THE CROW'S NEST

LADYSMITH YACHT CLUB

EDITION: 2026-11 (November)



Photo: a rainy day at Lagoon Cove, West Cracroft Island, by Editor.

Ah, November. The time when Nature begins to replenish the water table after the half-year of summertime drought. We can reflect on the boating season that was, enjoy each other's company at LYC social events, and perhaps even sketch out some cruising ideas for next year. Boat show season is just around the corner too, starting with Toronto in mid-January.

- Upcoming LYC Events
- Upcoming External Events
- Canal du Midi
- Halo-Harvest Cruise
- Workshop - Cumulative Effects of Shipping
- Book Review - On the Triangle Run
- Destination - Prairie Lakes
- Recipe - Southwestern Chicken Chili
- Technical - What is this green stuff?
- LYC Member's Forum

A few notes:

A reminder 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 Commodore's Christmas Gala. Also, it is never too early to renew your LYC membership. Please consider filling one of the upcoming executive or committee lead positions for 2027.

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

Lest we forget,
Gord Coulman, Editor.



Photo: poppies at RCAF Park, Edmonton (by Editor).

Upcoming LYC Events

- 6 November, Friday, Cook's Night Out. Casa Riva, doors at 6:00pm, dinner at 6:30. The last date to RSVP was 29 October.
- 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 - Commodore's Christmas Gala at the Cottonwood Golf Course, doors at 6pm, dinner at 6:30. Live music. $60pp.
- 16 December - Executive Meeting

Upcoming External Events

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

Canal du Midi

The Canal du Midi event was a sparkling success! Many thanks to Carmen and Neil for the extensive preparation and superb presentation. For those who were unable to attend, there was a slide presentation on canal cruising in France, along with wine and charcuterie pairings from each of the regions. Amazing!



Photo: Marcy Horswill



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Photo: Marcy Horswill



Photo: Marcy Horswill

Halo-Harvest Cruise

In early October, the Silva Bay Yacht Club welcomed members of the Ladysmith Yacht Club on their Halo-Harvest cruise to Pirates Cove on deCourcy Island. Events included pumpkin carving, barbeque, potluck breakfast, and Halloween costume contest. Unfortunately, this event was a bit last-minute-ee, so I don't have any photos or witness accounts.



Photo: did the event look like this? Maybe… (image from Gemini AI)

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: container ship anchored off Newcastle Island (photo by editor)

Book Review

On the Triangle Run

James B. Lamb

November is a time of remembrance, which makes this book particularly topical.

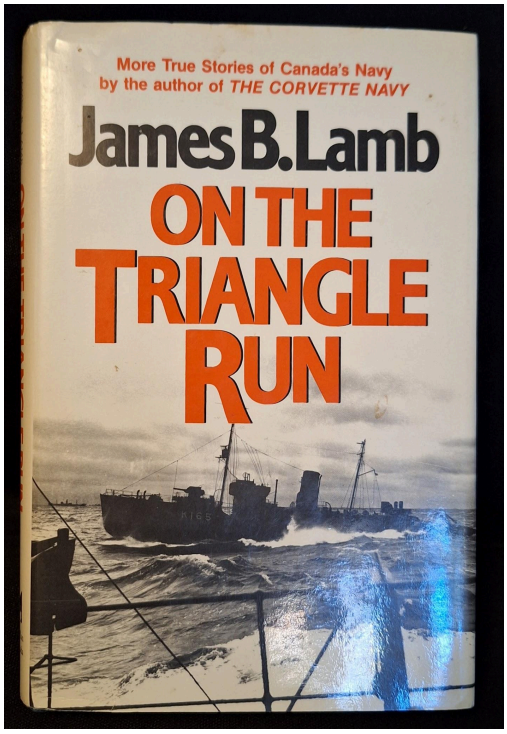


Photo: Editor

From the book inner jacket:

“Once again James Lamb, author of *The Corvette Navy*, brings us thrilling tales of the sea in wartime. *On the Triangle Run* takes us back to those terrible, exciting, stand-together years of the Second World War. Lamb, who commanded a minesweeper and a corvette, tells the story of our navy’s battles in the waters off Canada’s coasts.”

Bison Books (used): $7.60

Destination - Prairie Lakes

As you might know from previous editions of the *Crowsnest*, Laurie and I have been “confined to quarters” so to speak during 2025 because of family responsibilities. In late August, we made a break for it, managing a few days at the family cabin near Barrhead, Alberta. At the lake, we keep an Edel 540, a cute little day-sailer 5.4m long. The Edel hadn’t seen water for a couple of years, so it was a real treat to drop it in for a few days.

