



THE CROW'S NEST

LADYSMITH YACHT CLUB

EDITION: 2026-01 (January)



Photo: Ladysmith, winter of 1966

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a great Christmas season. I know we are all looking forward to the upcoming boating season, only a few months away.

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You might notice that the format of the *Crowsnest* has changed a bit. The reason is that more LYC members are viewing this esteemed publication on mobile devices rather than desktop or laptop computers. Since phones and tablets have smaller screens, I have reverted to a single column format and a larger text size. If you like to print the *Crowsnest* before reading it, that should still work reasonably well, although the page count will be higher. Let me know if you love/hate it.

A reminder that I am always on the hunt for interesting *Crowsnest* stories, recipes, destinations, and photos. You can send them to crowsnest@ladysmithyc.bc.ca

Gord Coulman, Editor.

PS: If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do. Where else will you find such a debonair, sophisticated, yet fun-loving group? Here is a link to the renewal form: <https://ladysmithyc.bc.ca/membership-form>

Inaugural Commodore's Cruise

We are excited to announce the inaugural Commodore's Cruise for 2026! We will be sailing to Desolation Sound from July 13th to July 27th.

This cruise is flexible: you are welcome to join the Commodore for a day or two, or come for the entire two weeks.

Highlights of the trip will include destinations like Prideaux Haven/Melanie Cove, Walsh Cove, and Octopus Islands, although we are open to suggestions for other stops. We plan to take two days for travel to Desolation Sound and two days for the return journey. You can travel with us or meet us there.

We will have a variety of activities planned, including kayaking, hiking, BBQs, and happy hours. We are also planning prawning and crabbing competitions, with the bounty to be shared (since Paul cannot catch prawns!). Expect a few surprise activities as well.

The final itinerary will be determined by the level of interest and, of course, the weather.



Welcome to the new LYC Executive

A big thanks to our new Executive and Committee Leads for stepping up to these critical roles. These folks really are the backbone of the LYC and the Club could not exist without them. At the end of this edition of the *Crowsnest*, you will find a profile of each of these folks.

2026 Executive

- Commodore - Paul Tellier
- Vice Commodore - Russell Horswill
- Immediate Past Commodore - Vacant
- Secretary- Robin Grimstead
- Treasurer - Ruth Tellier
- Planning Director - Jeff Reichert
- Staff Captain - Carmen Campbell-Hewitt
- Member at Large, Marketing - Jacqui Graham
- Member at Large, Communication - Jorn Meier

Committee Leads

- Social Committee Lead- Vacant (can be a shared position!)
- Membership Coordinator- Scott Hope
- Flags and Regalia - Wendy Rendall
- Reciprocal Docks- Michael Clark
- Sailpast Coordinator- David Franz
- Bar- Blair Landry
- CBCYC and Marine Park Forever delegate- Graham Rankine
- Handbook Editor Owen Thistle
- Forum Moderator Fiona Curthoys
- Crowsnest Editor- Gord Coulman

2025 Commodore's Awards

Although the Gala was cancelled, club awards were, well...awarded.

1.The George Land Memorial Trophy

Awarded to Diane Charles for going above and beyond her duties and being always a very thorough, organized, and excellent leader. Diane was always willing to pick up additional tasks above her executive role.



2.Deck Ape Award - Neil Hewitt

The Story:

“Neil and Carmen joined the Whalley’s and the Donkers’ for a cruise to Tod Inlet in July. Neil and Carmen were late getting away but it took even longer than expected. So, according to their story, on the way down Saanich Inlet, Carmen had a snooze leaving Neil at the helm. Somehow he missed the turn into Tod Inlet and carried on until they got to the end of Finlayson Arm, about 6 NM away, adding 12 NM to their trip. We went out to search for them on our tender and discovered them on their way back up to Tod Inlet. Both, a little sheepish, they eventually joined us and we all had a great time.”



3. Commodore's award - Ann and Anton Donkers.

“Dear Anne and Anton,

It is with immense pleasure that I present you with the Commodore's Award, recognizing your exceptional contributions to the Ladysmith Yacht Club.

Since joining in 2015, and especially over the past few years, you have both worked tirelessly for the club. Your dedication has been truly inspiring. Paul and I are particularly grateful for your mentorship when they were new members looking to expand our boating horizons. Taking two novices to Desolation Sound and guiding them without letting them feel overwhelmed demonstrates your remarkable patience and generosity. You instilled confidence, enabling us to explore further in their boating journeys, and for that, they are incredibly thankful.

