



# The Lighthouse

The Official Newsletter of the Bras d'Or Yacht Club  
Published Quarterly

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## DEREK HATFIELD & THE SPIRIT OF CANADA

*It was a dark and stormy night* but inside the Bras d'Or Yacht club the Christmas lights were a 'twinkle and the warmth of good company prevailed amongst an enthusiastic group of sailors gathered to listen to a presentation by Derek Hatfield, one of Canada's great adventurers. Spellbound for almost two hours, we watched videos of actual race footage while listening to tales of danger, courage, and achievement. Together we raced across the southern oceans aboard the Spirit of Canada, we crashed and burned at Cape Horn, we ate bad food, slept in 20 minute catnaps, and cheered for the hi-tech boats and the stout hearted sailors who make this their way of life.



Derek prepares now to enter the next single-handed race around the world, the **VELUX / 5 OCEANS** commencing in October 2010, aboard a new Spirit of Canada. With a boatload of experience, a determined spirit, a calmness of manner, and a wry wit, he approaches the task at hand. The boats for this next race are called **ECO 60s**, recycled boats with ecology minded restrictions, and thankfully, much lower budgets.

A hearty thank you Derek. We wish you the best of luck, and that the Spirit of Canada will bring you safely home again.

A permanent link will be featured on the BYC website during the running of the VELUX/ 5 Oceans race. Derek is also putting a link to the Bras d'Or Yacht Club site on his website.

**[For More Information GOTO: www.SpiritofCanada.net](http://www.SpiritofCanada.net)**

## POLAR BEAR SWIM 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

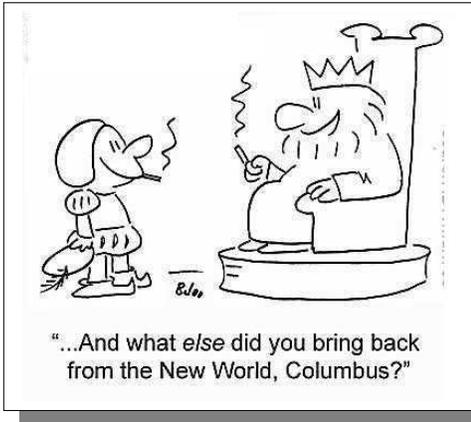


What began as a New Year's Eve challenge years ago has grown into the social event of the season. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the yacht club's annual Polar Bear swim. By all accounts there is one person responsible for both the success and the longevity of the swim - Arthur McNeil. What started with only a few people has grown into a club with a membership of hundreds. New members are always welcome. So shake off that new year's day fog and come out to the club at 2p.m. New Year's Day 2010 to cheer on the latest batch of crazies!

**BE THERE ...  
IF YOU DARE**



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## Financial Snapshot 2009

*An unhappy customer returned to the butcher shop where he recently bought some sausages. He complained to the butcher that half of the sausage was filled with sawdust. To which the butcher replied, “In these difficult times sir, it’s hard to make both ends meet.”*

This is the fate of many of us these days is it not? Trying to make ends meet. The Bras d’Or Yacht Club is not isolated from such financial pressures. Our mortgage payments alone are \$12,000 annually. Add to that property taxes, heat, hydro, water, staff wages, supplies, repairs, snow removal, insurance, licensing ... (phew). Our small but devoted membership is often hard pressed to balance the books at the end of the year.

Membership fees only provide us with about \$2000 per season. Winter boat storage is about the same. Federal and provincial grants help us to keep the junior sailing program alive, and without the help of our generous sponsors, events like the summer regattas would be just a distant memory. It’s imperative we find new sources of revenue for the club in the coming months and years, steady income, in addition to one-time fundraisers, to help us achieve a balanced budget.

The Board of Governors is looking at possibilities that may include things like:

- New products and services to offer our community
- Membership drives to increase membership numbers
- Increase in membership user fees



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING February 21, 2010

As another year draws to a close and a new one is about to begin, all BYC members should give some thought to yacht club matters as we prepare for the Annual General Meeting.

The AGM is made up of basically 3 parts.

1. Financial & Officer reports of prior year
2. Goals and objectives for the new year.
3. Election of the incoming Board of Governors.

It’s the Board’s responsibility to complete the first part, the financial & other reports, and present these to the membership.

Goals and objectives should be arrived at by consensus of the majority of the membership.

All positions on the Board of Governors come open each year. Any member may stand for any position. The Board’s structure is made up as follows:

Commodore  
Vice Commodore  
Rear Commodore  
Bar Chairman  
Fleet Captain (Learn to Sail Program)  
Treasurer  
5 Directors (with individual assignments as needed)

The Past Commodore is an Officer ex-officio

### SUPPORT POSITIONS

For many years, the President of the Ladies Auxiliary was also a member of the Board. We hope to revive this position in 2010 under the name of Social Director, or Social Chairperson. The club is in urgent need of a formal committee to take charge of this important work.

