



THE CROW'S NEST

LADYSMITH YACHT CLUB

EDITION: 2026-10 (October)



Photo (above): 27 August partial lunar eclipse, Princess Cove, by Mark Weir.

October is the time for walks through the rustling leaves, enjoying the autumn colours, and all things pumpkin spice. It is also a great time to attend some LYC social and educational events, and to reflect upon the wonderful summer that was. Fall will also bring some much-needed rain to the South Coast, hopefully putting out the remaining forest fires throughout BC.

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A few notes:

I have just learned that Martin Taillefer will be giving a fascinating glimpse into military oceanography on November 20th. Not only is Marty a top expert in this field, he and his wife Debbie keep a sailboat in the Ladysmith Marina. Don't miss it!

It is time to sign up for the fall social events, so the organizers can plan accurately. Also, it is never too early to renew your LYC membership.

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.

Upcoming LYC Events

- 1 October, Thursday, Owl's Nest, 11:30. 2027 Rendezvous Planning. Anyone interested in contributing to the 2027 cruising season are enthusiastically invited to attend!
- 3-4 October - Silva Bay Yacht Club Halo-Harvest cruise to Pirates Cove
- 16 October, Friday, Heart on the Hill, 6:30 for 7:00pm Canal Boating on the Canal du Midi presentation with Wine Tasting.
- 21 October - Executive Meeting
- 6 November, Friday, Cook's Night Out. Tentative location Casa Riva, 6:00pm, three course dinner, menu and details to follow. Cost \$45pp.
- 18 November - Executive Meeting
- 20 November, Friday, Heart on the Hill Presentation by Martin Taillefer, Chief Oceanographer, Canadian Forces
- 24 November - Special General Meeting (Zoom)
- 4 December - Christmas Party, Cottonwood Golf Course
- 16 December - Executive Meeting

Upcoming External Events

18 October: Dock Management Survey closes (see below)

25-26 November - Transport Canada Marine Shipping Cumulative Effects Workshop (at BCIT Vancouver Downtown Campus). Probability of free sandwiches: high.

Halo-Harvest Cruise

The Executive of the Silva Bay Yacht Club are pleased to welcome members of the Ladysmith Yacht Club on our Halo-Harvest cruise to Pirates Cove on deCourcy Island the weekend of October 3-4.



Photo: from Silva Bay Yacht Club

Organized activities include:

Saturday:

Pumpkin carving contest starting at 14:00 (bring your own pumpkin); judging at 18:30; prizes by SBYC around 16:30:

"bring your own protein" for the BBQ dinner & potluck dishes for appies, salads and desserts

Sunday:

Potluck breakfast followed by Halloween costume contest with prizes - judging at 12:00

Attendees are encouraged to sign up on the silvabayyachtclub.com website (About Us - Events). No need to sign in to the Site. Our Fleet Captain, David Corman will be in touch with all signed-up attendees to offer details of the weekend as they are available.

Survey - Opening engagement on dock management in southern Gulf Islands

This was forwarded to the LYC from the Council of BC Yacht Clubs:

“Good afternoon,

We wanted to share a recently launched public engagement opportunity that may be of interest to some of your organizations and networks.

The Province is seeking feedback on a draft Strategic Management Plan for private marine docks in the southern Gulf Islands and southeastern Vancouver Island.

The survey opened on September 3 and will remain open until October 18, 2026. More information, including a link to the survey, can be accessed through the announcement forwarded below.

Please feel free to share this opportunity with others who may be interested.

Best regards,

Coastal Marine Stewardship and Fisheries Branch

BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship”

The link to the feedback page is
[BC Gov News/Opening Engagement](#)

Workshop - South Coast BC Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping

This was forwarded to the LYC from the Council of BC Yacht Clubs:

“Hi everyone!

Transport Canada-Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping (CEMS) and the First Nations Fisheries Council of BC (FNFC) invite you to participate in the first workshop in the South Coast BC Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping Workshop Series.

This first workshop will focus on relationship-building and knowledge sharing between South Coast First Nations participants and marine industry representatives. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about one another's interests, priorities, experiences, and shared values related to marine vessel activity and stewardship, creating a foundation for future collaboration and mutual learning.”

Date: November 25–26, 2026

Location: BCIT Downtown Campus, Vancouver, BC

Format: Two-day in-person workshop (virtual participation available upon request)

Please see the attached invitation for additional information regarding the broader workshop series, workshop #1 objectives, registration information, travel and participation funding for First Nations, and registration details.

Register [here](#) or by using the QR code in the attached document.

Additional information regarding the workshop agenda and travel / participation funding opportunities for First Nation participants will be shared with registered participants closer to the event.

We look forward to welcoming you in November.

Questions may be directed to:

Paula Doucette (Transport Canada-CEMS): paula.doucette@tc.gc.ca

Lauren McNeilly (First Nations Fisheries Council of BC):

lauren@fnfisheriescouncil.ca



Photo: ship anchored in the Gulf Islands (photo by editor)

Book Review

Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time

Dava Sobel

This *New York Times* bestseller is a recommendation from Paul. It looks very interesting.



Photo: John Harrison (from Wikipedia)

From Wikipedia:

“John Harrison (3 April 1693 – 24 March 1776) was an English joiner and clockmaker who invented the marine chronometer, a long-sought device for solving the problem of how to calculate longitude while at sea.

Harrison's solution revolutionized navigation and greatly increased the safety of long-distance sea travel. The problem he solved had been considered so important following the Scilly naval disaster of 1707 that the British Parliament

was offering financial rewards of up to £20,000 (equivalent to £3.83 million in 2025) under the 1714 Longitude Act, though Harrison never received the full reward due to political rivalries.