Beyond individual mentorship, you have both dedicated countless hours to ensuring the success of numerous LYC events and have also taken a vital leadership role in promoting the future of our club. Your commitment has been instrumental in fostering a vibrant and thriving community.

While the sale of *Sea-Ya!* may mean you won't be as active in the boating community, we know you still have the *Larson!* On behalf of the entire club, and personally, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you. Thank you for being exceptional boating mentors, and more importantly, thank you for being wonderful friends.”



Boat Show Season!

Boat shows are great places to pass an otherwise grey winter day, while seeing new marine products and technologies. One can also dream about the new boats on offer and perhaps buy a couple of lottery tickets.


Here are some of the upcoming events:

- Vancouver Boat Show: January 14-18, at Vancouver Convention Centre and Granville Island.
- Toronto International Boat Show: January 17-25.
- Seattle Boat Show: January 30–February 7, in Seattle, WA.
- Calgary Boat and Sportsmen's Show: February 20-22.
- BC Boat and Sportsmen's Show: March 6-8, Tradex, Abbotsford.
- BC Outdoors Show: March 13-15.
- Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show: March 19-22.
- BC Boat Show: April 30–May 3, at Port Sidney Marina in Sidney, BC.




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Recipe

Anzac Slices - Fiona Curthoys



INGREDIENTS

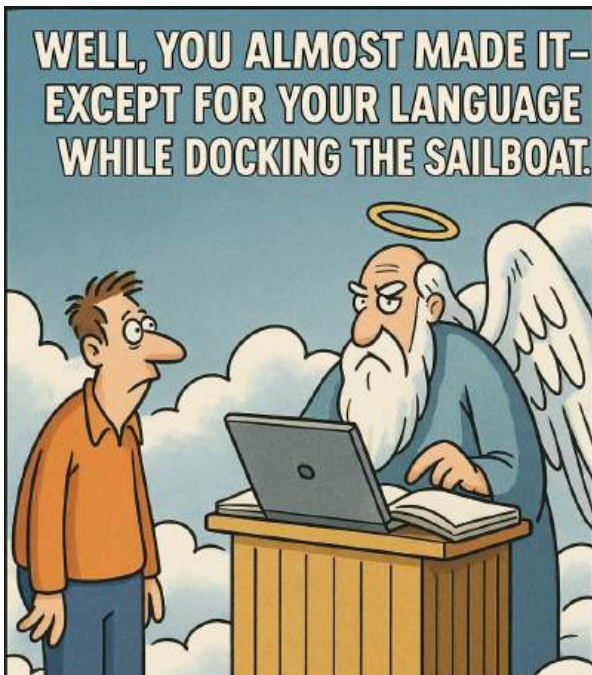
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2/3 cup Desiccated coconut (unsweetened) OR pumpkin and/or sunflower seeds
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/4 cup Golden Syrup (honey or maple syrup can be used as substitutes)
- 2 Tbsp warm water
- 1 tsp baking soda

METHOD

1. Pre-heat oven to 350 F
2. Mix the Dry ingredients: In a large bowl mix flour, oats and sugar (1) (2)
3. Mix the wet ingredients: Add butter and syrup to a pan over medium heat and stir for two minutes or until butter has melted
4. In a small bowl or cup, mix the warm water and baking soda then add the mixture to the melted butter and syrup and stir. The mixture will become frothy. This is what you want.
5. Pour the butter mixture over the dry ingredients and mix until just combined
6. Scrape mixture into a greased 7" x 11" pan and bake for 15 minutes or until golden. Watch carefully.
7. Remove from the oven and allow to cool
8. Cut into slices and store in an airtight container.
9. Refrigerate for 5 days or freeze for up to 2 months