In addition, there are many committees that could use good people, and good ideas. Consider some of these for instance:

Race Committee  
House & Grounds Committee  
Ways & Means Committee  
Newsletter & Internet Committees

The way a club works best is through the participation of it’s members. Members who want to see their club thrive and grow must get involved. So give some thought to what you would like to do at your club, and come to the AGM to find out how to get started. And have a good time.

## CELTIC COLOURS at Bras d'Or Yacht Club

The 2009 Celtic Colours event was another resounding success. Host Michael Cavanaugh says "open stage" started off a bit slow, but picked up quickly, with good sized crowds.



*Michael Cavanaugh, Jill Harburn, Douglas MacLeod*

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL YACHT CLUB

### *Some Sailing Definitions*

**Bar:** Long, low-lying navigational hazard, usually awash, found at river mouths and harbour entrances, composed of sand or mud, and ashore, where it is made of mahogany or some other dark wood. Sailors can be found in large numbers around both.

**Chock:** Sudden and usually unpleasant surprise suffered by Spanish seaman.

**Crew:** Heavy, stationary objects used on shipboard to hold down charts, anchor cushions in place and dampen sudden movements of the boom.

**Equator:** A line circling the earth at a point equidistant from both poles, which separates the oceans into the North Danger Zone and the South Danger Zone.

**Propeller:** Underwater winch designed to wind up at high speed any lines or painters left hanging over the stern.

**Spinnaker:** An extremely large, lightweight, balloon-shaped piece of sailcloth frequently trailed in the water off the bow in a big bundle to slow the boat down.



*Australian Roger Hargrave, & Bruce Cameron*

From cotton picking in Australia to the more familiar maritime favorites, the theme was clear, it's Cape Breton they love - so much so they return year after year. People like Jill Harburn from London, Ontario, who's mother was from Cape Breton, "This is my second year and I plan to make it an annual event". Bar sales during the the 10-day October event were steady as well. Next year's festival takes place October 8th - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

## Board of Governors 2009

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**Commodore**  
David Dunlop  
295-7177

**Past Commodore**  
Peter Patterson  
295-7245

**Vice Commodore**  
Mona Anderson  
295-1653

**Rear Commodore**  
Tim Woodford  
902-354-2637

**Bar Chair**  
Arthur Coakley  
295-2889

**Fleet Captain**  
Len Harvey  
295-0399

**Treasurer**  
Tyler Germani  
549-2609

**Director**  
Reid Blynn

**Director**  
Melanie Garland  
295-2503

**Director**  
Rachael Harvey  
294-0565

**Director**  
Peter Meisner  
295-1158

**Director**  
Dan Morrison

**Director**  
Willie Reid  
227-8633

### Club Staff

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**General Manager**  
Fraser MacLeod  
295-1207

**Secretary**  
Jeanette Lays  
295-1207

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS 2009

- East Coast Credit Union
- Mulgrave Machine
- Outdoor Store
- Telegraph House
- Giselle's
- Silver Dart
- Doyle
- Blynn Family
- MacIntyre Chev Olds
- Equis Financial
- Barlow Bryden
- Silver Dart Anniversary
- Molson

Thanks for  
another great  
year at BYC



*A Special Thanks*  
to  
*Brenda Cook*

For the fun, thoughtful, creative, and beautiful decorations that are always around the clubhouse on every special occasion. All through the year you make the clubhouse a warm and welcoming place to be. Thank you Brenda, from all of us at BYC.

## BYC CALENDAR WINTER 2009 – 2010

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December 21 – Winter Solstice Begins

December 25 – Christmas Day

**December 31 – New Year's Eve**  
Ring in the New Year at the Club  
All Welcome – Music & Dancing  
No Cover Charge

**January 1 – Polar Bear Swim**  
All Swimmers Welcome  
Bring your support crew  
Contact Arthur MacNeil for more information.

February 2 – Groundhog Day

February 14 – Valentine's Day

**February 21<sup>st</sup> – AGM**  
A call to all members to attend. Full financial reports and plans for 2010 including the formation of the next Board of Governors.

July 17 /18 – McCurdy Cup Regatta

August 1 – 7 – Regatta Week

### Possible Winter Events To be confirmed

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Weather Seminar  
Knot Tying Competition  
Race Management Courses

**POST YOUR EVENT HERE**

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**Deadline for Next Issue**  
March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

### Got Something To Say?

Write an article, or a Letter to the Editor. Have your say in **THE LIGHTHOUSE**.

*The Editor reserves the right to select material appropriate for publication.*

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