

Join us ..



**Flotillas for 2010**

## Join us ..

The Club flotillas are a great way to meet new people, see fellow members in a different setting and hone your various sailing skills.

You even get to see places that you might not normally visit. Flotillas are very accommodating to participants' needs at the time - so just ask. For example, want to spend a little time on navigation, docking, sail trim? Maybe learn a new skill for a skipper 'checkout', hold the helm firmly, keep the boat stationary, try new knots, cook on board whilst underway? There is normally time to play!

This year we are trying 3 new flotilla formats;

- ≈ One Day Flotilla to the Toronto Islands for both 'A' boats and 'B' boats.
- ≈ 'Focus on Skills' Flotillas;
  - Practical Coastal Navigation
  - Practical Sail Trim
- ≈ Overnight to Bronte Harbour using the new Martin m244 sailboats. A short sail from lunchtime to lunchtime with an overnight stop. Perfect for 'A' Skippers and their families.

The flotillas are a very important part of the Club magic and it would be a shame to miss out. You don't need to be a socialite and you can participate as much or as little as you wish.

As such, this season we are going to great lengths to ensure that everyone can sail on these flotillas as often as they would like - we can even look towards opening up mid-week flotillas if there is a request but you have to let us know as early in the sailing season as you can so we can make arrangements for you!

Guests that don't know 'how to' or even 'want to' sail will find these flotillas a great introduction to sailing and great fun.

Oh, and couples are accommodated very nicely.



### ***New for 2010 !***

*Just reserve a place on every flotilla you would be interested to participate in - we'll do our very best to accommodate everyone for as many trips as possible!*

# Hamilton West Harbour Marina

- June 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>  
‘Focus on skills’ – Coastal Navigation Flotilla
- July 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>  
2nd evening - cruiser’s own choice  
Note\* *leaves home on a Monday*

Nestled right next to the Parks Canada ‘Discovery Centre’ and the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club, this marina has a full dockside facility perfect for the overnight stay we envisage. The facilities include many gas BBQs, tables, dish washing sinks – it’s even contained under a fancy roof so rain or shine you are sure to be dry and out of the elements! This is a fine setting for a group BBQ and maybe a little card game following dinner.

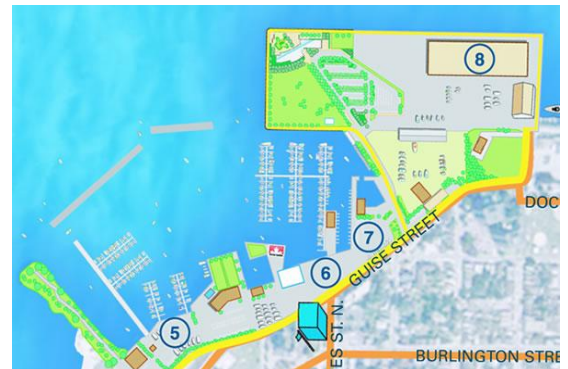
Hamilton is just a short walk – but why would you need to leave this haven!

Facilities include a full washroom and shower installations. The great part about being in this marina is that you feel as if you are a million miles away from big city worries and noise.  
..and for breakfast there is also a fine family restaurant for all that pre-sail greasy bacon and eggs!

This is a pleasant sail that follows the northern coastline of Lake Ontario and passes under the lifting bridge at the Burlington Ship canal. Perfect for practicing bearing taking and speed and distance calculations if you are so inclined!

\*Note that the flotilla on the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> June is set aside to give priority (though not exclusively!) for those members wishing to participate in the coastal navigation workshop.

This is always a favourite destination.



# Port Whitby Marina

- **June 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>**  
**'Focus on Skills' - Sail Trim Flotilla**
- **July 24/25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Festival & Fireworks Display**
- **September 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>**  
**or, Niagara on the Lake**

Port Whitby Marina is located in one of the finest natural harbours on Lake Ontario.

Within minutes of the marina are beaches, restaurants, and a small town friendly atmosphere. After a full days sailing the facilities are as one would hope – there are washrooms, showers and a restaurant/clubhouse.

This is a pleasant full days sail along the northern shores of Lake Ontario. Sail trim will be particularly important to make good time and beat the others to dock.

July 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> - This particular weekend has the added advantage of being at the same time as “The Whitby Harbour Days” festival. ‘Whitby Harbour Days’ is a fun packed event of celebrations beginning Friday afternoon with the arrival of the Tall Ship ‘Empire Sandy’ and culminating with a fireworks display Saturday night at dusk.

This annual event celebrates recreational boating and fun on Whitby’s waterfront - highlighting Whitby’s great harbour facilities including the Port Whitby Marina, Waterfront Trail and the Lions’ Promenade.