I know that many of you are displaced prairie dwellers, but for those who are not, here is what it's like sailing on a lake vs. the Salish Sea. By “lake” I mean the glacial potholes that dot Alberta and Saskatchewan, not the Great Lakes, which are really inland freshwater seas and have a completely different character. Our lake is aptly called Thunder Lake. At seven square km, you could neatly drop it into the inner harbour of Nanaimo and have a bit of room leftover.

Thunder Lake has a delightful shoreline, with many interesting inlets and islands inhabited by herons and a wide variety of other birds. The lake is only about 10m deep at best, and considerably shallower in many places, but adequate for the Edel’s fixed keel of about 76cm. Local knowledge is helpful, but the bottom is sand and gravel, so fairly forgiving. There must be a few fish, since there are often pelicans, but it is not really a lake for anglers. During busy summer weekends, there might be a couple of dozen power boats scattered about, but the rest of the time it is just the birds.

The good parts of lake sailing

- no tides, currents, or ocean swell to worry about
- if the weather is bad, we stay ashore
- very little growth accumulates on the hull
- the wind can be lively, but rarely too strong
- conducive to racing, if that is your thing
- no need for a dinghy, but a kayak is nice
- often spectacular prairie sunsets
- excellent weather radar coverage and accurate forecasts

The drawbacks of lake sailing

- short season, roughly May to September
- the same lake everyday. No cruises to far-away destinations (although a smaller boat can be easily trailered to other lakes)
- seldom a quaint pub overlooking the water
- prairie thunderstorms can be quite violent and scary. Need to keep a weather eye in the afternoon
- strong winds and shallow water can rapidly generate big, closely-spaced waves
- abundance of jetskis, inexperienced powerboaters, and boats with loud stereos in a fairly confined area. Some lakes more so than others
- no navigational aids or Coastguard radio (very few boats have radios)
- raising and lowering the mast (benefit: frequent inspection!)



Photo: Retrieving (by editor).



Photo: Laurie and Squatchy, enjoying the sunshine (by editor).



Photo: Not many boats today (by Laurie).