Notes

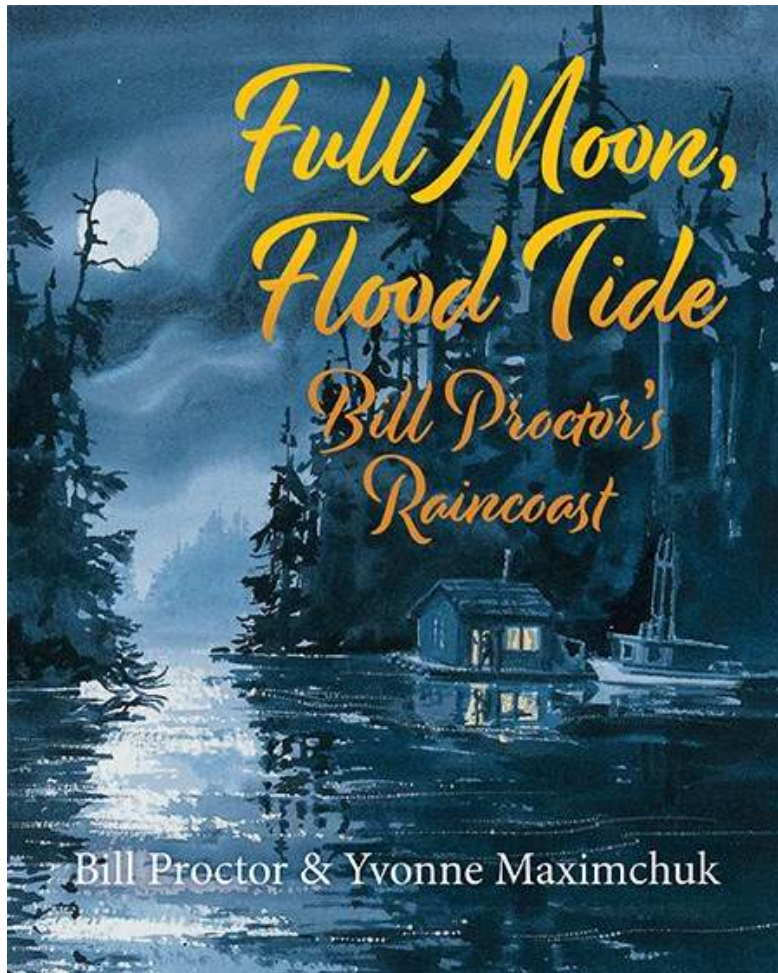
- (1) Add 1 tsp of baking soda here as well for 'lighter' bars
- (2) Any nut or seed or even dried fruit can be added depending on what you have. Small-ish pieces work best.



Book Review

Full Moon, Flood Tide: Bill Proctor's Raincoast

Bill Proctor, Yvonne Maximchuk



If you have been to the Broughton Archipelago or have an inkling to go, this is an ideal book. The book paints a vivid picture of what the area looked like during the early 20th century, when it was sprinkled with tiny communities, hand loggers, and fish camps. Billy Proctor's book is easy to read and with co-author Yvonne Maximchuck, their love of the natural world shines through.

Available from [Harbour Publishing](#), \$24.95

LYC Member's Forum

If you have not already done so, please register to use the new Member's Forum. Instructions are below.

Note: It might take a day or two, as Owen and Fiona might not see your request right away. If you have any issues registering, please reach out and we are happy to help. Feel free to post anything related to boating or the club.

To register:

1. Visit www.ladysmithyc.bc.ca and click on *Members Registration*
2. Enter this one-time passcode to request an account: *myLYC*.
3. Enter your information on the account request form and click *Register*. We'll confirm your membership by email and activate your account. This may take a couple of days.

Once registered, you will have full access to the forum and the exclusive members-only part of the LYC website (log in with your personal password and check the "keep me signed in" box for instant access going forward).

If you are unsure if you are already registered, you can try to change your password. If you are registered, you will be able to change it.

If you have any difficulty, just email forum@ladysmithyc.bc.ca for assistance. We hope to see you soon in the virtual club-house!

2026 Cruising Schedule

April 24-26: Thetis Island Marina (Susan)

May 20-24:

Maple Bay Marina, May 20, 21 (Carmen)

Mill Bay Marina, May 22

Todd Inlet, May 23, 24

June 18-21: Pages Marina, Silva Bay (Carmen)

August 24- 27: Telegraph Harbour Marina (Mindy)

As per usual there will be “appy” hours, dinners out or arranged, physical activities, games and prizes, maybe some educational presentations and some SURPRISE events.

If you have a new idea you want to lead, be sure to talk to the person coordinating the event and they can explore the idea. The more people involved the merrier....

Thanks Susan Erickson - 2025 LYC Staff Captain
Carmen Campbell- Hewitt- 2026 LYC Staff Captain
Mindy Coles – LYC Staff Captain Assistant

Introduction of LYC Executive and Committee Leads

I thought it might be fun to give you a little background and a photo of each of our new volunteers.

