

**Smuggler's Cove Boat Club - Historical Club & Tufnell Family Photos from 1949-2019**

***The following are a few photos of the club down at NOTLSC before when it was known as the St. Catharines Boat Club, down at Gillingham's Yacht Basin in 1955.***



***This was the first Club House when we were located down river – now NOTLSC. These are pictures of my father – Wally Tufnell.***

***Lower right, my father heading out for a sail in his newly built 11' Penguin dingy. The club built 6 under the guidance of George Hinterhoeller who is pictured lower left. This was back in the day when he was building sailboats in his dining room!***

***In the lower centre picture, behind the willow tree is the where the current gas dock is now located at NOTLSC to give you some perspective.***

***This first club house is still in active service down at the Port Dalhousie Yacht Club. It is used for their junior sailing school program.***

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***The above pictures must be some of the earliest work parties, building docks and the first club house.***

***The next few pictures below are of the club's Penguin Dingy Fleet racing off the mouth of the Niagara River, except the one in the lower left corner...that's Mom and me sailing it in Georgian Bay - summer 2008.***





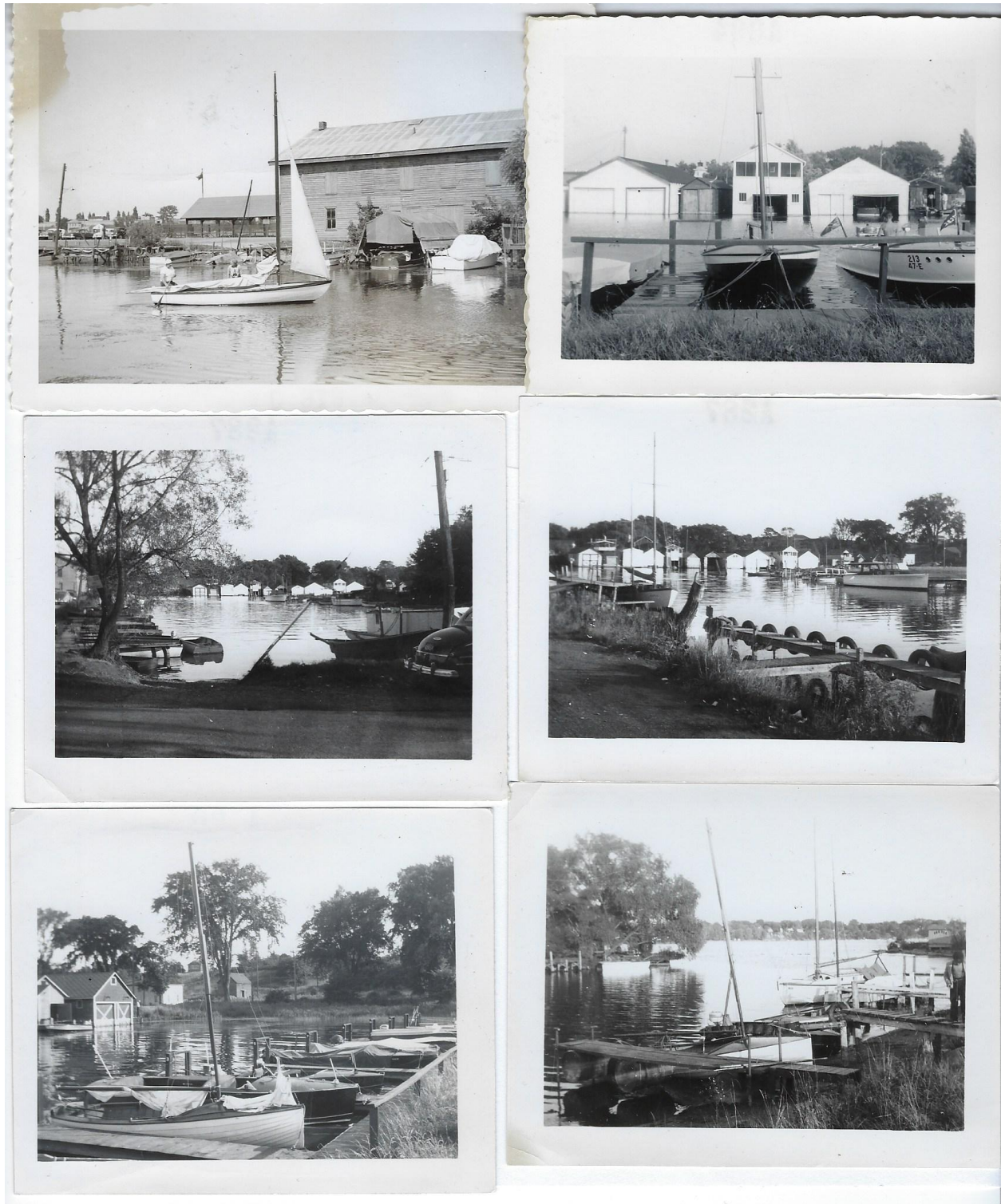
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***Below a few pictures of the basin down at Niagara – mid late 1940s/1950s***



