

CANBOAT/CPS AGM 2024



TROIS-RIVIÈRES

Preface

I would hope that some of you may have taken the opportunity to hear some of the presenters and discussions online. If you weren't able to I thought I'd write down some of the basics that I took from the trip and, as I get older, doing that quickly is always a good idea.

Thursday, October. 24, 2024

The day followed the ExCom meetings of Wednesday for the early arrivers.

The morning started with the DC/SC meeting discussing the current status of squadrons, reorganization and finances.

I was immediately struck by speakers that came up to speak and introduced themselves as Commander of one, two or four squadrons as well as SFO for multiple squadrons. This is the necessity that inspires our ExCom to find a new structure.

It appears that in areas with many historic squadrons in close proximity the remaining members are hesitant to 'surrender their warrants'. That was a reoccurring theme over the next few days.

At the squadron level finances are not a problem. For National it's always an issue although because of selling the building and utilizing the resources of the foundation it was less than an issue at this meeting. With the rebranding it seems the organization is willing to spend what's necessary to see how we can re-establish ourselves in the next couple of years.

Theres much encouragement in establishing that brand and we'll be refreshing handouts and getting identifying things such as CANBOAT badges and ordering shirts starting with the executive.

This group of DC/SC continued through an IT update.

I am happy to say that the topic of IT did not bring this meeting to it's knees for a change.

Yes, the IT system needs much improvement and Janet, National IT Officer, listed the path these upgrades will take.

Janet was also expressing the correct procedures for establishing system access. I took note and will be submitting the right forms to the right people to ensure the executive gets the access it needs.

Some of the IT update concerned the education group and course delivery.

To give you a hint of the new direction in delivering courses here's the most important example.

When a squadron offers any form of course whether self-study, hybrid (classroom and online) or classroom/in-person all students who register for that course will also be registered and given access to the online course materials. This dual-registration is just about to be implemented for PCOC and ROC(M) and will be shortly followed by B2 and B3.

Even courses that include a printed manual will see a student given access to the materials online to supplement their accessibility.

I like this idea and it's another path to encouraging in-person teaching in a variety of ways.

Membership

As for Membership there were many questions and answers concerning better detailing and presentation for the benefits offered to members. That was mostly about keeping it updated and communicated to the members.

Most of the Membership session(s) were devoted to encouraging squadrons to be more visible in their area and to try and devise ways to encourage more youth interaction. This might be, as I'm hoping for our squadron, to follow up on possibly teaching ROC(M) to the youth sailing group at RNYC.

This kind of approach could be taken as a yearly challenge to find another youth group such as Cadets? There are possibilities.

As we all sat around at the conference it was abundantly clear that we need to find some longterm plan to give a youthful injection even if it starts with collaboration with other groups.

At the main AGM on Saturday the group of DC/SC would vote to remove the condition that there was an age limit of 19 years old. Not sure who thought that one up but it's generally assumed that this organization can't afford to have such a condition at this point.

There was also a common thought that distributing helpful information and membership info to those who sell boats as well as clubs and marinas in the area might help to reach new boaters. Not a bad idea and worth a start even at the scale of our area.

Squadron Networking

The remainder of Thursday was as much about mingling and socializing with other squadrons across the country.

As is natural the districts tended to gravitate together and we were no different. The Atlantic group was prominent and well represented by Nigel's presence on the board as well.

The names are the usual suspects for Atlantic: Sarah-Jane Raine, Mary Ridgewell, Phil Evans, Nigel Stafford and more. A good crowd each offering any assistance and expertise they might be able to offer. Much time was sharing the problems we all saw in our areas and things we would try to help improve things.

Friday, October. 25, 2024

Friday began with all things Education.

Eric Phinney and Tom Beaver gave a good overview of the state of course content.

PCOC is picking up a slightly better Market share and it's an improved course over our previous offering.

