successful considering the number of registrations and should be continued in the future. This includes the efforts to reach youth through the 2-day Boating Camp planned for the beginning of May. The recent efforts by our new PRO also increase our visibility and presence on Gabriola. They too should be maintained. I am convinced that these will lead to an increased membership.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean-Pierre Van Praet, Cdr.

#### **Squadron Educational Officer (SEO)**

This past year was another "pandemic year", with restrictions on in-person classes and exams so the Education department of our Squadron offered mainly self-study, online and blended video-conferencing classes. COVID "distancing" protocols were finally relaxed in February 2022 so we proceeded with planning a set of Wednesday evening workshops and a Youth Boating Camp for April and May 2022.

The radio operator's certification (**Roc-M**) and Pleasure craft Operator certificate (**PCOC**) courses remain the mainstay of our offerings. We continued promoting these courses on our Squadron

micro-site of the national CPS website, with our Ferry Hill sandwich boards, and regular emails to our Membership. Students register online, take the courses entirely online and, when they feel ready to write the exam, for the PCOC, they write the exam online and, for the Roc-M, they set up a time and date with one of our **Examiners** to write the exam using Zoom or GoToMeeting web conferencing technology. Students study at their own pace and most of them do very well in the final exams.

For the period between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 and the end of March 2022, Gabriola Squadron has administered **16 Roc-M exams** to students who registered and studied online and **3 PCOC Exams**. For the Fall-winter session, our Squadron offered again the blended **Boating 2-3** and **Boating 4** courses on Monday and Wednesday evenings, starting at the end of October 2021 and ending at the end of January 2022. A blended course, in CPS jargon, is one that is offered online using the Moodle learning platform and with the added benefit of weekly check-in and review sessions with an instructor. Agathe Gaulin led the review sessions for both courses until Nigel Wells returned from a trip to the UK in November and then Nigel facilitated the Boating 2-3 course and Agathe, the Boating 4 course. Again this year, Sean Lewis, John Bullis and Jean-Pierre VanPraet presented on specific topics during both courses. The Boating 2-3 course had 15 students registered and the Boating 4 course was offered to 5 students. Most students were from off-island; from Montreal to Whitehorse, the Sunshine Coast, Vancouver and Nanaimo. All participated actively in all weekly meetings and most passed the course with high marks.

Though these online and self-study courses have generated good revenues for our Squadron, and a certain notoriety as few Squadrons offer such courses, most Gabriola boaters waited till the pandemic restrictions were lifted before taking Boating courses. This was confirmed by the participation of 8 persons at a **Navigation seminar** offered by Sean Lewis at the Gabriola Hall in December 2021 AND the influx of registrations coming in for the Radio operator's and the Pleasure Craft Operator's study sessions offered in April and May 2022.

At the end of June 2021, an agreement was made with our local newspaper, the *Sounder*, to publish a weekly column of **Boating Tips**. The purpose of these short columns was to educate the boating public on safe boating practices. A call for texts yielded articles from Ivan Bulic, John Bullas, Don Butt, Agathe Gaulin, Sean Lewis, Gary Small and Jean-Pierre VanPraet. At least a dozen Boating Tips columns were printed, on an irregular schedule, before the *Sounder* ended this initiative unilaterally.

In closing, I would like to reiterate something I said last year: that we have an extraordinary amount of instructional and boating expertise on this Island so let's harness it and keep our Squadron "on the map" as an active Teaching Squadron! New boaters are asking for courses and Seminars to build and upgrade their boating and navigation skills. We must continue to deliver these to our Island boaters.

Respectfully submitted

Agathe Gaulin  
Educational Officer

### **Membership Officer**

There are currently 52 members in the Gabriola Power & Sail Squadron. Of that number 50 are regular members and two are life time members.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Pearce  
Membership Officer

### **Public Relations/Marketing Officer**

In December, 2021, I was appointed interim Public Relations Officer to the Bridge of the Gabriola Power and Sail Squadron.

In January, I had the opportunity to meet with Executive Bridge members and discuss my new role and their insights to what that role might entail. I also had the opportunity to speak to Bridge Members at large and gain further knowledge for this position. My thanks to everyone and through your thoughtful guidance I was able to plan out a chart of activities.

#### **1) SPONSORSHIP: 2) THE PAMPHLET. 3) PROMOTION & ADVERTISING:**

##### **Sponsorship.**

In early February I began a sponsorship campaign targeted at previous sponsors for our squadron. We now have 18 paid or promised sponsors. Three previous sponsors declined due to change of management, fiscal restraints due to Covid, or simply unable to contact them.

