



# GRAND BEND YACHT CLUB

[click to access GBYC website](#)

## *Soundings*

May 2008 Issue

### 2008 Launch



Bob Schwalm, as usual, was at the ready when the cranes arrived, organizing the boats on land for lifting into the water. The 90-ton linkbelt crane took 7.5 hours to launch 21 member's boats, and the small crane (17-ton National Boom Truck) used for hoisting 17, took the same number of hours.

Additionally, two non-members used the large crane, one to put his boat in the water, but not docking at the club, and the other to have his boat lifted on a flatbed and trucked to Nova Scotia, the site of his retirement. The non-members paid a small premium for the use of the crane.

The weather was fairly warm, and in the beginning the rain held off. That was not to hold. The rain starting falling at 10:00 a.m., making the job of securing the large belts more difficult. Most members brought raingear and once donned, progress continued unimpeded by the rain.

Greg Whitlock, Vice Commodore, Social Chair, arrived early and did a fantastic job of cleaning the interior of the clubhouse. How he managed to do it with so few helpers remains a mystery. The inside of the clubhouse was in dishellefment before Greg cleaned it up. He came equipped with bags and bags of groceries, pop, cream ... and numerous other things that foster a successful lunch.

Breakfast donuts, coffee and orange juice kept hunger pangs from developing. Member's chilis arrived in lots of time for heating them  
(continued to page 2)

### Contents

• 2008 Launch	Page	1
• CPS	Page	1
• Upcoming Events	Page	2
• Work Day	Page	3
• BOOM Sailing School	Page	3
• Membership Meeting	Page	3
• Bulletin Board	Page	4
• Cruising:	Page	4
• Spunky Old Mariners	Page	5
• Grand Bend News	Page	7
• Videos and Pics	Page	8
• BottomJob Cartoons	Page	8
• The Larder	Page	9
• "MollyDawg"	Page	10
• Slip Allocations	Page	11
• Greetings	Page	12

**CPS**



Commodore, Deb Hughes, is checking to see if it's feasible for a trained safety officer from the Canadian Power & Sail Squadron to come to the club and validate the safety equipment of member's boats...it's a free, courtesy service offered by CPS.

**Next Issue: Contributions  
Deadline May 26, 2008**

[click to send by e-mail](#)

up and laying out the smorgasboard lunch consisting of the chilis, a beef stew, some tasty bread slices and rolls that Greg purchased, butter, margarine, cream, milk, as well as fresh coffee.

Many members enjoyed second helpings of the chilis, the clubhouse setting co-ordinated well with the casual lunch adorned with a loan from the Editor of fresh flowers. Members had the opportunity to break bread with each other, and chat amicably among themselves.

The sun peeked out beginning at noon and shone brightly by 2:00 p.m.

The large crane finished its work about the same time as the sun began its casting of warming rays, with the smaller crane lingering to finish erecting member's masts.

## Upcoming Events

Commodore's Brunch: Saturday,  
May 17 11:00 AM



and SailPass, tentatively  
scheduled for 2:00 p.m.  
(weather reliant event)



Pictures submitted by  
George Dutka

Take note of the  
helmsman manning  
the tiller!

Editor's comments:  
Thanks George, that  
pic really tickled my  
funnybone.



George's notes  
with this pic:

"Last year while  
looking through  
E-bay at Florida  
sailboats, I came  
across a Florida  
boat still around  
unsold from the  
2005 hurricane  
season...you  
could get a newer  
Hunter 28 for  
**\$51.00.**"



Victoria Day Regatta, Saturday,  
May 17 and Sunday, May 18

Port Franks Race  
Saturday, May 24



Spring Series  
#1  
Sunday, June 1



Spring Series  
#2  
Sunday, June 8

Spring Series  
#3  
Sunday, June 15



## Work Day

An fantastic turnout by the full members, namely, twenty-five which is roughly 65%.



The list of jobs completed was lengthy, aided by the sunny, warm weather. Wives, also worked, rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to do a variety of things.

Chili, left over from the Launch Lunch made up the Work Day mid-day meal, accompanied with fresh rolls, and grated, mixed cheeses.

Please e-mail the Editor if you didn't pick up your \$50 WorkDay refund.

## Membership Meeting



that started at 3:00 p.m with 72% participation. It's gratifying to see so many members being actively engaged in the club's affairs.

The three items on the agenda were: painting the clubhouse authorization for spending, debt retirement, and the 2008 Budget.