ROC is the central money-maker beyond compare. There was an excellent show-and-tell on how to perform an online Part II examination which is the greatest challenge of ROC. There are still efforts to pool testing resources so even squadrons that don't have access to someone to do examinations the load can be spread across those available in other regions. This is working.

This year we seem to have finally reached the point where promising to have both English and French versions released at the same time seems possible. There were many requests for translation assistance for all new materials currently in production.

Surprisingly there was great uptake on this and we seem to have found a good crowd to share the load and speed things up. They were enthusiastic and the course chairs were lining them up immediately.

That was a far better result than previous years.

The remainder of Friday

Later in the day there were some guest speakers with a continuation of the previous DC/SC session. This entailed an extension of the marketing/branding issues from a previous session.

It was also my first opportunity to get to know Kelly Symons the new National office manager and what directions she is taking things. She seems very results based and is aiming for a new stability on the administrative side of things.

As an aside, I also got to know our key finance/admin person that is our point of contact from our Squadron FO perspective. He seems well grounded and has been happy to respond when a squadron has a problem accessing and understanding the balancing of books.

In the evening some fun entertainment with food, drink and the James Bond Theme.

Saturday, October 26, 2024

The National AGM

The main event saw much formality along with quite a lot of useful information on the state of the organization.

Included for the membership were overviews of each of the departments as well as future paths the organization is taking in terms of management, organization, courses and outreach.



As you know, I've been a little skeptical of the organizations' intent of late but I did get a good sense that most in the country have the same issues we have and everyone seems intent and making the effort to find the path forward. Whether that's in terms of our education offerings, our public service and outreach as well as solving the membership issues in small but steady steps.

Our Gold Status

There was good information on the work of the CPS Foundation. Where the support comes from and how projects and initiatives are selected for support. Of course, they continue to ask squadrons to support the efforts but also hold us up as one of the better supporters in the past and current years as seen in the graphic displayed during the session:

Squadron / Escadrille	Certificate Number / Nombre de certificats	Awards
Avalon	5	4 th Gold / 4 th Or
Beleoeil	3	1 st Gold / 1 st Or
Bluenose	30, 31, 32	1 st Gold / 1 st Or
Edmonton	28	1 st Gold / 1 st Or
Etobicoke	32	1 st Gold / 1 st Or
London	8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17	2 nd Gold / 2 nd Or
Montreal centre et Rive-Nord	21, 22	
Nanaimo	27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32	
Newmarket	31, 32, 33	
Oakville	31	2 nd Gold / 2 nd Or
Okanagan	29	
Orillia	7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	
Ottawa	26, 27, 28	
Pender Island	16	
Peterborough	14	
Quesnel	31	
Tillsonburg	32	
Toronto		1 st Gold & 2 nd Gold / 1 st Or & 2 nd Or
Victoria		1 st Gold / 1 st Or
Wallaceburg	32	
Windsor		

Chief Commander's Gala Dinner

Food was great. A Navy band supplied the entertainment and the new spokesperson for the organization, Steven Bull, was the guest speaker. I had my doubts about such a marketing partnership but this guy knows us, knows boat safety and understands the media elements that will appeal to a younger perspective member.

If you get a chance you can go to <https://www.youtube.com/@WaterWaysTV>. Or just search for WaterWaysTV and you'll learn about his approach.

Summary

I enjoyed meeting the CPS people in person. I also left feeling a bit more optimistic about the efforts to rebuild for the future and since the covid days. Let's talk and see where this goes.