***Only a few of those boathouses in the lower right were still around in the early 1970s that I remember.***

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***This just might be the first photo of the club's present location, prior to the club relocating upriver from Gillingham's Yacht Basin, now NOTLSC in 1959.***

***That's my Dad's International 14' that he purchased from my grandfather, making a deal that included sailing lessons from my Mom (that's how they met).***



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***These pictures below had stumped me. In speaking with my brother Fred, he said this was where the club temporary relocated, just prior to moving the club upstream to its current location. This was located just north of the old customs Dock, now just in north of the Jet Boats, estimated to be in 1959. He said the sailors were plagued by the large willow trees that regularly got tangled in the sails, mast and rigging.***

***This was the year that the club had decided to move upstream to our current location. It could be that the boats were moved here so they could set up the anchoring system for the new floating complex.***

***My brother remembers when the divers and crew from the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority arrived with a large work barge and tug to set them. At the age of 7, my brother said that he was very impressed for the club watching this large undertaking!***

***The picture on the right is my Dad on a mild day in early January. I remember him telling the story how he went sailing...the weather having turned mild and him figuring he could get his first sail in for the new season - right from the start!***







***This is how I remember the club around the early 1970s. There's the old gate house too. It had our first working heads! In the 1966 club newsletters (attached separately), it references approval for the budget of this new club house. It also references prohibiting jumping off the little clubhouse thus inferring the existence of the main clubhouse. So I am unsure of the exact year but I was before 1966.***

***Missing from this collection are pictures of the original set up, before this current clubhouse we use today. My family were not really picture takers it turns out. There is an artist's impression however in the club house to give you an idea. (I should take a closer look at that picture and who the painter was).***

***When the club first relocated upstream, they had no club house, just docks the first year. The next year in 1960, the first club house had been designed, built and launched, back when there were only downstream docks and no washroom facilities!***

***We had to walk to the public washrooms up top of the hill and to the south, taking a path across the creek up a very steep path and stone steps. If you look hard, you can still the path.***



### *An achievement to toast*

St. Catharines Boat Club's man-of-the-year, Foster Rathbone, is served wine by the club's secretary, Wallace Tufnell, during last Saturday's annual awards night and commodore's banquet at Niagara Falls. From left are: Ken English, winner of the club's predicted log race; Bud McLaughlin, club sailing champion, and recently re-elected commo-

dore; Mr. Rathbone; and Mr. Tufnell, who has returned to the club executive after several years' absence. St. Catharines Boat Club operates out of its own floating complex at Smuggler's Cove, on the Niagara River, three miles upstream from the mouth.

***This picture was hung in the club house for years. Likely the only time we ever made the local news!***

***What I found remarkable is the reference to Smuggler's Cove, on the Niagara River. I have looked at this clipping many times and a friend just pointed it out to me.***

***I vaguely remember my father referencing the club as being located at Smuggler's Cove. It made so much sense then that the club later changed the name. We had left St. Catharines more than three decades earlier!***

***I remember another alternative name that was strongly considered – "Lower Niagara Boat Club"...but that just doesn't have the same ring nor vibe does it!***



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***Above is the Sail Past back, I think it's 1979. This was the first Sail Past after the club had just built the current metal, hinged docks.***

***In the lower right corner is Commodore Ray Bornn. The trawler out front belonged to member Foster Rathbone.***

***You can also see the little club house at the end of the downstream docks.***

***Notice how narrow the main walkway was. Notice we didn't have any hydro on the docks yet either.***

***On the next page is the Sail Past in 1982. This was the year my father passed away from heart disease and the club decided to name the new workboat after him, the Wally T.***

***In the middle photo is Carl Chandler, me, my brother Fred, Mom, Ron Armstrong and my sister Catherine.***

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***Here are a few shots from the 1984 Sailpast and Mom's new J 22! This was just before the gate house got a new facelift and roof.***



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***The Tufnell and Young families and our boats down in NOTL***



***That's my Dad sailing and again working on his boats in the backyard. Wooden boats required a lot of maintenance. He had to paint/varnish and later extensively repair the boat each year and that meant a later and later launch date, but warmer weather. It was a real treat when he bought his first fiberglass boat in 1977, and a lot less maintenance.***

***Below, my Mom on the right and her parents – Fred and Moira Young of Chippewa, both who also sailed out of Gillingham's Yacht Basin (NOLSC) in the late 40's and early 50s,( and earlier out of the Chippewa Creek, on the upper Niagara River, beginning in the 1930s).***