However, we have ten new sponsors, this brings a total of 28 sponsors. Their logos have been submitted for our website, pamphlet and promotional boards. A complete list of sponsors will be submitted separately. And a profound thank you to Jude Briscoe for her valuable help with the sponsorship program.

##### **The Pamphlet**

The brainchild of our revered member, Don Butt, and in response to the closure of The Silva Bay Boatyard, I was tasked with confirming the contributors, addresses, tel #'s for the Marine Directory, (Boating Services Information Guide), and also researching and identifying further resources for the guide. Several of these new contributors are also new sponsors. It was a pleasure working with many members of the Bridge and of course our Commodore.

##### **Promotion and Advertising**

The Sandwich Boards are active and Gary Small (MaL) will continue to change the signs as and when needed for future workshops and seminars. Three new 'pop in signs for seminars and three new contact numbers' were purchased from Sure Signs.

The Sounder is promoting our series of workshops, seminars under their heading Upcoming Calendar Events.

At the beginning of each week, I post a reminder in the Gabriola Community Bulletin Board highlighting the coming seminar.

Posters have been placed in Nester's, the ferry terminal and a couple of strategically

placed mailbox sign posts.

List of Sponsors:

- A) Previous Sponsors
- B) New Sponsors
- C) Declined Sponsors .

A) Harbour Chandler, Jude Briscoe, Silva Bay Resort, Pages Resort and Marina, Pages Inn, Industrial Plastic and Paints, Arbutus Home and Hardware, Silva Bay Yacht Club, C-Tow, Nester's, Mid Island Coop, Gallery Press, Bob Rooks, Newcastle Marina, Stones Boatyard and Marine Store, CCCU, The Haven, Marlanah Smith.

B) Liz Nienbauer,(sails), -G- Marine, Extreme Fiberglass Solutions, Colleen's, Wooden Hangar, North Road Sports and Clothing, Chamber of Commerce, The Foam Shop, Wild Rose, Ground up Cafe

C) Island Pharmacy, Island Home and Gardens, Steve's Backhoe

Respectfully submitted

Li Small  
Public Relations/Marketing Officer

### **Recreational Vessel Courtesy Check – RVCC**

The RVCC program went well this last year. We checked 22 boats at the 4 marinas and a few on trailers in backyards.

I will hand out 2022 decals and forms to any of the checkers at the AGM. That's in case one does a check or more before May 27 - 29th.

My checkers that I have used in the past are: Don But, Bob Derksen, Ivan Bulic, John Bullas, Gary Small, Mike Hoeinghaus, Jude Briscoe and me. I know some are not available for those dates noted above but we usually get it done.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Wood, RVCC Officer

### **Communications, Privacy, Scuttlebutt Editor**

**Scuttlebutt** was published regularly through the year at the usual schedule. It has been an unusual year again as we continued to struggle with the pandemic. It has been a challenge to find photo-ops of our usual fun gatherings. Scuttlebutt is published five times a year, circulated to the members via email, and posted on the Squadron microsite. I am told Chief Commander Peter Bolton is a regular reader.

I would like to again say a huge thanks to Bob Derksen who has provided invaluable help with his eyes spotting my spelling and grammatical errors in Scuttlebutt drafts. Also, thanks to our Educational Officer, Agathe, and Commander, Jean-Pierre for their articles, and to others who contribute to Scuttlebutt. There were several special articles this year, from John Bullas, (my classmate) Dr. Bernie Goldman, Ivan Bulic, Li Decosas, and Sean Lewis., Thank you everyone! I am always looking for articles to publish that are of boating interest. Let me know if you are inspired to contribute.

Considerable time was devoted to revising the Squadron pamphlet, for which member Debbie Erdos has now assumed responsibility. I continue to help editing the graphics of sponsors.

**Communications Committee** has not met in person, mindful of the pandemic restrictions. However the responsibilities of the respective members were defined clearly during the year, which resulted in smooth sailing for Squadron activities.

Our Squadron member and former former SEO, Bert terHart has embarked on yet another challenging voyage, paddling and portaging a canoe from the mouth of the Frazer River to the Atlantic Ocean, all in seven months, alone, using traditional navigation with sextant. I am documenting his journey at my website,  
<https://dbutt.smugmug.com/Paddle-and-Portage-Across-Canada-Alone/>

As the official photographer for CPS-ECP I hope to attend the planned in-person Annual National Conference and AGM in Toronto, October 24-30, 2022

**Privacy** – nothing to report

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Butt, Communications Officer, Privacy Officer, Scuttlebutt Editor