He presented his first design in 1730, and worked over many years on improved designs, making several advances in time-keeping technology, finally turning to what were called sea watches. Harrison gained support from the Longitude Board in building and testing his designs. Towards the end of his life, he received recognition and a reward from Parliament.”

[Amazon.ca](#) \$23.99

Destination - Port Browning

Port Browning is a popular destination for LYC members because it is just a really nice place. Located on the southeast side of North Pender Island, the marina has undergone considerable improvement in recent years with the addition of hundreds of lineal feet of new fully serviced concrete docks.

Hamilton Cove is well sheltered from every direction but southeast, and the marina has a kind of floating breakwater to help with that direction as well. Once ashore, the mariner will find a cozy pub, a marina office/store, pool, kayak rentals, and a large green space and beach for walking. The pub has a nice outdoor deck overlooking the harbour.

A small shopping plaza is within an easy walk, which features a gas station/chandler, hardware store, grocery, cafe/bakery, BCLC, and a wonderful book store. The locals are friendly and relaxed; one of the gas station attendants cheerfully drove me back to the marina with my full diesel can.

On Saturdays, the more intrepid can walk or hitch-hike a few km to the community hall, where a farmers market is held.

At slack current, it is possible to take a dinghy or powerboat through the narrow Pender Canal between North and South Pender Islands, but sailboats can't go under the 27 foot bridge. There is a nice sandspit called Mortimer Spit for walking.

The shortest distance from Ladysmith is 31.8 NM, with plenty of nice places to stop along the way, such as Telegraph Harbour, Wallace Island, Ganges, Montague, and Winter Cove.



Photo: Hamilton Beach (editor).



Photo: Squatchy, and the view south east, before the marina expansion (editor).



Photo: Another south east view (editor).



Photo: view towards the pub (editor).

Recipe

Pumpkin Griddle Cakes

This recipe is from Laurie's archive. We haven't prepared it recently, so I don't have a photograph, but I remember it as being quite delicious, and of course in keeping with the season it has both pumpkin and spice. It is well-suited for preparation onboard; the dry ingredients can even be mixed in advance onshore.

Ingredients

- 1/2 tsp allspice
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 4 tbsp butter or oil
- 1/2 tsp salt (as you probably know, I never add salt)
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 1/2 cup milk
- 1 cup pumpkin (canned is easiest)
- 1 tbsp vanilla
- 2 1/2 to 3 cups flour (why this range? I need precision!)

Instructions

1. Combine dry ingredients in a bowl
2. Whisk eggs till frothy, then add milk, pumpkin, melted butter or oil, and vanilla. Whisk well.
3. Mix wet ingredients into dry mixture
4. Cook in a heated frying pan as you would pancakes. Well they are pancakes, aren't they?

Do you have a boating recipe to share? Include a photo if possible and send it to me: crowsnest@ladysmithyc.bc.ca

Technical - Why, outboard motor? Why are you doing this to me? Why? (sob...)

We have all been there. A yank on the cord - nothing. A half dozen yanks - still nothing. What's going on? It ran yesterday. A couple dozen more yanks - much swearing, threats, perhaps some pleas to various deities.

Outboard motors can be a huge source of frustration, and they can absorb copious amounts of cash to rectify their endless misbehaviour. It doesn't have to be this way. Short of buying a new-fangled electric outboard, there are a few things we can do to make our petulant metal friends more cooperative.

1. Lots of use. The more you run your outboard, the happier it is. An outboard that sits around too much is a magnet for evil spirits.
2. Clean fuel. Always use premium fuel. If possible, try to get an ethanol-free premium. Take care to ensure no contaminants (especially water) get into the fuel when transferring it.
3. Add Seafoam or fuel stabilizer, especially at end-of-season. Seafoam really is exorcist-level stuff. Give it a healthy glug or two - as you would rum for yourself.
4. When not in use, run the carburetor dry. Do this by shutting the fuel valve and running the motor until it quits.
5. At end-of-season, run the outboard in a bucket of fresh water to rinse the salt out. Don't engage the prop. Ask me how I know.
6. If the motor is a four-stroke, change the motor oil every year. Change the gear oil too.
7. Keep a spare spark plug, particularly if the motor is a two-stroke. Two-stroke means an extra dose of demons.
8. Make sure there is always a tell-tale of water present when the motor is running. The tell-tale is the small stream of water that shoots out to let you know that cooling water is circulating properly. If it stops, your motor might need a new impeller and it will likely overheat soon.
9. If you plan to leave the motor unused for a longer period (I know, who plans that?) do all of the above, plus drain the gas tank. Or just buy a new motor when you get back.

If you are someplace remote and the motor quits, you can take the carburetor apart and gently blow out the tiny orifices to clean them, or use a fine strand of copper wire (because copper is soft and won't damage the jet). Doing this in a pitching dinghy is not recommended, although I have done it!

On a trip a few years ago, my outboard was acting up so much that I called Parker Marine in Nanaimo to see if they had any new ones on hand. They actually brought one down to the dock and even stored my old one until I could pick it up at the end of the trip! While transferring the old motor to the dock, a little wave hit and the motor made a final effort to consign itself to the deep. The salesman and I managed to save it, so at least it didn't pollute the ocean. The old motor now sits in my garage, taunting me every time I walk by. Maybe one of these days I will take it apart again. Or not.



Image: generated via Gemini AI

LYC Member's Forum

If you have not already done so, please register to use the new Member's Forum. It might take a day or two, as Owen and Fiona might not see your request right away. Feel free to post anything related to boating or the club.

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!