This year’s event promises to be the best yet!

If a festival and fireworks are not your fancy then how about Ajax Downs – just 10 minutes away!

**\*Note that the flotilla on the 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> June is set aside to give priority (though not exclusively) for those members wishing to participate in the sail trim/racing workshop.**

You won’t want to miss these flotillas!



# Bronte Outer Harbour Marina

## ..making use of the new Martin m244 sailboats

**Depart:** 2.00pm Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> June  
**ETA Humber dock:** 12.00pm noon, 20<sup>th</sup> June

### An experiment for the 2010 Season!

Two idyllic sails that open up the opportunity to skipper a flotilla boat to more club members. Skippers can be checked out to 'A' or 'B' and do not need a coastal navigation accreditation!

If this proves a popular flotilla - expect other ones in August & September!

The idea of this flotilla is to make use of those spanking new Martin m244s during Saturday afternoon and then sail them back Sunday morning. We'll pick up the Martin m244 boats after 1.30pm on Saturday (trying to leave by 2.00pm.).

This flotilla begins with a relaxing Saturday afternoon sail along the beautiful north shore of Lake Ontario to Bronte Outer Harbour Marina.

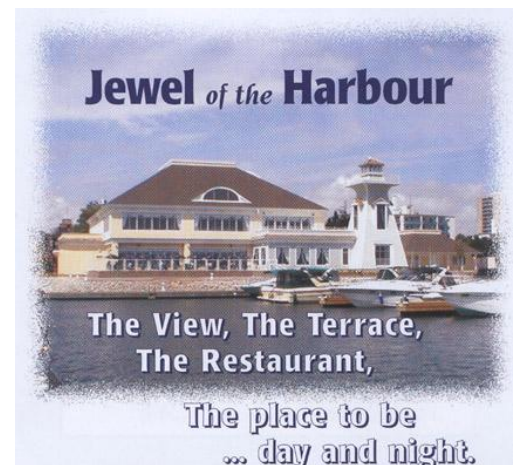
Then, we'll prepare ourselves a dockside BBQ under one of the covered floating picnic docks using one of the provided gas BBQs, or we'll have dinner in one of the many local restaurants and pubs. This is a great area to explore the local parks and walks. An overnight stay is next on the agenda in the cosy (if basic) accommodation the Martin cabin affords us but you can trust that the marina has all wash facilities that you should expect from a relatively new marina – hey, there is even wireless internet to check your email!

What can be better than a light breakfast in the cockpit of one of the Martins on a bright, crisp Sunday morning ready for a leisurely sail back to home port for midday on Sunday.

Crew will need to bring along sleeping bags, pillows, personal items and of course snacks for the trip. The boats 'will' accommodate 4 berths but we'll treat that as an option for family groups and consider the boats as 2 berth normally!

..and do note!

- ≈ The flotilla for the 20<sup>th</sup> June is scheduled over 'Father's Day'  
.. what a great adventure!
- ≈ These flotillas are a great opportunity for 'A' Skippers.
- ≈ This is sure to be popular for couples.
- ≈ The cost of participation for each crew member is a little less for these flotillas. (Members \$30/night; Guests \$45/night)



# Toronto Harbour Islands

- **Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>**

We are lucky to have such a fine facility so close at hand!

The idea is simple.

We sail as many boats as we can muster that's .. five Martin's, four J24's and four of the larger Hunters and Catalinas and sail across to Toronto Island.

We'll have a BBQ lunch, explore the island, play games and then sail back again during the early evening to arrive back just before sunset. Hey, we might even include a fireworks display or a rock concert at Ontario Place - if we get our dates correct at no extra charge!

A key part of this flotilla is that we can use a full day to sail out there and back and still have time to relax without the rush to be back at the dock.

This will be a perfect full day out for the whole family or to meet other club members. You can be as involved in the day's dockside activities as you wish, or not. You might just prefer to treat the family to a nice full days family outing of sailing with a BBQ laid on for you at an interesting island.

**This will be a great opportunity for newly minted Skipper 'A' folks to try their hand skippering in a Flotilla environment and a great opportunity for new members to meet other people.**

Of course members working on their 'A' Skipper would find this an invaluable opportunity take the helm - and really get some hours in!

<b>Flotilla departs:</b>	9.30am
<b>Lunch:</b>	1.00pm
<b>Tea:</b>	6.00pm
<b>Flotilla arrives at home port:</b>	1 hour before Sunset
<b>Date:</b>	Sunday, July 11 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Venue:</b>	Toronto Island Picnic Area

<b>Member Contributions towards costs:</b>	
<b>Club Members:</b>	\$20 each
<b>Guests:</b>	\$40/guest

You won't want to miss this event considering the things the social committee are planning!.