Thank you for your service!



Commodore - Paul Tellier

Treasurer - Ruth Tellier

Ruth and I moved to Ladysmith from Bonnyville, Alberta in the fall of 2021. As soon as we decided to move to the coast, I knew we were going to get a boat and do a lot of boating. I tease Ruth that she "made me" sell all of our Alberta toys. A boat was going to replace them.... We had done a lot of boating on the Alberta lakes, however this is very different. We had a large learning curve.

I love the water and I love to fish. Our first boat, a Cutwater 30 was perfect for us to start our boating on the coast. When we decided that we loved cruising farther afield, we upgraded to our current boat. We got *Happily Marooned* in December 2023. She is a Ranger Tug 43 and we are so happy we upgraded. We were able to take our longest trip so far (7 weeks) and we have plans to see the Alaska glaciers with the boat in a couple of years.



Vice Commodore - Russell Horswill

Russell (and Marcy) Horswill own a 42' Mikelson powerboat called "*Salish Mist*" that we've owned for five years now. We started boating in 2010 when we bought a 32' Grand Banks (called "*Grand Banks*"). We both enjoy getting outdoors to enjoy the fresh air and exploring new places - always fun to meet new people on our journey's. Last summer we managed to travel to the far tip of the Broughton's enjoying the unique views and wildlife.



Secretary - Robin Grimstead

I am definitely an accidental boater - raised on the back of a horse in landlocked Alberta, I have followed my better half (Warren) into the water and have loved it!

As we are still "practicing retirement" we commute from Alberta as much as possible and hope someday to have perfected it to spend loads more time on the water. We have a Bayliner 4588 called *Ocean Grace*.



Planning Director - Jeff Reichert

Our family has been sailing for over 40 years on various boats, initially on Lake Diefenbaker in Saskatchewan and now out of Ladysmith. Our two daughters grew up sailing and exploring the many inlets of Lake Diefenbaker, and now they visit us with their families to enjoy the Gulf Islands and Desolation Sound. We currently sail a Tartan 3700, named *Ostara*.



Staff Captain - Carmen Campbell-Hewitt

My husband, Neil and I, joined the Yacht Club five years ago. We have loved not only the social events and rendezvous, but the boating mentorship which gave us the courage to reach farther destinations and move up to a bigger boat. We look forward to more adventures with LYC!

Editor's note: Neil plays the bagpipes and it is rumoured that the piper who sometimes gives a sunset performance at LYC rendezvous events is actually him. Coincidence? I think not.



Member at Large, Marketing - Jacqui Graham

Having a boat and time to enjoy it is a dream that started to be realized for us in 2023 with our 1st vessel. We learned a lot that year, including my preference for a more stable / slower experience and our desire to be on the water every chance we could.

We quickly made the decision to move to Ladysmith from Langley in 2024 and have been loving island/ boat life ever since. This year we found our dream boat! now cruising in a Sirena 64.

Looking forward to spring and booking out our calendar to include a couple of 2026 LYC rendezvous.



Member at Large, Communication - Jorn Meier

Jorn found his passion for sailing as a kid on the shores of the Baltic Sea. After many years river boating in the Yukon he moved to Ladysmith four years ago, bought a C&C38 sailboat, joined the club, and makes new adventures with the family out on the water whenever there's time.



Membership Coordinator - Scott Hope

My partner introduced me to boating a little over ten years ago when we purchased our first sailboat, *Puffin*. A year ago we changed to a bigger boat, *SeaQuel*, a 33.5 foot Hunter. What I love the most about boating is the exposure to the beautiful West Coast and how after just a couple of hours away from the dock one can feel as though they are in a remote and far off location and can experience tranquility and tremendous beauty all around.



Flags and Regalia - Wendy Rendall

I am the committee lead for Flags and Regalia. This will be the 5th year at this position.

We moved from Alberta and arrived on the island July 1, 2020 right at the beginning of Covid. We have a 43 foot Canoe Cove, *Tanoosh* by name. Coming from the prairies I knew nothing about ocean boating, so it's been quite the adventure. The thing I love most is seeing the island from the waterside, a whole different experience. My goodness we live in the most beautiful space.



