



"Limey" to our friends!  
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# The Commodore's Log

Volume 9, issue 1 June 2006

## SUMMER'S HERE...

YES IT IS

(NO IT ISN'T)

YES IT IS!



Such has been the nature of our spring weather over the past few weeks ... We've got global warming ... no we haven't ... yes we have?

But finally it looks like the prediction of a hot & dry summer may come true ... So,

### LET'S GO BOATING!

We have a great line-up at Limi this summer (see next page) beginning with our 'Surf & Turf' (morphed from our famous Fish Fry) on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

FYI for newcomers, and a reminder to the old hands that every crew at our Marina for the summer months, on land or at a dock, receives our 'Welcome Aboard' bottle of wine & other assorted, sometimes useless stuff. Year-rounders also get lots of coupons for free pump-outs, meals, ice etc. If you haven't received your package it's waiting for you in the Summer Office ...

COME & GET IT!

### Limi's Annual



## Surf & Turf

**Saturday June 24, 2006 at 5.00pm**

*Flown in that day from the squid jiggin' grounds  
Then at Limi we'll boil 'em live!  
Hear 'em SCREAM!*

**Lobster, \$9.00                      Steak, \$6.00**

Includes Garlic Butter Sauce, Steak Sauce, Baked Potato & Garlic Bread

Please bring shell crackin' & flesh diggin' instruments, a steak knife (& a fork unless plastic is ok)

And, as usual, pot-luck side dishes, such as Appetizers  
Salads, Desserts, Breads etc

**Purchase tickets at the marina from Gillian, Dawn, Robert or Andrew or order by phone 489-2747**

Sadly, Gillian's partner & essentially the builder of this Marina succumbed to the effects of multiple surgeries last September. Heartfelt thanks go to our local family Doctor, Gordon Burton for his dedication & tender loving care throughout the ordeal. It was a difficult time for us all at Limi, but we're determined not only to carry on but to improve our environment & our service to all our boaters, exactly as Real wanted & intended!

## The Limi Line-up, Summer 2006

Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> Beginner's Navigation Clinic  
10am- noon-ish. Learn to cruise the Rideau. Bring Charts 1512 & 1513 or the Trak Maps. In the Courtyard. No charge.

Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> Surf & Turf  
5pm till you drop. Steak & Lobster ... new this year live band **Tickets \$9.00 for lobster, \$6.00 for steak.** Bring a side dish & lobster crackin' tools plus maybe a steak knife

Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup> Anchoring Clinic  
10am till noon-ish. Learn to set the hook & sleep well!  
Would be great if someone would volunteer the use of their boat so that the group can cross the bay for a live demonstration! In the Courtyard & on the river. No charge

Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup> Stern Drive Maintenance  
10am till noon-ish. Our own Bill Beveridge of Bristol Built Marine will help you understand & calm the beast! In the Courtyard. No charge

Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup> Antique & Classic Boat Show  
All day at Long Island locks

Saturday August 19 Easter Seals Rideau River Run  
All day from The Swan and Long Island Locks & on the river. Scavenger hunt by boat for great prizes & free food! Get details from the office

Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup> Ninth Annual/Pig Roast  
5pm till you drop! Roasted on the spit right at the marina! Featuring our Lockmasters live band. As usual Bring a side dish (appetizers, salads, desserts etc) On the waterfront. No charge

## COMING TO A BOAT NEAR YOU

Just imagine ... stop your little craft just wherever you want, press a few buttons & turn in for the night! The boat will not move a few inches without the engines, thrusters, computer & GPS correcting her position to keep her exactly on the spot! Such is the practice with the newer cruise ships and, we're told, two Canadian Coast Guard vessels plying the St Lawrence!

It's called 'Dynamic Positioning' and was developed initially for oil rigs. You can bet it won't be long before large pleasure craft (the sort Bill Gates can afford) will be fitted with such technology and, maybe not too far behind will be an option with the smaller sized craft we all own! No more dragging anchors, no more guesswork and no more anchor watches ... darn, that eliminates that first anchor watch sipping G & T's in the cockpit, as you'll be taught to do in Limi's Anchoring Clinic on July 8<sup>th</sup>!

## GILLIAN'S NEW TOY



Limi Pres & scribe Gillian tried to drown her sorrows (pun intended) by spending time with friends in Florida over the winter. Included in the itinerary was a cruise. Well ...! She was surprisingly impressed! The (merely) fifty-year-old Swedish captain could dock his nearly one thousand foot craft IN REVERSE with one hand behind him on the joystick! Oh that Limi boaters were so skilled! And for those of you who have never taken a dive in a submarine, that option from Royal Caribbean is an incredible experience! The un-tethered dive is to nearly one hundred and twenty feet! These four-and-a half million-dollar subs (there are twelve in service around the world) are made in Canada! And we have to buy second hand junk from Britain???!!!

