



Guelph Power and Sail Squadron Training Officer Report Annual General Meeting, April 19, 2010

To members of the Guelph Power and Sail Squadron, to Commander Nick and the Bridge, I am pleased to present the **Training Officer report for the 2009/2010 training season.**

The Canadian Power and Sail Squadron Mission statement is: "To increase awareness and knowledge of safe boating by educating and training members and the general public, by fostering fellowship among members, and by establishing partnerships and alliances with organizations and agencies interested in boating." This mission statement can be found on the national CPS website, just above links to our facebook page, twitter address and "You Tube" clips. The times they are a changing.

As we approach our 48th Annual Graduation ceremonies, a night of recognition of all the students who have successfully completed our courses, and of all the organizers and instructors who delivered these programs, it is with pleasure for me to report another successful training season. I am also pleased to report that, along with adapting to the changing times, our squadron has continued to "stick to the knitting". In addition to keeping up with advanced electronic navigation, we still stress the importance of traditional navigation. We are fortunate in our squadron to have so many capable and experienced instructors to do so. If you find yourself in a tricky navigational situation, it is all together possible that access to "twitter" may not solve your problem! Our focus on traditional safety and navigation might just save lives, and in fact, has probably already done so in ways we may never know.

With respect to our 2009/2010 training season:

- We offered 8 courses:
 - Boating
 - Boat Pro
 - Two advanced courses: Seamanship and Junior Navigator
 - Three elective courses: Weather, RADAR and GPS
 - And Maritime Radio
- We have completed 6 of these courses. Maritime Radio and Junior Navigator are still in progress.
- We achieved a total enrolment of 78, up 23% from the prior training season.
- Boating enrolment was consistent with the prior season. Enrolment in advanced courses was up 62%, and elective courses up 48%.
- Over the years we have processed hundreds through the Boat Pro course with a view to providing education in addition to the perceived immediate need to obtain the Pleasure Craft Operator Certificate. Demand for this course was down significantly. Nevertheless, we have continued to provide this service.
- Excluding Boat Pro, and looking at our foundational boating course, follow-on advanced courses and robust elective courses, we are pleased to report an increased enrolment 68% higher than the prior training season.
- In addition, the Squadron has again provided support to the Sea Cadets through the Navy League. 17 Sea Cadets were involved in the Boat Pro seminar this year.

- Aside from the courses I have mentioned so, the Squadron held a very successful distress signalling seminar, with 25 in attendance, and an entertaining and instructional student night focusing on cruising the west coast of Newfoundland, and understanding Southern Ontario lake breezes and storm effects. We had two great speakers whose topics dovetailed perfectly. Attendance at student night approximated 65 to 70, including a contingent of Sea Cadets.

It has been a good year. We have increased enrolment when many other squadrons have seen the opposite trend.

We have the good fortune to have many great students who have continued on beyond basic boating, choosing to take follow-on courses and electives, and becoming active CPS members.

We have strong base membership.

In closing, I would like to express thanks to our Bridge, to our instructors and proctors, and to all who volunteer their time to this organization. I'd like to make special mention of the Communication's Officer and Public Relations Officer for their excellent work in promoting our training, and acknowledge the Training Committee for your help with all. The experience, dedication, depth of knowledge, enthusiasm, ideas and drive of many individuals has kept us moving forward.

We are pleased with our successes, and look forward to May 5th as our night to celebrate achievement with the students. From there we will move on, with optimism, toward our next training season.

Respectfully submitted,

David Williams
Training Officer