Reciprocal Docks - Michael Clark

I have been boating, off and on, for most of my life. I am a sailor by experience, initially racing as a crew with the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club and West Vancouver Yacht Club on long distance races including a number of Swiftsure events. Work took me to Montreal and then Sydney, Australia where I sailed on a 16 foot skiff. Upon returning to Vancouver, I built a Thunderbird sailboat and competed as a member of the Thunderboat fleets in Vancouver, Seattle and Victoria as life took me to live in those cities. However, like many sailors when racing becomes too much, I switched to power with an elderly, wood Grand Banks 32. That was a fabulous boat, or rather a little ship, and ended up living on it for a few years.

When I retired I started rowing with the Delta Deas Rowing Club and served a couple of years as Executive Director of Rowing BC. I rowed competitively for about 10 years. I volunteer at the Ladysmith Maritime Society and helped with the restoration of the *Dorothy*, the oldest registered sailboat in Canada. In fact, it is currently moored at the Ladysmith Marina approximately at the start of B dock.

Recently my daughter passed away and I found myself in a downward spiral. I had to start a new adventure. The result was *Half Pint*, a Ranger Tug 21 and I have a dinghy for it under construction in my garage. I am looking forward to a busy summer on the water.

I joined the Ladysmith Yacht Club early in 2025 and I am delighted to be a part of the yachting community once again



Sailpast Coordinator- David Franz

We have been active with LYC for 12 years. We presently have a Jeanneau 36i and love sailing in the Salish Sea.

Cheers, Dave



Bar - Blair Landry

LYC member since 2018 and Bar lead shortly thereafter. Currently own a 45 foot Bayliner at Oak Bay Marina in Ladysmith. Working as Captain at B.C.Ferries and with 31years in, looking forward to a retirement date - hopefully not too far off to start enjoying the love of boating and the boating community.



CBCYC and Marine Park Forever delegate Graham Rankine

I've been boating most of my life. My earliest memories in the 60's are at my Grandparents summer camp at Hoodpoint on Bowen Island where we had small boats that we fished and crabbed from. Later my parents got the family into sailing day sailors starting with a 16' then to a 20' and finally a Tanzer 22 during this time we also had a Laser to sail. My first fulltime job was with the Canadian Hydrographic Service on the East Coast, where I got to live and work on survey vessels. This included surveys in the Bay of Fundy, parts of Newfoundland and Labrador as well as a trip to the arctic.

After relocating back to the West Coast I finally bought my first boat, a Bayfield 32C, which allowed me to start exploring the west coast with trips from Victoria to Desolation Sound. We did a number of upgrades and repairs while we had the boat and looked at doing a number more but decided it would make sense to purchase a newer boat that had what we wanted. The next boat was a Catalina 34C that enabled a number of amazing trips, including the Broughtons. Although we enjoyed sailing, it was a bit of a challenge with work schedules and the wind typically going the wrong direction.

Early retirement in 2017 had us moving to the Island and finding a place in Saltair. The plan was to continue sailing, with a long term goal of moving to power boat. Due to delayed renovations, we went to the Sidney boat show and found a Grand Banks 42 Europa that met our requirements. After a bit of discussion, we moved up. I have done a number of upgrades, including solar, lithium batteries, and a high output alternator. These changes have allowed us to sit for a number of days without using the generator. We have also done a trip to the Central Coast as far as Ocean Falls and around King Island. There are so many places to see and lots of historical places to visit.



Handbook Editor - Owen Thistle

Forum Moderator - Fiona Curthoys

Our boat is a Hanse 400 racer/cruiser sailboat. Though we live in the prairies we have the sea “in our blood”, having grown up around water, and descended from sea captains, shipwrights and fishermen.

We love making the boat our home in the summer, and enjoy all the challenges that entails. We especially like the physical and mental demands of travelling under sail and are always questioning, learning and improving our technique.

Of course another huge reward is the scenery of the coast and the wonderful animals and fellow humans we meet. We hope to see you out there in 2026!



Crowsnest Editor - Gord Coulman

I grew up sailing dinghies and small cruisers on Alberta lakes. A trip on the HMCS Oriole and a charter in the Southern Gulf Islands whet my appetite for cruising the Salish Sea. Just before retiring in 2020, I bought *Northern Comfort*, a Saturna 33 sailboat. Although family responsibilities keep us rooted in Alberta, my wife Laurie, our cat Squatchy, and I spend as much time as we can exploring the coast. We treasure the Ladysmith Yacht Club for the friendships we have made.