- Members authorized the executive to spend up to \$20,000.
- A special \$150.00 assessment to full member's dockage payable before July 1st when a planned payment is made which reduces principle along with a \$300.00 increase in full member dockage, effective January 1, 2009.
- The membership accepted the 2008 Budget.

Camaraderie and beer followed the meeting.

## BOOM Sailing School



Acronym: BOOM..."Best-ever Ontario Optimist Mobile"

Tom Quigley is accepting applications for the Grand Bend Yacht Club Mobile Sailing School that takes place during the week of August 11-18 for children aged 8-14.

The cost per child for the week, GST Exempt, \$250.

Please e-mail Tom for more information.

## CRUISING:

### The North Channel and Manitoulin Island

Manitoulin is the largest freshwater island in the world. In conjunction with Cockburn Island and Drummond Island to the west, it appears to form the northern shore of lower Lake Huron.



But hidden to the north is the lake's ultimate reach: the North Channel, the home of hundreds of uninhabited islands and an unspoiled, freshwater, cruising paradise for small boats.

Keep exploring! This is just the first of **forty-six more pages** in the North Channel Guide!

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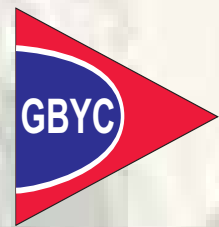
## Bulletin Board



Members are reminded that an overnight parking permit is needed to leave vehicles on the street-- cost \$25.00/season.

A limited number are available for purchase from the treasurer.

Guest and occasional member parking permits are available on pegs on the stairway landing in the clubhouse. The \$3.00 donation for each evening is an honour system. Please put your contribution in the envelope provided and remember to return your permit.



Club Burgees  
\$25.00

There are inexperienced GBYC new members that are possibly looking for boats that need crew, but lack skipper, contact information.

Please submit boat-related items and prices for things you would like to sell complete with details of how you wish to be contacted. Digital pictures of items assist in the buying and selling of articles.

WIFI: Effective April 2008 to access the Internet.  
Username: gbyc2008  
Password: gby55h

## Spunky Old Mariners

By Sylvia K. Gozzard

Blustery winds on Lake Huron exhilarate 82-year-old Ken McArthur, who sails with his nephew, the helmsman, of a Shearwater 16' catamaran. The gusts increased from the Northwest and blew more vigorously as Ken used his weight and agility on the trapeze to stabilize the windward pontoon of the cat. The skilled partnership of helmsman and trapezed, human ballast rocketed across the outside of Grand Bend's harbour mouth. The cat approached a power vessel from behind, and Ken spied the new owner accompanied by six of his friends. Roaring past the powerboat, Ken yelled, "Does that thing use much gas?"



Shearwater Catamaran  
windward trapeze

The owner cranked up the powerboat's engine several notches, but could not catch the swifter catamaran. Ragbaggers and stinkpotters tease each other unmercifully.

Eighty-year-old Irish Ferguson, laughed heartily as he related that story to me. At 35, his sailing days began and for many years plied the waters of the Great Lakes, cruising, and racing whilst belonging to yacht clubs on Lake Huron. The boats he owned ranged from a homemade, marine plywood, 18', sloop-rigged Y-flyer, class boat to his present high-performance, fibreglass, 36', fractional-rig Kirby, monohull.

"It's fun, can be competitive, and it is something that I can do with my family," paints how Irish sees the attraction of sailing. His three daughters and son shared his passion for the sport while his wife, Tina, tolerated it. But his desire to keep sailing did not diminish with the passing years as he recounts it, "At 55, I could, at 75, I could, at 76, things started to slow me down."

Devices that extend his time at his chosen sport, Irish described as, "It's just a matter of what you want to spend, because everything is available at a price." Such as: "an automatic helm, electric winches which few people install because they are expensive." A friend who owned a Bayfield 24' sailboat had a lift put on his boat so that he could get on with his wheelchair. It would lift him right on. He could sail it, and afterwards lift himself off. The wheelchair was too wide for the companionway door that led to the cabin below, but he crawled down the stairs if he needed to make a cup of coffee or use the head.

His advice to people yearning to learn how to sail, "Join a local power squadron and take the sailing course, then go out with an experienced sailor, or crew for them half a dozen times under various conditions to know what to expect." Irish knows of people who did not start to sail until 55+. Instructors at the power squadron teach marine rules of the road, aids to navigation and safe operation of boats. Canadian regulations mandated a license for sailing vessels with inboard engines. Skippers of sailboats without engines do not need a license.

