



Smugglers Cove Boat Club

December 2023 Newsletter



Hello Everyone

It is with great pride that I send my first message as your new *Commodore!* Thanks again to everyone for your well wishes, support and encouragement.

The *Commodore's Ball* was fantastic (as always), with excellent food, great service, and lively entertainment from our own *Darryl Freel and Cottage Brew*. Special thanks to *Bill and Dawn Krahn* for organizing another wonderful event, and to our Master of Ceremony *Brian McGillion*, and to everyone who helped out, participated, and made this a memorable evening!

Congratulations to this year's award winners!

- ***Member of the Year - Dennis Angle***
- ***Spirit of Adventure - Bill and Jill Salton***
- ***Big Toe Award - Phil Duncan***

We had another very successful season this past year and I would like to again thank departing Bridge members *Bill Salton, Frank Lovasi, and Bryant Werner* for their leadership, effort and commitment to our club.

I am very happy and look forward to continuing to work alongside *Greg Wardle, Lorne Bjorgan, Past Commodore James Warankie*, and new members *Jon Flynn, Keith Walsh and Dan Grignon*.

As you know, next year will be a very special year for our club. *Nancy Mennie and the 75th Anniversary Committee* are making plans to help mark and make memorable, this major club milestone. Please take note of their information request below and help them complete the narrative of our club's history.

We hope next year's *75th Annual Sail Past* will be incredibly special, and all members, both newer and old, will be equally excited to join in to help celebrate!

As mentioned in my address at the *Commodore's Ball*, it absolutely amazes me, on a continuous basis, the level of commitment, dedication, along with the vast knowledge, skills, and experience everyone brings to this club to make it happen, and continues to make happen, 75 years now.

I had the opportunity to witness this again this past week, this time when we experienced a setback with the *Gatehouse* project. I am so pleased to help "*lead*" this collective effort, better described as our collective *PASSION for this club!*

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 6th, 7pm via Zoom. Watch your e-mail for your Zoom invitation.

Wishing everyone and their families a very happy and safe holiday season.

Thanks Everyone!

Christian Tufnell
Commodore
SCBC

commodore@smugglerscoveboatclub.com

Message from Vice Commodore Operations – Greg Wardle

Our buildings are now secure for the Winter. The *clubhouse* move to NOTLSC went as planned. Waiting this long to have all the boats out and docks removed from the NOTLSC basin made the job a lot easier. The *clubhouse* is cabled between the hydro anchors in the basin floor and the anchor points on the building. We have also added ropes between the shore and the *clubhouse*. This will allow us to adjust if needed over the winter and stop the building from swinging around on the cables.

The downside of waiting this long is the water is low and we really struggled to get the work boats on their trailers. *NOTLSC's boat ramp* is short with a drop off on the end. With low water levels, you can't get a trailer deep enough to load a boat easily. Moving the buildings this late in the season will most likely become the new norm. We will need to make some improvements to our trailers to make it easier to use them in low water level conditions.

Now the frustrating news. We were not able to lift the *Gatehouse* out at *Queenston*. At 35,000lbs, the building was roughly 13,000lbs heavier than was anticipated.

There are a couple of explanations for the extra weight, either we have water in our floatation, or the floatation has thicker walls than we thought. Maybe both. As we were lifting the building out of the water, one of the lifting points failed. The building was only a couple of feet out of the water when one corner dropped. Damage was minimal.

The *Gatehouse* is tied to the *Jetboat docks in Queenston* and may have to spend the winter there. We are reviewing our options and trying to come up with a new plan to get the gatehouse out.

If we can't get it out of the water, all the major work will not be done this winter. If the gatehouse stays in the water, we will have to come up with an in-water solution next year. Optimistically it can be done on our beach in the early spring with minimal impact on our boating season. The deciding factor of when it is safe to move the Gatehouse back to our beach is when the ice boom is removed.

