

Greetings everyone,

I'm so glad to see that spring has finally arrived after we saw some record breaking weather these past three months. January 12th marked the coldest on record clocking in at a brisk -11°C beating out the previous record low of -9.4°C set in 1963. January 2025 was the 8th driest in the past 125 years. So you know that since we saw 204.9 mm of rain in those three months, most of it arrived in Feb and March. :)

Check our website for this summers cruises and book early as they fill up fast.

I wish you all well and hope to see you soon on the water.

Cheers.

Gail Silvestrini - Publisher



STAY SAFE



SQUADRON FUN IN THE SUN

In This Issue

- Greetings from Commander
- Boating safety
- Upcoming courses
- Flare disposal
- Fun times
- Recreational Vessel Courtesy Check

Do you have expired flares?

You can't light them, drop them off at the Police or Fire stations,
throw them in the water or in your household garbage so
CanBoat / NautiSavoir are hosting a Flare Disposal

DATE: Friday April 4 and Saturday April 5, 2025

PLACE: Trotac Marine Ltd.
370 Gorge Rd E, Victoria BC

TIME: 8:30 – 5:00 Friday
9:00 – 5:00 Saturday

Flares manufactured in 2021 or earlier expire this year, as Transport Canada approves them for four years. CanBoat / NautiSavoir (operated by CPS-ECP), volunteers are collecting expired marine flares for neutralization and safe disposal.

Sponsored by:

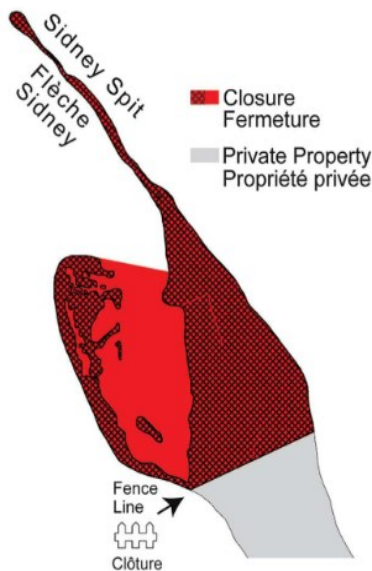


SIDNEY ISLAND WITH- IN THE GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK RE- SERVE

Closed to public traffic
and travel until April 15,
2025 for public safety
reasons to facilitate the
Sidney Island Ecological
Restoration Project.

Docks are estimated to
be returned May 14,
2025

AREA CLOSURE Gulf Islands National Park Reserve



RECREATION VESSEL COURTESY CHECK (RVCC)

It's that time of year to have
your vessel checked by one
of our CanBoat Volunteers
to inform you about any
safety problems.

One potential benefit of par-
ticipating in the program is
to avoid a \$200 fine. If your
vessel clears you will re-
ceive a Safety Inspection
Sticker to post on your ves-
sel.

Contact:

Bill Miller 250-656-5190

Beemer900@gmail.com



Squadron 2024 Cruise Gathering

Commander's Corner

I can feel it in the air . . . Spring has arrived . . .

With warmer weather arriving, it's time to wrap up winter activities and gear up for the Spring season. Yes, boating season is approaching again!

First up is electing next year's executive committee members. Our group of capable individuals will be looking for additional ways to enrich both members and the boating public's experiences. This will happen at the squadron's annual general meeting to be held on May 6th, 2025 at the BC Aviation Museum. The Change of Watch and pledging in will give us a chance to meet with friends new and old and listen to a presentation from the Dead Boat Disposal Society.

CanBoat / NautiSavoir of Oak Bay is responding to changing member and public boater needs/wants. Plans include offering courses online and sticking to our tried and true personal engagement at our in-class courses. Boating is our focus and getting you safely onto the water is our priority!

Hope everyone has a great summer and looking forward to seeing and meeting the new and old members at our summer cruises. Check our website (oakbaysq.ca) for cruise location and dates (book early).

Cdr Stephen Taylor



Squadron Meeting

Our Squadron's Meetings are in person (downstairs at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. 3475 Ripon Road, Victoria BC V8R 6H1) or via zoom. Members, students and guests are welcome. Please join us for the meeting and a drink afterwards.

April's Meeting is scheduled as a zoom meeting.

Date: April 15/25

Time: 7:30 pm

Method: Zoom (email oakbaysq@hotmail.com for invite)



Squadron members out exploring



Question Corner Answer:

False: A PFD becomes void if it has been repaired or altered: therefore, it is no longer usable and must be replaced and discarded.