## WANT TO CATCH UP?

Back copies of Limi's Lively Newsletters are now available for the taking in the Snack Bar.

## SERIOUS STUFF

### Need to licence your boat?

The Canadian Coast Guard is no longer offering this service. You need to contact a 'Service Canada' office. There are three in Ottawa: Lincoln Heights Galleria, Ottawa City Hall & 2339 Ogilvie Rd. All phone #'s are 990-5100. The next closest office is in Kingston. The new system is far from satisfactory yet so expect some delays & confusion ... typical government ineptitude ... oh don't get this scribe started on that subject again!



### Still struggling with Zebra mussels?

There are now available two filtration systems that help prevent these pesky critters clinging to you drives and, worse still, entering your boats systems. Both are 'in line' units and are priced at around \$100.00 for a smaller engine (depending on the optional extras you choose) & the larger unit is about \$450.00. They were presented to us for the first time at our Ontario Marine Operators Association conference last December. If you're interested talk to Gillian ... no, not Dawn ... Gillian!

### The Pox on boats, Osmotic blisters.

It's long been known that Osmosis on a fibreglass boat's hull is essentially the fault of the manufacturer, though few warranty the craft for such outbreaks and even fewer for any meaningful time during which the blisters may show up. Caveat Emptor!

The following explanation is courtesy of Marine Surveyor John Irwin & is taken from 'Boating Industry Canada' magazine

Water in laminates can show up as blisters. They are relatively common and have a number of different causes, some of which are:

- Excess styrene or solvents (used in the fiberglass lay-up)
- Foreign material or dust (introduced during the lay-up)
- Sweat from the operator (!)
- Excessive humidity on the day the boat was laid-up

Most blisters are not a problem. If they stay the same size, it is something in the material ... leave it alone. If the

blister shows up, or has grown, it will continue to grow. The water gets into the layer. During the winter it freezes and expands the void. More water migrates to the area and the next freeze further expands the void. And so on.

Hydralizing is the process whereby water affects material that is not securely bonded in the medium. When the bottom paint of a boat is stripped at haul-out and it has a 'white look' it's caused by the air in the gel layer, meaning that the medium is separating.

Dealing with blisters is a matter of removing the cosmetic layers, that is the gelcoat & the skinning laminates to the level of the failure. The process of extracting the moisture, either by letting the material dry or by drawing it out with heat & a vacuum, is an expensive process.

"For the most part, osmotic blisters will never develop into anything serious," says Irwin. "They serve more as a price deterrent and point of negotiation in the sale of a used boat. I have never seen a boat fail from osmotic blisters"

So, if a boat's survey shows a blister, talk with someone who can explain the nature of the blister and the real threat to the boat. If it is caused by migratory water, the situation is serious and has to be dealt with or it will get worse.



### A Fishy Tale ... what to eat!

*This from a 'State of the Rideau River' report, published in 2002. As the river is cleaning up over time ... and almost certainly not getting worse, this should be a good guideline when you 'catch & eat'*

*The number beside the species name & size denotes the maximum number of monthly meals you should ingest.*

### Merrickville to Manotick (our waters)

Walleye (two)	
• 14-18"	8
• 18" - 30"	4
Northern Pike (two)	
• Under 26"	8
• 26 - 30"	4
Smallmouth Bass (two)	
• 14-18"	4
• Over 18"	0
Largemouth Bass (two)	
• Under 14"	8
• 14-18"	4
Rock Bass (two)	
• 6-8"	8
• 8-10'	4
Yellow Perch (two)	
• Under 12"	8
• 12-14"	4
Pumpkinseed (one)	
• 6-8"	8
Bluegill (one)	
• 6-10"	8
Black Crappie (two)	
• Under 12"	8
Brown Bullhead (two)	
• Under 14"	8
Carp (two)	
• 22-30"	8

All of which demonstrate how many edible species abound in our waters!

### **YOU SAID SOMETHING!**

*The results of our Summer 2004 'SAY SOMETHING' customer survey were evaluated that winter, but due to Gillian's personal priorities regarding Real last summer, were never reported to you. An astonishing forty percent returned the survey. Here's the gist of what you said:*

You gave Limi an average score of 88.3 percent over all performance questions.