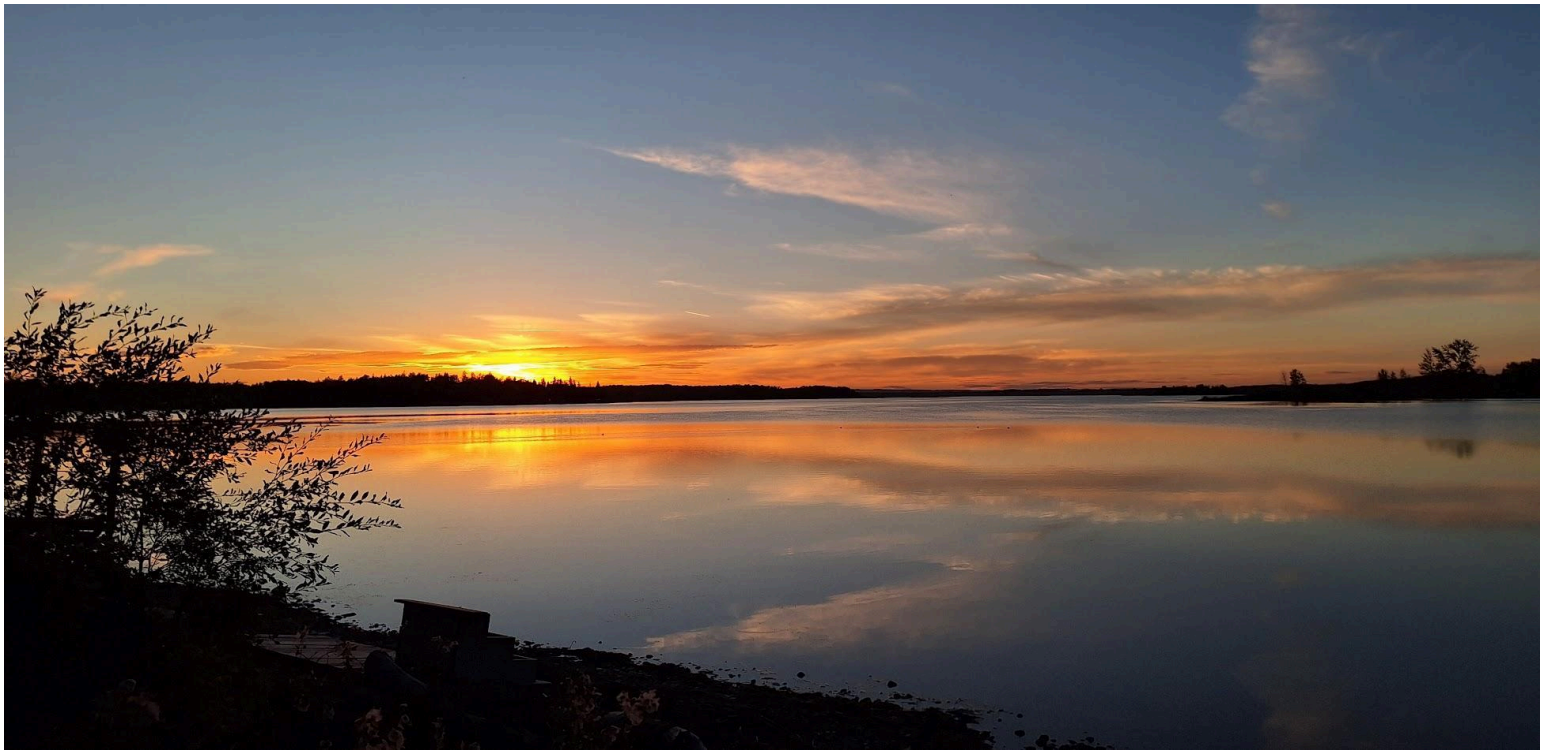


Photo: prairie sunset (by editor).



Photo: did I mention the short season? (by editor)

Recipe

Southwestern Chicken Chili

This is another recipe from Laurie's archive. I can attest that it is really good and quite easy to make. The leftovers make a great burrito filling.

This recipe is well suited to preparation in the morning and then storage for a few hours in the thermos pot. The thermos pot keeps it warm and it is instantly ready to eat for lunch or when we anchor later in the day. For a long day's sail, this is ideal.

Ingredients

- 1 can costco chicken chunks or texmex jackfruit, or two and a half pounds chicken breast
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 onions chopped
- 2 garlic cloves minced
- 3 tablespoons chili powder
- 2 teaspoons cumin
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 3 tablespoons coriander
- salt and pepper to taste
- 4 carrots sliced
- 3 stalk celery chopped
- 28 oz can tomatoes
- 3 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- one teaspoon sugar
- 12 oz can of corn kernels (mexican preferred)
- 14 oz can kidney beans
- 1 can chopped green chilis or one green pepper seeded and chopped

Instructions

1. Skin and bone the chicken. Cut into bite-size pieces.
2. In a dutch oven, brown the chicken in oil, add onions and garlic, then saute until onions are soft.
3. Add spices, stir for 3 minutes.
4. Add remaining ingredients and simmer for 45 minutes to an hour.
5. Pre-heat the thermos pot with boiling water, then use the hot water for the dishes.

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



Photo: created by Gemini AI

Technical - What is that green stuff growing on my boat?

Returning to my boat after a long absence can be frightening. What will I find? Mold? Algae? Moss? Blocked drains? Leaks? Otter poop? Clam shells? Blistered varnish? UV-shredded tarps? Frayed mooring lines? Despite my best efforts, probably all of the above.

To avoid overwhelming you, dear reader, I will tackle only a subset of these challenges this month: Algae. Here is what my web search (probably AI) has to say about it:

<start of robot voice>

The green stuff growing on your boat is algae (often mixed with moss, mold, or mildew if it is on the canvas or deck).

Why It Grows

- Moisture and Dampness: Winter rain, melting snow, and high humidity create a wet surface.
- Nutrients and Light: Even in cooler months, organic dust, pollen, and sunlight feed microscopic spores that settle on your hull, non-skid deck, or canvas top.
- Standing Water: Puddles left sitting on covered or uncovered sections accelerate growth.

How to Clean It

- Rinse Loose Growth: Use a garden hose with a spray nozzle to wash away loose surface debris. Avoid high-pressure washers on gelcoat or canvas as they can cause damage.
- Use Safe Cleaners: Scrub with a soft-to-medium bristle brush using a marine-grade boat soap, a mild vinegar-and-water solution, or specialized products like Boat Juice. For canvas tops, products like Fabri-Klean work

well. Avoid harsh household bleach where it can run off into local waterways.
- Protect the Surface: After cleaning and drying, apply a protective marine wax, ceramic sealant, or fabric guard (such as Canvas Shield) so future algae struggles to grip the surface.

<end of robot voice>

I think this is sensible advice overall, especially the bit about not using a pressure washer, unless you like leaky deck fittings.



Photo: created by Gemini AI, which apparently has a sense of humour. Should I be frightened by this? Probably.

Laurie's Cleaner

Laurie makes a safe cleaner that works particularly well, not only for algae, but for all inside and outside boat cleaning tasks. It is similar to the phosphate-free recipes within the Transport Canada *Safe Boating Guide*. Here is how to make it:

1 Cup vinegar
½ Cup lemon juice
1 Cup water
2 Tbsp Dawn dish soap. Blue seems best, we're not sure why.

Add all ingredients to a reusable spray bottle and shake a bit.



Photo: Northern Comfort enjoying the winter months. By Elaine Abbott.

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!