***Trailing behind our boat in the lower right corner is my toy boat. My parents did this for years, for my benefit, until one day we finally lost it for good! This is around 1968 juggling from her sunglasses!***



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***The next are a few shoots are of the other boats we have enjoyed...and some, we still do, including the 1953 Penguin and the 1979 Laser!***

***The first sailboat below, top left, is best described as a 22' compressed Shark, custom built by Geoge Hinterholler in 1961.***

***On the left side is my father's last boat – a 23' Venture of Newport (1977).***

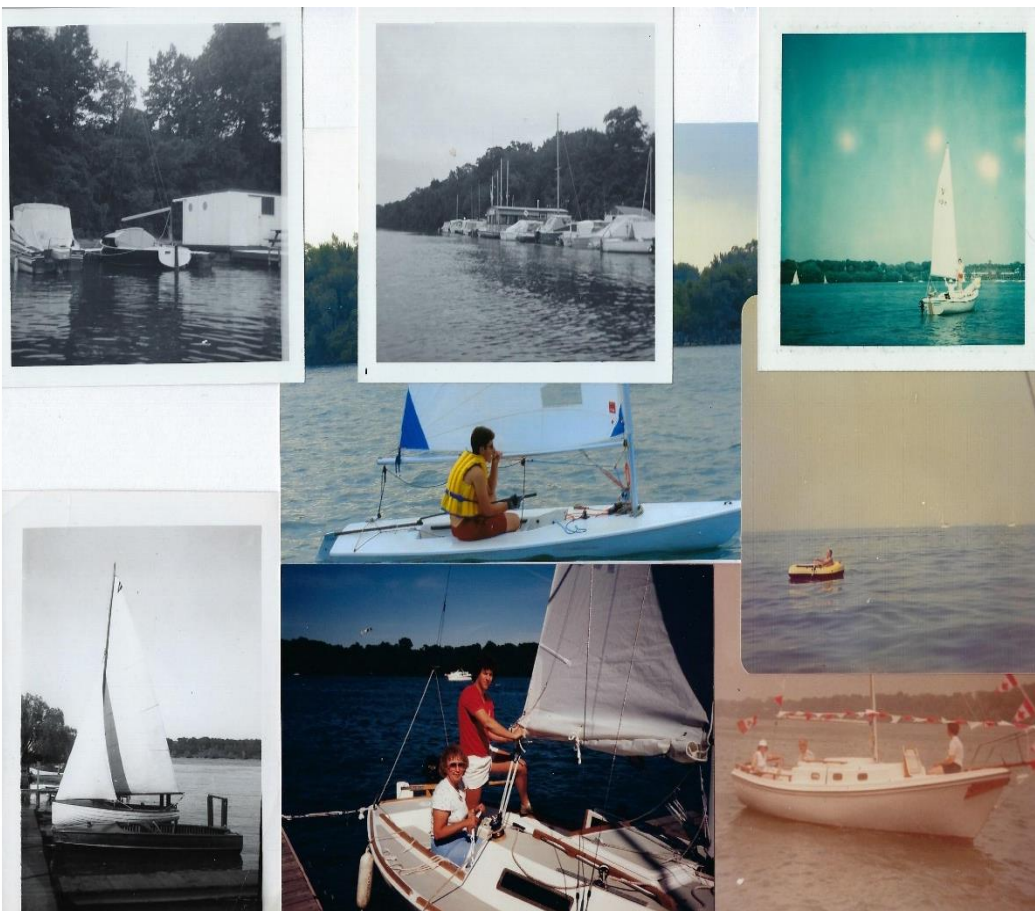
***The boat in the lower middle, is a 1984 J 22, that Mom purchased new at the boat show after my father died. I had also encouraged her to purchase a brand new bright red Chevy Camero the year earlier!***

***Bruce Lee took Mom and I out a few times to teach us how to fly the spinnacker. Mom and I would later take racing instruction by J Boats School Sailing in Kingston, Ontario.***

***This boat was a rocket but also easily very tippy at only 1500lbs. It was because of this, and capsizing in the month of the river, that Mom decided we needed to purchase the Nonsuch 22 a few years later in 1988!***

***That's my son Austin sailing his Laser. (He and his sister Jessica love to capsize!)***

***Of special note is the top left picture. This is the original little club house. It was relocated to the end of the downstream docks after the arrival of the current main club house. It was pretty bare bones back then.***



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**First boat in this year...just sayin'!**



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**Mom and her favourite firefighter! And that's my daughter Jessica. This was at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sail Past.**



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**My late sister and sailing partner Catherine at the 2017 Sail Past/New Members Party.**



**And lastly the "first mate" of the Nonsuch 22 "Purrfection" – My Monica!**