Irish rolled his eyes recalling a person who stuffed a paper placemat into his pocket from a restaurant to use for navigating from Grand Bend to Port Sanilac, Michigan. The placemat depicted both places, and an arrow decorated the top right-hand corner marking North. Irish chortled when I interjected into the interview that my brother who had a powerboat, navigated Lake Erie using an Ontario roadmap. He recalled the times when all that was available for navigation on the Great

Lakes was a compass, parallel rulers and a chart. Radio direction finders (RDF's), did not count as aids because playing music was the totality of what they did well. Global Positioning Systems, (GSP), transformed an onerous task into simplicity.

Irish believes a 19' Lightning class boat accommodates beginner sailors, or any small, beamy (wide), stable boat limited to one sail (cat rigged). Larger boats for seniors need, at a minimum, a bilge bump, preferably motorized, a head (toilet) with a large holding tank, a stove, all lines running aft from a forward position to the cockpit, roller furling for the jib and lazy jacks for the main.

The high cost of gasoline reduces the number of power, favouring increases in the number of boats on the market equipped with sails. Also, sailing is environmentally friendly and people have more fun on a sailboat because there is more to do than just steer. More pleasurable talking without shouting over the din of an engine and hearing the sound of the wind as it passes over the sails.

The Ferguson family used the Scorpio designed and built, 26' sailing trawler for one season two years ago and suggested two improvements, "An easy way to get from the helmsman station to the deck and install handrails on the top of the cabin." Part way through the summer, the addition of lifelines stem to stern, and a bow pulpit, resulted in nothing appearing on his end of season wish list.

While on the subject of well-equipped boats, Irish drew my attention to a single-handed race starting in England and finishing in North America. The length of the boats cannot exceed 26' with most between 22' to 24'. The entries have radios, radar, solar panels, and every imaginable device. The small craft making the transatlantic passage is not the major cost of the race—the compulsory equipment list ran the expense to \$100,000 per skipper. Food, transportation to the start, marina expenses, and other supplies added significantly to the cost.

I got the impression during the interview from Irish's wistful tone, enthusiastic description of the boats, and his animated facial expression that he would like to participate in the event. A more vital, keen, remarkable sailor who retained his love for the sport would be hard to find. Tina, at the end of the interview, added, "He is no longer steady enough on his feet to sail alone." Irish knows his limitations and freely advises people of like advanced years, "Get a good crew!" Few people are as physically fit as Ken McArthur hanging on a guy-wired trapeze at the age of 82—he continued to sail his catamaran until age 85. Every lover of the sport regardless of age or type of boat, wishes their fellow sailors, "Bon Voyage!"



*Trapeze sailing technique*

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Irish Ferguson, whom I interviewed for this story, was a 1960s GBYC Commodore. He passed away the summer of 2007. We miss our friend and remember him fondly.

# Grand Bend News

What's on at Grand Bend's, Starlite Drive-in Theatre

The Strip reports that the Pinery Flea Market opened its season Sunday, May 4th and runs every weekend until Thanksgiving. Open 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Free Parking, Admission is \$1 each, free to children 12 and under.



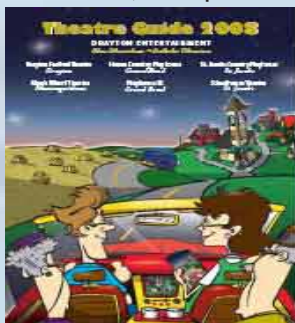
**Big Cat Sighting in Port Franks:** The community newspaper also recounts from the Lambton County OPP site that on the 5th of May 2008, a 69-year-old Port Frank's resident reported a possible cougar sighting on Patrick St in the Village of Port Franks. According to the witness, at approximately 7:45 pm he was working on trailer in his driveway. At that time, he heard some rustling in some bushes located about 20 feet away. When he went to investigate, he witnessed a large cat walk out of the bushes and across the laneway into another bush area. He then lost sight of the animal.

The cat was described as two-tone brown, light brown colour on top and a darker brown on the belly. The cat stood approximately 14-18 inches tall and was about 3 feet in length. The animal's head was described as being large with longer fur. The man indicated that he was sure it was a cat but had never seen one that large before.

The animal was not aggressive and briefly looked at the man before walking away. OPP have contacted the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding the sighting.

This is not the first time a cougar has been sighted in the area.

