

**Gabriola Island Power and Sail Squadron  
Bridge Member Reports for the Annual General Meeting  
April 23, 2017**

**Commander**

This year has been a success in all respects. Our Bridge Officers have all done an exceptional job in running the Squadron and we are well ahead in both programs and financially than we were at this time last year.

During my absences, our Executive Officer Jean Van Praet, has stepped in and done an excellent job of keeping the Squadron Administration on track as well as tackling the job of developing a Squadron Policy Manual, which the Bridge approved and was subsequently approved at the District and National levels.

Our Educational Officer Bert terHart has been both an exceptional administrator and instructor this past year. He has maintained our regular course offerings and in addition, has put together many one and two day seminars which have been well attended and have helped to put us in a sound financial position to start the next year. Only a couple of our course and seminar offerings had insufficient students to conduct the course.

Advertising the Squadron and our courses has always been a challenge to reach the most potential students at a reasonable cost to the Squadron. Our PRO George Myette, our Communications Officer Don Butt and our Web Master Bill Kalbfleisch, have been both innovative and tireless in getting the information out to the general public and our membership, resulting in mostly good attendance for each of the seminars and courses. Our Web site remains one of the best web sites in CPS-ECP and has received numerous accolades from National for both looks and content.

Our finances are in sound condition, thanks to our courses and seminars and to our Treasurer Jude Briscoe. Bob Wood and Jude organized a productive courtesy boat inspection program.

Our membership has been steady through the year, with 65 active members. Our Membership Officer Elaine Pearce has worked tirelessly keeping track of new and departing members and keeping up our reports to National.

One of the goals I set last year was to get more involvement from our membership in Squadron functions. Our Social Committee, Jude Briscoe and Elaine Pearce put together several Social Evenings with a guest speaker and snacks. These events were well attended by Squadron members and by members of the Silva Bay Yacht Club. Our Members-at-Large John Bullas and John Woods, were always willing to step up for committee assignments. John Woods has taken on the job of representing the Squadron on the issue of a small boat ramp for the island, and John Bullas has helped with numerous issues throughout the year.

I am happy to report that nearly all of this year's Bridge Officers have agreed to serve for this coming year. I have no doubt that with the experience gained this past year, that our Squadron will have another excellent year. I am still looking for ways to involve more of our members not only in our courses and seminars, but in the general administration of the Squadron.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Hoeinghaus

### **Educational Officer**

This past year the Squadron's educational department has focused on expanding its course and workshop offerings in an effort to reach a broader boating audience.

This past year, we have had 41 students total take the following:

- Boating 1: PCOC
- Boating 2: Beyond the PCOC
- Intro To Cruising
- Maritime Radio
- Boat and Boat Engine Maintenance
- Intro To Celestial Navigation
- Intro To Boating Safety for Kayakers and Paddlers

We have also made an effort to seek out instructors with considerable expertise in safety and sea, ColRegs, maintenance and weather. On behalf of the Squadron, I would like to thank Sean Lewis, Dave Turrie, and John Bullas for their outstanding contributions this past year. It is my belief that Sean, Dave, and John have helped make our courses some of the best in all of CPS.

Without the exceptional support of the Communications Committee, and in particular the efforts of George Myette, we simply would not have anyone to teach. The courses, workshops, and classes would be dull indeed if not for the support of the Social Committee whose efforts have rescued student entire classes from more than one long-winded dissertation.

As a whole our Squadron's joint and dedicated effort to teach safe boating has earned us national recognition and accolades. Don Butt has worked tirelessly to these ends and I welcome this opportunity to thank him for ensuring our efforts never go unnoticed.

I look forward to another year of helping the Squadron meets its mandated purpose as committed community of experienced boaters inspiring others to adopt a safe boating attitude through education and training.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bert terHart

## **Public Relations Officer**

This last year has been a good year for our Squadron, with plenty of community support from our sponsors and members along with interest from members of the public. We undertook a number of initiatives in order to have broader exposure and to present a current view of ourselves on social media and community events. With regular postings on Facebook, we utilized our local squadron page to advertise our boating courses, social events and workshops. We encourage members and friends to “like” us on Facebook as it helps to spread our advertising further. We also posted advertising for our sponsors in the form of an image of a large, free standing sign that we had constructed last summer. This sign was created through the generous donations of our sponsors and will be regularly displayed at community events along with our mascot, L'il Gabe. Speaking of L'il Gabe, as usual, we arranged to have it on display at various events including Ocean's Day, Theatre Festival, Concert on the Green and the Annual Salmon BBQ. It is always a popular attraction for children, thereby making parents aware of our presence as well. Another public relations initiative which was undertaken was to replace our sandwich board advertising signs with more practical and lighter signs that are regularly placed on Ferry Hill and other locations on the Island. These signs are primarily used to advertise our Boating Safety courses and are put out in advance of each series of courses.

Thanks again to all of our sponsors and members for your support and interest in Power Squadron activities.

Respectfully Submitted,  
George Myette

## **Membership**

At our AGM last year we had a total of 77 active members in our squadron. This year we have 65. Unfortunately, we are still feeling residual resentment from the politically charged time that our squadron experienced three to five years ago. In spite of our fewer members, I am very pleased to report that we have been getting rewarding turnouts at our social events. Camaraderie is healthy in our happy little squadron at this time!

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Pearce

## **Webmaster**

The squadron website continues to serve its purpose to inform squadron members on activities, courses and workshops and, most importantly, to provide those seeking boating courses with course schedules, course information and access to online registration and

payment. The website is updated regularly with new course and social information as well as Bridge meeting agendas and minutes.