# Old Port Dalhousie Pier Marina

- August 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>
- September 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>

What can one say about Old Port Dalhousie? This marina is located right where the action is – downtown - amid a myriad of restaurants, bars and clubs. There is even a theatre - this whole area is the local Mecca for night life.

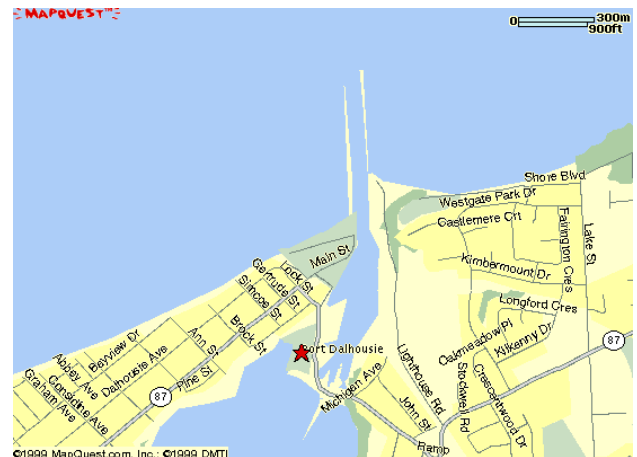
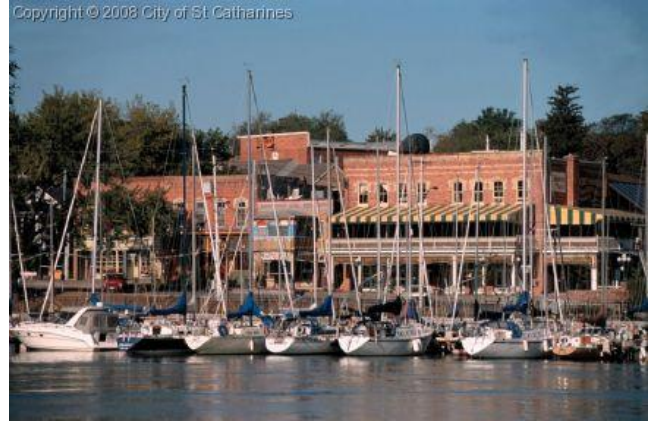
Marina facilities include a BBQ, washroom and showers.

This trip bears straight south across Lake Ontario bidding farewell to land unless you have a clear day. At times you might feel exposed to water, water everywhere – and no land with which to check a bearing.

Perhaps one of the many vistas to look forward to is the view of the Toronto skyline rising out of the horizon as you set the sail for home, leaving the hustle and bustle of Old Port Dalhousie in your wake .

You'll want to be sure that you set the right bearing, set good sail trim and hold the helm firm if you want to make landfall at Humber on time.

This is the flotilla for a vibrant evening in eclectic surroundings! Just make sure that you don't boogie so long into the wee hours that you're late leaving for home port!



# Niagara on the Lake Sailing Club

- **August 9<sup>th</sup>/10/11<sup>th</sup>**  
2nd night cruiser's own choice  
Note\* *leaves home on a Monday*
- **September 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>**  
(or, Whitby)

Conveniently positioned on the Niagara River just a few minutes walk from downtown with it's famous theatres, restaurants, and tourist attractions, this marina has always been full of surprises for the club. Be ready if, if at the last moment, there is a change of moorings or you find yourself tied to a huge wall! ..or you may even be forced to move on to Old Port Dalhousie!

Still, the town of Niagara on the Lake and the lake crossing makes up for all this!

On site or close at hand are the facilities you would expect; Washrooms, Laundromat, Showers, Fuel and Ice.

Like the sail to Old Port Dalhousie this trip leaves sight of land at times – you will want to keep a close eye on the weather and be sure to keep a steady helm, good sail trim and you'll want to take accurate bearings to make your ETA in good time.

A great way to visit Niagara on the Lake in an original way!  
Why not think ahead and book a 'dinner reservation and seat' at the Shaw theatre?



# Just a little more information about flotillas.

## How do I sign up?

Contact one of the Cruising Committee if you want to know more. But if you just want to sign up then you should register with the Sailing School Office. This is the only place to register and to guarantee your registration will be prioritised. The office will give you a 'confirmation of registration' email.

Flotillas are popular but we going to do our very best to ensure that everyone gets away on as many flotillas as they wish this season – but you must help us, **do sign up early** and don't forget to make sure we know your certification levels, if you would be prepared to help as a tutor on one of the focus sails and if you would be prepared to Skipper a boat. Also, if you would be interested in any additional flotillas during the work week you should let us know too. We can try to put more on mid week if there is a demand.