The May 24 weekend marks the beginning of Ontario Parks camping season -- at the same time, alcohol is banned for fourteen days, ending midnight May 24 signalling the start of The Pinery, as well as Grand Bend and area's busiest season. Local residents often stock up with groceries and libations and don't venture from their homes with their cars onto Highway 21. Long waits at the main intersection's bottleneck isn't a lot of fun. The unlimited daily access fee to all Ontario provincial parks summer pass is \$89.15. The Pinery, additional to its beautiful scenery, hosts many activities, interpretive programmes, bike hikes, etc.



Huron County Playhouse opens its playbill with *My Fair Lady*, Tuesday, June 3 which runs until Saturday, June 21. Their three other live performances are: *Sorry...I'm Canadian*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*. Also, playing at the more intimate, 160-seat capacity, Playhouse II, is *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Click for pdf brochure of the 2008 season.

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## Videos and Pics



Giant Ocean Sunfish



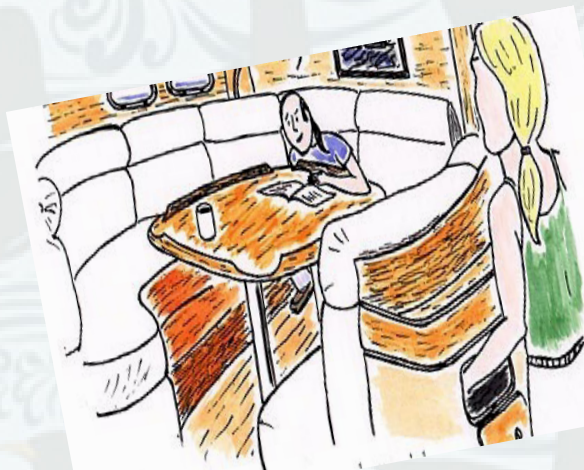
World's Largest Cylindrical Aquarium  
AquaDom, the World's largest cylindrical aquarium



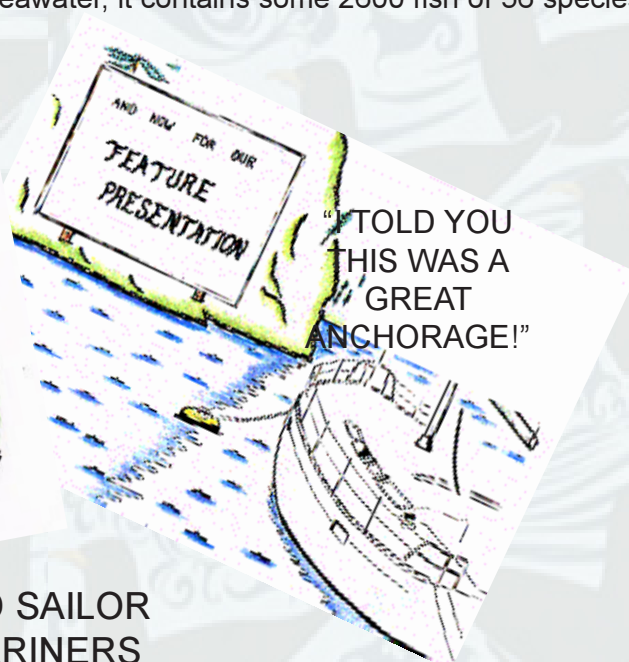
Semi-submersible,  
Leviathan-sized ships.

Placed at the lobby of the Radisson SAS Hotel in Berlin, the 25 meters high AquaDom is the largest cylindrical aquarium ever built. Filled with about 900,000 liters of seawater, it contains some 2600 fish of 56 species.

## BottomJob Cartoons



"YOU KNOW YOU'RE A BAD SAILOR  
WHEN THE NOTICE TO MARINERS  
CLASSIFIES YOU, BY NAME, AS A HAZARD."





## The Larder

### Creamy Squashy Corn Chowder

#### Ingredients:

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and cut up into 1" chunks
- 1-2 apples, peeled, cored and cut into slices
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 6 cloves garlic
- 3 teaspoons of chicken base (bouillon)
- 3 cups water
- 1 cup light cream
- 4 ears of fresh corn, kernels sliced off
- scallions, cilantro, or parsley, chopped

#### Preparation and Use:

1. Put olive oil, then squash, apples, onion and garlic in the largest galley pot.
2. Saute the vegetables in the oil over high heat for 4-5 minutes
3. Add chicken base and water, cover and simmer for 45 minutes until veggies are very soft.
4. Puree the ingredients in the soup pot, then add the corn kernels.
5. Simmer the corn in the veggie puree for 5 minutes 'til just cooked and still a bit crunchy.
6. Add cream, and heat through while stirring. Turn off the heat.
7. Serve soup in bowls with crusty bread, with sprinkled herbs on top. (Cheese is optional)