A big THANK YOU to Andre Lemieux for hosting our website on his [gabriola.org](http://gabriola.org) server.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Kalbfleisch

### **Member At Large John Bullas**

#### Courtesy docking line check program

This program began as an informal process of checking docking lines last winter at the Boatel as a number of boats began to be in danger as the winter winds set in. A number of boats were rescued from possible damage by securing with extra lines as lines broke or were showing signs of chafing. At times extra bumpers were loaned. The Boatel personnel were notified. This is now a regular program activity for the Boatel and Silva Bay. Extra lines have been purchased and courtesy cards advertising the Squadron were printed (courtesy Don Butt) and laminated to attach to the lines.

#### Articles.

Wrote two articles for Scuttlebutt: one on Docking and Mooring lines, and one on the unusual colour of the Strait last year (Ocean Colour and Global warming). The first one was accepted for publication in the Port Hole magazine.

#### Training Programs

Developed and co-conducted with Bert the weather module for Boating 2.

#### Remembrance Day

Represented the Squadron at the Community Remembrance Day Ceremony and laid a wreath.

#### Communication Committee

Participated from time to time on the communication committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Bullas

### **Member-at-large John Woods**

#### Boat Launch Committee

I was contacted by Elain McCulloch just before I left on January 19 to submit a request that she could bring to the POSAC meeting on January 23rd. I left for Mexico on the same day. Below is my submission and her response:

I am on the board of the Gabriola Power Squadron and a year ago we took on the project of finding one or more sites on Gabriola which could accommodate a permanent and proper boat

launch. The Board's instructions were one at the north end and one at the south end. In the summer of 2015 we identified 8 possible sites and then throughout the winter of 2015/2016 narrowed that down to 2 sites with a priority on Bells Landing. During this period of time I consulted with Rick Jackson, the Gabriola Island Fire Chief and the RCMP. Both were very much in favor of such an initiative. And one of the sites Chief Jackson identified which warranted further investigation was Bell's Landing. I then contacted Randy Young who approached the Power Squadron in the spring of 2016 regarding this very same site and the need to do some work there to maintain and improve its accessibility for the locals that had been using it as a boat launch when tides were appropriate. Subsequently Mr. Young, using his engineering background, did a possible plan to show how the existing paved area could accommodate vehicle and trailer parking. The text of which is pasted below and the map attached. I also spoke with Kerry Hobbs a former employee of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans where she specialized in shell fish. As a long time resident of Gabriola she was well aware of the foreshore environment adjacent to Bell's Landing and indicated that she saw no obvious concerns that DFO might find with the area.

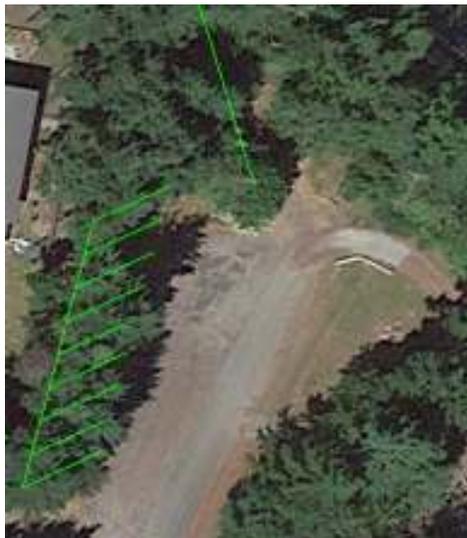
We would now like to bring this proposal forward to the Regional District of Nanaimo as the lead government agency for such a project, which we envision as a community project involving several different organizations with the Gabriola Power Squadron simply taking the lead as an organizing body. I apologize not being able to make this presentation in person but I am out of the country at the time of your meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Woods

*From Randy Young:*

*Attached is a map for eight 10ft. x 35ft. parking spaces at Bell's Landing, arranged at 45 degrees along the north paved edge, but leaving the trees along the north side. Two more spaces could be installed parallel to the south pavement edge, but I don't think they would be necessary. The south side has a ditch and a grass area space 20 to 30 ft. to the property boundary. The wider back of the property allows a 65ft. turn-around before the ramp to the beach. The park bench and garbage can hidden in the trees are still in good condition.*

*Thanks,  
Randy Young*



## **2017 Nominating Committee Report**

The Nominating Committee of the Gabriola Island Power and Sail Squadron, made up of Past Commander Ralph Hagen, Past Commander Bob Derksen and Commander Mike Hoeinghaus, has completed its task of presenting a list of nominees for the Gabriola Island Squadron's Executive for 2017-18, to be presented to the membership for its consideration at the upcoming AGM on April 23, 2017.

Commander Mike Hoeinghaus  
Executive Officer Jean-Pierre van Praet  
Educational Officer Bert terHart  
Secretary Carole Lemieux  
Financial Officer Jude Briscoe  
Membership Officer Elaine Pearce  
Webmaster Bill Kalbfleisch  
Communications / Privacy Officer Don Butt  
Public Relations Officer George Myette  
Member-at-Large John Bullas

By virtue of his previous position, Ralph Hagen is the Past Commander, an unelected position on the Executive.

Collectively, the proposed Executive will cover such areas of activity as community liaison, the boat safety programme, squadron social activities and any other areas that might require its attention during the 2017-18 year and which are not the tasks of specific officers.

The Committee nominates Alex McConnell as the Squadron's financial reviewer for the financial year 2017-18.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ralph Hagen, Chair of the Nominating Committee