

Honorary Commodore's Comments – 2018 Season

The end of another year is always, for me, a time of reflection. Each one passes so quickly, it seems, and being busy certainly helps the time to flow away like a fast river. It has been close to 8 years since our beloved George Blanchard passed away but I know people still think of him regularly; memories of him and his legacy are still much in evidence at TS&CC and in the CWA.

2018 was a fun year. Although I personally only had the opportunity to participate in 3 CWA events, the slate was full – more than two dozen organized Wayfarer sailing opportunities, whether that be racing or cruising. Of course there were also those times when one could just go out on their own for a lovely day sail. In some respects, the axis on which our world rotates went back to its norm with the Storer Trophy being won by Al Schonborn, the first time since 2013 – Congratulations Al, the “Glory Days” continue!

The Canadians, held this year in Parry Sound, was a somewhat unprecedented 3 day event, which could have been fantastic had there actually been wind! Sue Pilling and SPS did a marvelous job organizing the event, controlling everything that could be controlled. However, no one can control the wind! As disappointing as the drifter winds were, we did manage to squeak in 5 short races to make it a regatta, with Sue Pilling and Steph Romaniuk once again emerging as the winners.

In a “tongue in cheek” look at how crew weight, used as a basis to forecast performance in drifter conditions of the type experienced in Parry Sound, Sue and Steph were seeded 1st (lightest total crew weight) and placed 1st. Most other crews sailed close to their seeding by crew weight – which as interesting. However, the winners of the inaugural PHAT award, the boat which sailed above expectation based on total crew weight, went to the team of Mike Codd and Kirk Iredale – seeded 10th, they placed 6th overall, sailing well above their “weighting”.

And speaking of firsts, while wind and rain was generally wreaking havoc on the Ontario Championships held at TS&CC in July, Mike and Kirk, although seeded 6th, put their “natural talents” to good use and emerged the winners of the regatta – the first time Mike and Kirk have won one of our major regattas, I was told. Good work guys!

Another new first place finish at a regatta came at the Warm Water regatta in early June. Proving that “it ain’t over until it’s over”, Leo van Kampen with crew Peter Draper, prevailed in very tricky sailing conditions, winning the final race to edge out Sue and Steph, who sat out the last race, as the overall winners of the regatta.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the enthusiastic and hardworking people who put their time and effort into making our Association function so well, our regattas come off so “professionally”, and our social agenda so enjoyable! Without such volunteers, we would flounder as an organization. Special mention, and a big THANK YOU for doing an excellent job, goes to Rob Wierdsma for volunteering at the last AGM to take the helm as Chair of executive in 2018.

Although, due to travel overseas, I won’t be able to make it to the 2019 AGM, I look forward to seeing all of you at some of the events during the upcoming season. Beowulf has been in storage since September but will emerge from hibernation in May ready for another season of fun on the water.

Best regards to all. Play safe and stay healthy!

Dave