Specific groups of questions:

Docks	71.9%
Grounds	87.6%
Heads	87.5%
Shower	92%
Snack Bar	76.5%
Newsletter	98%
Staff attitudes	88.8%

Many suggestions were implemented from your requests, including supplying more garbage barrels to dryland boats, more attention to 'poop & scoop' issues, more trimming of shoreline brush in the south end & more picnic tables.

Workshop scores were an acceptable 70% ... though that score was not acceptable to us! We have changed our mechanic roster to include three fully qualified mobile marine mechanics and one marine electrical specialist. The work is now more thorough and as a result we've seen a gratifying increase in the work you're entrusting to us.

Knowledge & patronage of our little Chandlery was disappointingly low ... only 57% said you were aware of what we offer for sale and only 50% actually purchased from us.

We strive to provide your basic necessities such as ropes, fenders, lifejackets, antifouling paints etc, at prices generally below 'the competition'. Hopefully you will take some time to check the Chandlery out this summer & purchase from us.

In the 'What's Missing?' category:

71% wanted some gazebos  
DONE!

74% wanted a restaurant  
WILL SOMEONE VOLUNTEER?

75% wanted walking trails  
IN THE PLAN

67% wanted a party sized gazebo  
MAY HAPPEN

All other amenity suggestions received scores lower than 50% with 'TV/phone hookups to docks ranked the least wanted at 8% ... Thank goodness!

Thank you all for participating and a humbled 'Thank You' for your positive support!

AND PLEASE... always feel very free to let us know your wants and inform us of any problems & deficiencies. We'll consider them all and implement those warranted and possible.

## WELCOME ABOARD

*Of course we host a few new, or new to Limi, boaters every summer and all are mighty welcome! To our 'old hands' say 'Hi' to these folks & show them the ropes!*

On our docks:

Ray & Casey Q with their Karam Cowper twin, a sleek, thirty-two footer. More about Ray & Casey in the following article!

Bob E, who's spent more greenbacks in our workshop already than he wants to spend in a decade! *To top off this feat he gives pres Gillian a bear's claw!* Thanks Bob!

Al I with his 30-foot Chriscraft. Al had better read last year's newsletter article about naming boats ... before a Titanic like catastrophe overtakes him

Bill J with his 28 foot Luhrs. Bill'd also better read the same tome as Al

Wayne F with 'Sea Lark', his thirty-five foot Chriscraft

Kevin E and his pontoon boat

Chris H & his 'Lake'

Kevin D with 'Not Bad U'

Tom & Lyse M, returning after quite an absence but Tom still keeps an eye on the place during his nightly patrols!

Carl & Donna A.C, who bought Wayne's 40-foot houseboat to explore our waters

Peter T, who'll be gracing us with 'Sea Chalet', his beautiful & classic 1968 Pacemaker

Geoff B, who's now the loving owner of Gerry H's trawler 'Drummer'.

And on land with trailer boats:

David H & his Starcraft

Harvey N, Gillian's wonderful curmudgeon of a friend and his wife Sally (Sorry Harvey ... couldn't resist!)

Kevin R, hole-filling son of long-time member David, but who unfortunately won't be here too long 'cos he's selling his boat!

Mike R with that beautiful, sleek 1969 Sheppard

Gordon W, who actually joined us last year but we missed welcoming him then.

Margaret E with 'Y Knot', who also arrived here last year & whom we forgot to welcome!

*A hearty 'Welcome Aboard' to all of you!*



## ANOTHER NAVIGATION HAZARD !

*Rely on your charts ... they speak the truth! ... & don't simply follow other boats.*

The markers on the Rideau often indicate a windy, meandering path. The reason is that the deep channel is actually the original river as it was before Colonel By, (sometimes referred to as 'the greatest environmental rapist in our history!') flooded lands to create a continuous navigable channel from Ottawa to Kingston.

**FOLLOW THE MARKERS!**

Don't even *think* of cutting the corner  
**EVEN IF OTHER, PROBABLY  
SMALLER BOATS ARE DOING JUST  
THAT!**

They (hopefully) are very familiar with the area (referred to as having 'local knowledge'), know the draft of their boat intimately & the location of out-of-channel hazards.

Failing to follow this advice will almost certainly lead to repairs in the thousands of dollars ... perhaps many, many thousands!

Two of our favourite new boaters made exactly that mistake on their first trip out, and only ten minutes upstream from Limi, with disastrous results!

Remember ... muskrats in shallow waters have HUGE gallstones!