**Sign on REALLY early.** The sooner the better. During April and May you can even use the Website to register and the office will send you a 'confirmation of registration' email.

The Club asks for a contribution towards the costs of these flotillas;

≈ The member contribution for a full two day flotilla is \$50.

≈ The guest contribution for a full two day flotilla is \$75.

The club pays for docking costs and fuel whilst all other costs are the responsibility of the individual.

Your contribution fees must be paid at least 2 weeks prior to the flotilla. Any members that have not paid their contribution by this time will be assumed cancelled and their place offered to another – please understand we have to do this to ensure that all the boats are filled and everyone gets a chance to sail - you have been warned, o/k?

## But too many people signed up!

In the past a priority procedure often had to be implemented. We are hoping this might not be so important this year as there are more boats available. Full details of the rules are in the Handbook but basically this season we'll try to get everyone away as often as they wish.

Basically;

≈ As you would expect, full members do get priority but we'll really try to accommodate everyone - your guests too. Our goal is to achieve 100% of member requests!

≈ Every boat needs a qualified skipper for the type of vessel being sailed.

≈ The 'focus' flotillas need people that would be prepared to 'tutor' all weekend. These 'tutors' do not of necessity have to be the skipper nor do they have to be an 'instructor'. In fact it might be better to split responsibilities.

≈ It would be unfair for someone to sail 3 times when another hasn't sailed once.

≈ It is important that new members get a chance to get out on the water, experience a flotilla and meet other members.

## Basic Requirements

Full details can be found in the HSC Handbook but here is a brief synopsis for your convenience.

For the Hamilton, Whitby, Old Port Dalhousie and Niagara on the Lake flotillas each boat must have a minimum of 4 participants with at least;

One experienced 'B' Skipper with CYA Coastal Navigation standard

One club member with CYA Basic Cruising Standard;

Two other participants.

Each Flotilla has a 'Lead Skipper'. The Lead Skipper makes any revisions to the sail plan as necessary during the Flotilla due to weather, time, safety, etc.

...and generally tries to ensure that you don't get lost!

Each skipper is responsible for the safety of their own particular crew and boat.

There will be a Flotilla meeting 7/10 days prior to departure so the Lead Skipper can discuss particular details with the crews such as sail plans, ensure the boats are ready, what to bring, check qualifications and various safety issues.

A 'Personal Safety Information and Waiver' form for each participant must be agreed to and signed.

A 'Sail Plan' must be lodged with the Office before departure – no night sailing.

The Lead Skipper must let the Office know of their safe arrival each day.

The One Day Toronto Islands Flotilla and the Bronte flotilla are the exceptions to many of these requirements.

For example, 'A' Skippers w/o navigation are actively encouraged to skipper boats.

## What should you bring?

There are some very comprehensive checklists that you will be given and you will discuss the exact details of the flotilla a week or two before your trip with the Lead Skipper, someone from the Cruising Committee and your fellow crew - but here are few ideas to get you going.

### Clothing

- Change of clothes for sailing over two days and for the evening time.
- Clothing to suit the applicable conditions. (Lake Ontario can get very cold and wet at times!) Hats, sailing gloves, warm gloves, sweaters, boots, rain gear, etc ...

### Food

- Each flotilla tends to customise the details of what to bring depending upon where they are going and if the group wish to dine 'out' or 'in'. In general – there is always far too much food! It's always easy to underestimate how much drinking water you will need. A rule of thumb for drinking water is a min of 2 to 3 litres/day per person.

### Bedding

- You will need to bring along a sleeping blanket, blankets and a pillow, as desired.

### 'Focus on Skills' Flotillas

Some Flotillas will require the crew to bring along specific equipment, books etc.

Talk with the Lead skipper for your particular Flotilla but in general you should NOT expect the Club or the Skippers to provide anything. Bring your own manuals, instrumentation, binoculars, tools, GPS (if you have one and the battery is working), pencils and rulers. It's good practice using your own tools if you have them.

## Cruising Committee Contacts ..

Talk to anyone of the team on the cruising committee about any flotilla that is planned for this year. We'd love to chat with you. Maybe you have a suggestion for new events or places to visit? Maybe you have thoughts on how we can improve the experience for participants. Or maybe you just want to donate new cutlery, or boats! If things can be changed to make life easier for members then they will be. Everything is flexible, nothing is set in stone.

### The team..

John & Lesley Weatherhead (co-Chairs)

Bryant Adlam & Tracy Sainsbury

Bob Greenhalgh