Cold Water Survival

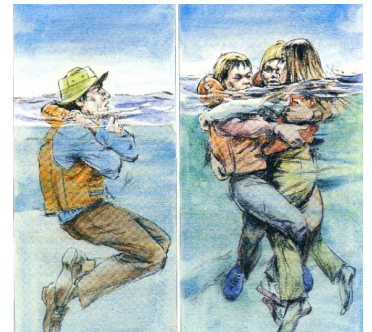
Staying Safe on the Gulf Island and Salish Sea

Spring is an exciting time for boaters in the Pacific North West. As the days get longer and the urge to get back on the water grows stronger, it's important to remember that while the air may be warming up, the water remains dangerously cold. A sudden fall overboard or an unexpected dip can quickly turn into a life-threatening situation. Here's what you need to know to stay safe while enjoying spring boating.

Cold Water Survival: Why It Matters

The waters of the Gulf Islands average around 5.5 - 8.0 C (42 - 47 F) in the spring—cold enough to cause cold water shock in just seconds. Here's what happens when you suddenly enter cold water:

1. Cold Shock Response (0-2 minutes): Gasping, hyperventilation, and panic set in. If you inhale water, drowning can occur immediately.
2. Cold Incapacitation (2-15 minutes): Loss of muscle control makes it difficult to swim, climb back aboard, or even hold onto a floatation device.
3. Hypothermia (15-60+ minutes): As your body loses heat confusion, unconsciousness, and eventually cardiac arrest can occur.



How to Improve Your Cold Water Survival Changes

1. *Always Wear An Approved Life Jacket:* Even experienced swimmers can succumb to cold shock before they have a chance to react.
 2. *Dress for the Water, Not Just the Air:* Consider wearing a drysuit or wetsuit if you're boating in early spring, especially for kayaking, paddleboarding, or sailing.
 3. *Use the 1-10-1 Rule:* If you end up in the water:
 - 1 minute to control your breathing and avoid gasping
 - 10 minutes of useful movement before muscle failure
 - 1 minute before unconsciousness due to hypothermia
1. *Stay With Your Boat:* A capsized boat is easier to spot than a person in the water. If possible, climb onto it to get as much of your body out of the water as you can.
 2. *Signal for Help:* Keep a water proof whistle, personal locator beacon (PLB), or VHF radio accessible.





FUN TIMES



Oak Bay Squadron's favourite spot Can you guess where we are?



BOATING COURSES

Check out boatingcourses.ca website for a detailed listing of all upcoming courses. We will now be offering courses in multiple locations. Book your course in the location that suits you.

VHF Radio:

Dates: Wednesdays
April 16, April 23 and exam night April 30, 2025

Time: 7 pm to 9 pm

Location: Royal Victoria Yacht Club
3475 Ripon Road
Victoria, BC

VHF Radio:

Dates: Wednesdays
June 4, June 11 and exam night June 18 2025

Time: 7 pm to 9 pm

Location: Royal Victoria Yacht Club
3475 Ripon Road
Victoria, BC



Free Course Audit Seats are available in limited numbers to Oak Bay Power and Sail Squadron members who wish to have a course refresher. Just come out to the first class and let the instructor know. Why not "Brush Up"? No exam to stress over.



Oak Bay/Saanich Peninsula Executive Committee

2024/2025 Year		
Commander	Stephen Taylor	250-383-7882
Past Commander	David Holmes, SN	250-598-8482
Executive Officer	Mary Lou Newbold	250-383-7882
Education Officer	Alex Kerr	250-294-4108
Assistant Education Officer	Tony Merry, SN	250-656-4288
Financial Officer	Gail Silvestrini	250-658-4223
Secretary	Daryl Collard, SN	250-472-2779
Membership	Peter Brennan	604-449-2840
Environmental Officer	Marcel Fisher	250-920-8821
Cruise Master	Stephen Taylor	250-383-7882
VRCC	Bill Miller	250-656-5190
Communication	Open	N/A



Above is our CPS flag and the Oak Bay Squadron burgee! Looks great, don't they? Proudly fly your burgees on your boat. If you are new to the squadron or yours is getting weather worn please contact the Financial Officer, Gail Silvestrini, she has a few left in stock. The price is currently \$10.00.
gsilvestrini@telus.net

Check out our web page at:

<http://oakbaysq.ca>

or email us at:

oakbaysquadron@hotmail.com

QUESTION CORNER

True or False:

You may use a PFD that is torn as long as it was well repaired by an approved manufacturer



If you have a few hours to spare and would like to join a fun group of young and young at heart volunteers please contact us. We have the following positions available:

Training officer - help setup the different classes

Assist training officer - help the training officer where needed and as your time permits.

Assist examiner- help mark exams during exam nights., perform oral radio exams