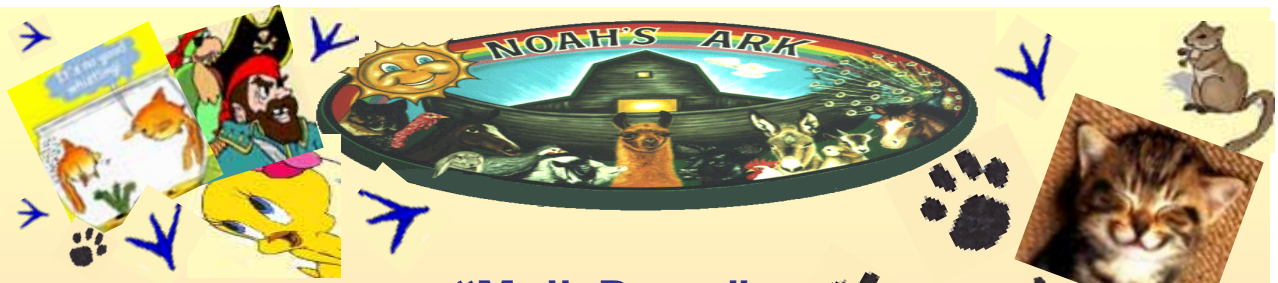
### Decadent, No Bake, Banana Split Cake:

#### Banana Split Dessert Ingredients

- 1 1/4 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/3 cup chocolate flavored syrup
- 1 2/3 cups Sugar
- 1 can (20 ounces) crushed pineapple in juice; drained
- 1/3 cup Butter melted
- 1 container (16 oz) Cool Whip; thawed
- 3 pkgs (8 ounces each) cream cheese; softened
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 3 ripe bananas
- 1 jar (6 oz) maraschino cherries, drained; and halved

#### Instructions for Banana Split Dessert

In a 13 x 9 x 2 inch baking pan stir together graham cracker crumbs, 3 tablespoons of the sugar and butter. Press firmly into bottom of pan. In large mixing bowl beat cream cheese and remaining sugar with an electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Spread evenly over crumb crust. Slice bananas and place on top of cheese mixture. Drizzle with 2 tablespoons chocolate syrup. Spoon drained pineapple over bananas. Spread Cool Whip over top. Sprinkle with pecans and cherries. Drizzle with remaining chocolate syrup. Refrigerate for 2 hours or overnight. (Don't even ask how many calories it has--there are too many to count!)



## “MollyDawg”

This Month's Feature Furry Friend,  
from Dave and Jenn Maguire's girls.

Story and Pictures by  
Emma, 4-years-old and  
Abby, 6-years-old:



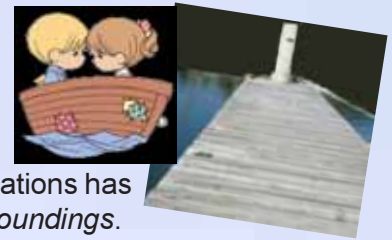
I love Molly because she likes to play a lot.  
Molly likes to play in the water.  
We love to go sailing.  
We want Molly to come sailing with us.  
She is a loving dog.



Molly is a two-year-old Golden Retriever.  
She is very outgoing and loves the water.  
The Maguire family hopes to take Molly out for a sail some day,  
after she has grown out of the puppy stage.

