

## COMMANDER'S REPORT DISTRICT AGM

April 15, 2011

The Fort Erie Power and Sail Squadron has enjoyed a very rewarding year . With a relatively new Bridge in the Fall, we did get off to a bit of a rough start. In early October, our Training Officer resigned for personal reasons which left us scrambling a bit to get a Boating Course started. The Squadron did recruit 6 people for the course. Their course began in mid November and all 6 successfully completed the course in mid March. In December the Squadron was able to fill the position of Training Officer with a new member to the Squadron Nick Louras.

The Fort Erie Squadron enjoyed our Annual Holiday get together at the Bertie Boating Club on December 4. The Squadron was honoured to have Bill and Diane Allan in attendance. If I remember correctly a great time was had by all.

With the new Year ahead of us, 2 of our Bridge Officers were working on a plan to set up a display at Niagara Square Mall in Niagara Falls in hopes of boosting the interest in the CPS courses. On or about February 9, the Fort Erie Squadron Booth was born.. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our Supply Officer Marcel Carriere and our Training Officer Nick Louras along with some help from the Bridge Officers, the Booth was an enormous success. Marcel and Nick were able to arrange some AV equipment and some pop up advertising from Headquarters, a small fishing boat from Nichols Marine in Fort Erie and Radio info from Icom in St Catharines. These extras combined to give the Booth a very professional look. Thanks to the Niagara Square Mall for their support of the CPS mission and for allowing us to setup and store the equipment and promote our Boat Courses at no cost to the Squadron. The results of the Booth to date are we have an additional 9 students taking the Boating Course and have processed another 100 people for the PCOC and ROC courses.

Tomorrow the Fort Erie Squadron will be gathering at Betty's Restaurant for our 49<sup>TH</sup> Graduation to recognize the first 6 students that completed the Boating Course. I will also have the distinguished honour of presenting Past District Commander Jeff Eggleton our US Swiftwater Squadron Liason his 45<sup>th</sup> Merit Mark, Past Chief Commander Dave Durward, our Communication Officer, his 30<sup>th</sup> Merit Mark, District Executive Officer Garry Vanzandt, his 16<sup>th</sup> Merit Mark and Dan Duggan my Executive Officer his 15<sup>th</sup> Merit Mark. The Fort Erie Squadron also has members receiving their 28<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Merit Mark. I will also present Mrs. Brown, wife of David Brown with a 19<sup>th</sup> Merit Mark. David passed away suddenly last fall and was one of our Boating Instructors for many years. He will be greatly missed by the Squadron.

As a first year Commander, I am fortunate to have been supported by Fellow Bridge Officers who have volunteered their time for so many years for such a worthwhile cause. Teaching safe boating. In the next couple of months, our Squadron will start planning our celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> year with CPS. This will be somewhat of a personal achievement for me to be the Commander of the Squadron that my Uncle Harvey McAteer helped form in 1962.

In closing I would just like to say that the success of the Squadron Booth and the revival of our Squadron Burgee has given a renewed sense of pride in our commitment to Teaching and Promoting Safe Boating.

May all of you here today and all CPS members enjoy a happy and safe boating season.

Respectfully Submitted

Stephen Alexander  
Commander Fort Erie Squadron