AGENDA

Agenda en français à la page suivante

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024
0800-1700 ExCom Meeting Restricted -
CPS Casual - Maskinongé

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024
0800-0830 BOD Breakfast
CPS Casual - Innovation/ Collaboration
0830-1700 BOD Meeting
CPS Casual - Innovation/ Collaboration

1000-1030 Coffee Break
CPS Casual - Innovation/ Collaboration
1200-1300 BOD Lunch
CPS Casual - Innovation/ Collaboration
1200-1800 Registration
Hall St-Laurent

1800-2100 Past Chief Commanders
Dinner - CPS Casual - Off-site

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024
0800-1700 Registration
Hall St-Laurent

0830-1000 DC/SC Meeting
CPS Casual - Trois Rivières 3
0930-1600 Displays
Hall St-Laurent

1000-1030 Coffee Break
Hall St-Laurent
1000-1600 Borealis & Prison Tour
Lobby / Offsite - Casual/coat/umbrella

1030-1200 IT Update
CPS Casual - Trois Rivières 3
1200-1330 Trois-Rivière's 60th
Anniversary Buffet Lunch
CPS Casual - Trois Rivières 4-5

1200-1700 Prize Room
Nicolet
1330-1500 Marketing Update
CPS Casual - Trois Rivières 3

1500-1530 Refreshment Break
1515-1700 Membership Update -
Guest Speaker Steve Wagner
from Salus
CPS Casual - Foyer TR 3

1700-1900 CPS Foundation Meeting
CPS Casual - Foyer TR 3
1700-1730 Local Committee Reception
CPS Casual - Maskinongé
1730-1830 First Timers/ Committee Reception
CPS Casual - Room 207
2000-2200 CPS Foundation Hospitality
Casual - Room 207

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024
0700-0730 CanBoat / NautiSavoir Health Walk
Workout/ coat/ umbrella - Lobby
0800-1700 Registration
Hall St-Laurent

0830-1100 Educational Department
Meeting
CPS Casual - Trois Rivières 3

0900-1700 Prize Room
Nicolet

0900-1700 Displays
Hall St-Laurent
1000-1030 Coffee Break
Foyer TR 3

1000-1600 La cité de l'énergie/ Craft
Brewery Tour
Workout/ coat/ umbrella - Lobby/ Off-Site

1100-1200 Marketing and Education
CPS Casual - Trois Rivières 3
1200-1330 Multi Department
Buffet Lunch
CPS Casual - Trois Rivières 4-5

1330-1500 Guest Speakers -
Anne Sophie Ste-Marie, Public Relations St-
Laurence Global Observatory/ Captain Jean-
Charles Pinsonneault , Pilots St-Laurence Central
CPS Casual - Trois Rivières 3

1500-1530 Refreshment Break
Foyer TR 3
1515-1700 Multi Department Plenary
Session - Updates from
Kelly Symons and Excom/
Recap from Thursday

CPS Casual - Foyer TR 3
CPS Casual - Trois Rivières 3

1530-1700 DC/ SC Commanders'
Meeting Cont'd

CPS Casual - Trois Rivières 4
1830-2130 License to Chill
Suit/Cocktail Dress/Costume -
Trois-Rivières 5 ans Espace Rive-Sud
2200-0000 Great Lakes Hospitality
Casual - Room 207

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024

0700-0800 ExCom Breakfast
CPS Casual - Room 207
0730-0830 AGM Delegate Registration
Hall St-Laurent

0730-0830/1400-1700 Registration
Hall St-Laurent

0830-1130 National AGM
Navy Blazer / CPS Casual - Trois Rivières 3

0900-1700 Displays
Hall St-Laurent

1130-1230 Cash Bar
Hall St-Laurent

1230-1500 AGM Lunch and National Awards
with Guest Speaker Commander Jérémie
Bourassa Commanding Officer / His Majesty's
Canadian ship Radisson
Navy Blazer / CPS Casual - Trois Rivières 4-5

1430-1700 Prize Pick up
Nicolet

1500-1630 Spousal Tea
Casual - Room 207

1500-1630 BOD Meeting
CPS Casual - Innovation / Collaboration
1730-1830 CC Reception
Formal - Room 207

1800-1900 Cash Bar
Formal - Trois Rivières 4-5 Foyer

1900-2330 Chief Commander's Gala Dinner
w/ Guest speaker Steven Bull
Formal - Trois Rivières 4-5 Foyer
2200-0000 Trois-Rivières 2024 Hospitality
Casual - Room 207