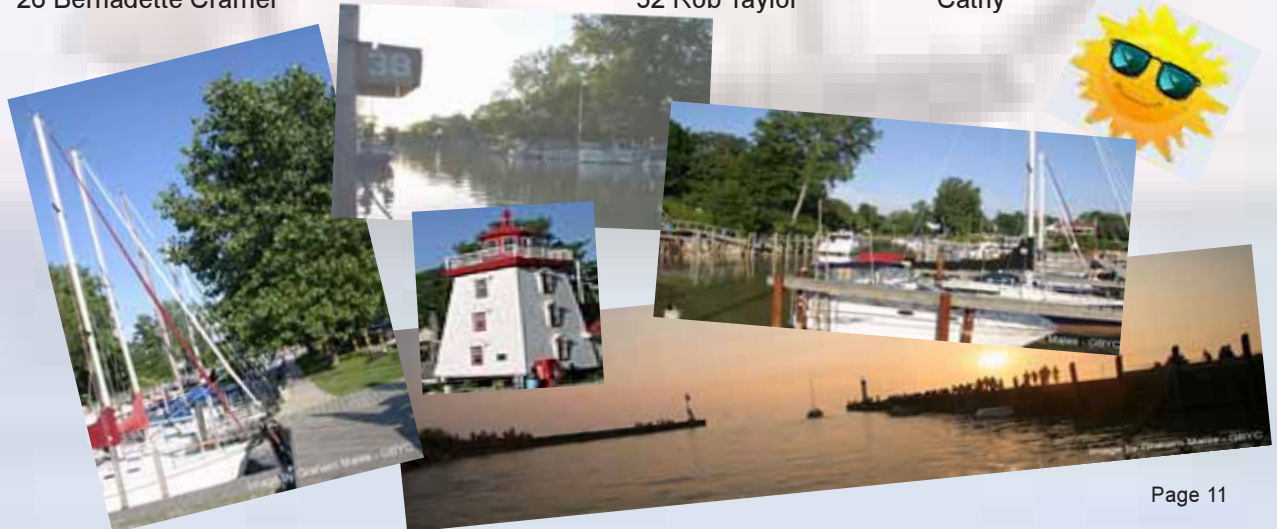


# Slip Allocations



Not all the boats are in the water as yet; therefore, this list of slip allocations has the same information as the one provided in last month's issue of *Soundings*.

#	Member Name	First Mate	Boat Name	#	Member Name	First Mate	Boat Name
1	Dennis Apostolides		<i>Odyssey</i>	27	Tom Quigley	LeAnne	<i>Nessie</i>
2	John Hood	Alma	<i>Missy</i>	28	Don Chalmers	Jane	<i>Odysseus</i>
3	Stephanie Donaldson	Ted		29	Greg Whitlock	Beth	<i>Seabreeze</i>
4	Ted O'Brien			30	Bill Ive	Jean	<i>Ragamuffin</i>
5	Nigel Gough		<i>Brigand</i>	31	Paul Gunning	MaryLou	<i>Malinka</i>
6	Harry Harris		<i>Leviathon</i>	32	Bill Vezina	Carol	<i>Family Affair</i>
7	Private			33	Richard Barr	Laura	<i>Jeepers Crow</i>
8	George Dietrich		<i>Nautlius</i>	34	Howard Lampe	Mary	<i>Lampe Launch</i>
9	David Bannister	Anne	<i>Respite</i>	35	Trevor Mills	Ann	<i>MEERA</i>
10	Bill Newton		<i>Last Lady</i>	36	Stephen Ord	Pat	<i>Our Lattitude</i>
11	Bill Foy	Jane	<i>Anam Cara</i>	37	Peter Englert	Cheryl	<i>Event Horizon II</i>
12	Rick Zupancic	Sandy	<i>Grand Cru</i>	38	Private		
13	Robert Laidlaw	Mo	<i>Zig Zag</i>	39	Dan O'Reilly		<i>Sea Gar</i>
14	Craig Coleman	Darylene	<i>Summer Heat</i>	40	Chris Diepitro		<i>Amici</i>
15	Bill Gray	Barbara	<i>Slow Motion</i>	41	Herb VanWaterSchoot	Mary	<i>Bacchus</i>
16	Dave Maguire	Jennifer	<i>Tempus Fugit</i>	42	Fred Frankakis	Kate	<i>Rocinante</i>
17	Ray Rogolino	Kat	<i>Jigsaw</i>	43	George Dutka	Suzanne	<i>Trekker</i>
18	Howard Tims		<i>Odyssey</i>	44	Mark Compton	Laura	<i>CopOut</i>
19	Dale Hughes	Deb	<i>Oasis</i>	45	Ole Hammerberg	Claudia	
20	Randy Brown		<i>Impetuous</i>	46	Dan Balch		
21	Gerry Jean	Beatriz Jean	<i>Lazy Bones</i>	47	Nigel Gilpin		
22	Robert Schwalm	Rose Marie	<i>Rose Marie</i>	48	John McPhee	Mike	<i>Schipperke</i>
23	Bill Morrison	Shelagh	<i>Ataquari</i>	49	Werner Heitzman		<i>Sundowner 245</i>
24	Kyle Proctor	Danielle	<i>CopOut</i>	50	Rita Davis		
25	Sylvia Gozzard	Haydn	<i>Scorpio</i>	51	Open		
26	Bernadette Cramer			52	Rob Taylor	Cathy	



Greetings

# Happy Victoria Day

Monday, May 19



## Summer Fun Activities for Adults & Families