For those of you that don't know, the ice boom is a joint effort between *New York Power Authority* and *Ontario Power Generating* to control the ice flow down the *Niagara River*. When they remove it in the spring, it dumps all the ice sitting behind it on *Lake Erie* down the *Niagara River*. They normally wait until most of the ice has disappeared on *Lake Erie*. Last

year, we had 4.5% ice coverage of *Lake Erie* or less than 1/2 the 30-year average. Fingers crossed that we have minimal ice buildup on *Lake Erie* again and we can move the *Gatehouse* down the river in early April.

We end this season therefore on a disappointing note with our Gatehouse project delayed but I'm optimistic that we will be able to sort it out one way or another.

Enjoy the Festive Season. Thank you for everyone's support this year and be ready for an early start next season!

Greg Wardle
Vice-Commodore Operations
SCBC

greg.wardle@icloud.com

75th Anniversary Committee Request

Hello Smugglers!

Your 75th anniversary committee has been hard at work with various projects.

We are still looking forward to hearing from more club members, (present and past), for photos, artifacts, stories, history notes and happenings.

If you have something to share, please reach out to one of the committee members.

The club's history has never been assembled in one source of documentation. With the 75th anniversary fast approaching what better way to celebrate this milestone.

Smuggler's is rich in history, and I am sure you will find it interesting to learn how the club has evolved over the years to the present day.

We all have benefited from those who have gone before us, let's do them justice with this chance to archive their legacy to the club.

Regards!

Martha, Shirley, Jill, and Nancy

Parks Canada announces \$6 million shoreline protection at Fort Mississauga

Niagara Now - November 24, 2023

Niagara-on-the-Lake's historic Fort Mississauga is getting another upgrade — to the tune of \$6 million. Parks Canada announced the funding Friday, which will be used to build a 500-metre section of break wall to protect the land near the fort from increased shoreline erosion. It also means the tree canopy along the eastern Lake Ontario shoreline along the first fairway at the NOTL Golf Club will be removed. The project is the final phase of break wall construction along the shoreline, after 600 metres of protection and walkway was earlier built along the western edge of the golf club.

The club leases the land from Parks Canada. Before the earlier work was completed, many members of the golf club expressed concerns about the loss of trees. However, the changes allayed those fears because they resulted in much-improved and somewhat spectacular views of the lake and Toronto skyline.

Shoreline erosion is caused in part by more frequent and severe storms and high-water levels due to climate change on the Great Lakes.

“These measures will ensure public safety, safeguard historic artifacts along the property, and protect Parks Canada-administered lands leased by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club,” Parks Canada said in a news release Friday.

The money is part of a \$557 million infrastructure investment announced by the federal government in 2022. The earlier phase of the project also included the installation of a walking trail along the shoreline and a [boardwalk](#) to access the Fort Mississauga tower and earthworks. The fort itself [has also been restored since 2019](#), as part of a \$7.3 million infrastructure project.

Parks Canada said the shoreline has “many non-native and invasive tree and shrub species with root systems that damage archeological resources within the earthwork fortification and the surrounding grounds.” The agency also said there are trees and large shrubs that are falling or at risk of falling into the water as the shoreline erodes.

“Parks Canada will remove this vegetation to support the break wall construction and then plant native grasses, selected for their minimal maintenance and water requirements.”

Parks Canada has promised that for every tree removed during the work it will plant two new native species trees or shrubs in the area. Work on the last phase of the project is slated to begin shortly and take about two years. The total federal investment for the shoreline work, including the previously completed walking path and vegetation work, is \$10.4 million.

Chris Bittle, parliamentary secretary for the minister of housing, infrastructure and communities, said the government is investing in Fort Mississauga “to ensure we give our past a future.” “This shoreline protection is a concrete example of how Parks Canada is conserving the cultural resources and important history of Fort Mississauga, while ensuring visitors can safely visit and learn more about the full scope of this national historic site,” he said.

“These vital Lake Ontario shoreline protections will mitigate the effects of climate change and allow for the rich stories of Fort Mississauga to continue to be shared.”

Mobile Marine Repairs – All gas and diesel engines Mercruiser/Volvo/Kohler/Yanmar

Ed Walters walters.ed.30@gmail.com 905 931-2204

(as mentioned by Bob Ciupa last meeting)

Chest waders found on the beach...Are they yours?

If so, please contact Thomas Korcok. tkorcok@gmail.com

