



**Fleet Captain**  
**Annual Report 2020**  
**By: AARON MIDDLETON**

It has been my honour to serve as BYC's Fleet Captain over the last 3 years. This last year has been a tough one for all and I am glad to see that the BYC family continues to stay strong and healthy in these challenging times. Your sailing committee worked hard at giving folks a chance to play and enjoy our condensed on the water programs, even under some very constrictive and sometimes confusing regulations! With the hard work and programs we set up to operate in these conditions, I look forward to BYC and the other clubs on the river returning to our more traditional programs over the coming years. As you should know, David Foy has been nominated and accepted by the Fleet to be your next fleet captain so you will be in good hands. We have already started talking about transition and discussing many of the ideas the Sailing Committee was not able to bring to completion. Thank you to all that provided support and guidance over the last three years. Here is the 2020 **Fleet Captains Annual Report:**

2019 Interclub Awards (Winter Social) Dinner was hosted by BYC this year and it was well received! Sadly, the 2020 Interclub awards will likely have to be postponed or held in a different format. I hope many of you will come out and help us celebrate this January in whatever format.

The Gates were out even late again this year due to the high-water levels but at least we didn't have flooding.

Weekend and Weeknight Racing was significantly affected by the restrictions put on organized recreational sports. With event size being limited to 100 people outdoors, BYC and the other clubs on the river worked hard to establish a documented, safe return to sport plan that followed key principles of working within the spirit of the law, keeping people safe while providing as much opportunity for those that wanted to participate. This was by no means was a small feat, essentially redesigning our approach to the weekday racing program from end-to-end over the course of a very short period of time. Just to recap how the year rolled out:

- We started ILD time trials July 12 – those have worked well
- July 15th saw the formal start of the RUST Time Trials.
- July 16th saw the start of Thursday PHRF FS and JAM Time Trial's
- July 20th sees the first NSC hosted Monday night racing for Women and continued throughout the fall. Registration for the new racing program opened early August

closed August 16th with a full roster! A special thank you to the ever vigilant and at the ready Joan Yule for once again taking care of registration, SIs and being a sounding board of club tradition and history!

- We organized an all-volunteer club RC for weekday and weekend events! Thank you to all the volunteers including, Andrew Hope, Konrad and Jane Lewinski, David Foy, Denis Rouleau, Kelly Lyon, Suzanne Roberge, Simon Wingar, Gabrielle White, Rolf Klausener, Brian Williamson, Lisa Shishis, Maureen Kelly and Isla Kelly-Middleton.
- We held the Britannia Cup and Ottawa Valley Laser Masters regattas on the same weekend, sadly that latter had little wind.

Ultimately, we organized sailing activities on almost every weekend (where permitted) and raced an entire Fall Series that allowed hundreds of sailing participants to enjoy.

The RUST Time-Trials and Wednesday Racing Events continued with great success, running from the moment we were permitted to the fall. This self-run fleet had over 25 registrants with an average of 11 boats a race! It will be back next year. A thanks special thanks to Anthony Latus for his vision, hard work and constant drive to make this program so successful!

Cruise Week was also affected this year, but an informal set of destinations for folks to sail to was coordinated. A special thanks to Catherine for her years of dedication representing cruisers and the club on the Sailing Committee. Sadly, we were not able to find a candidate to fill the Cruising position on the Sailing Committee and are still looking.

Olympic Circle Rejuvenation was completed this year. Every club on the lake contributed to a season re-replacement with BYC leading the initiative. This includes the successful demonstration and implementation an approach to placing the marks out each spring and retrieving them in the fall with a simple anchor system. All marks were in place and most using the original locations documented and maintained by Michael O'Sullivan. I want to give a big thanks to the club staff and our volunteers for continuing to drive this project forward. A special thank you to Anthony Latus for taking the lead on the overall management of the initiative, testing the approach to reduce the number of buoys lost each year and his time spent checking and following up with all of these marks on the river.

You had asked me, and I accepted the honour of staying another season as Fleet Captain. No one could have foreseen what a challenging year this would be and I appreciate everyone's patience and support during my final year as in the role! Thanks again to the BYC Sailing Committee for all of their hard work and commitment. I believe we did the best we could with what we were dealt and did a tremendous job pivoting every couple of weeks to ultimately implement a completely new racing program in time for a full Fall Series. I hope we can get back to a bit more normal program in 2021!

Aaron Middleton  
Fleet Captain  
fleet@byc.ca