

Presidents Report By Sted Garber

In spite of lots of snow outside (or perhaps because of), and some pretty good skiing I have found myself thinking about putting boats in the water and beginning to anticipate the absolute enjoyment of getting back to the cottage. Like many of you summer is my favorite season largely because it means being in Pointe au Baril and enjoying the many wonderful friends and the natural beauty that we all so appreciate. As usual your board has been busy this winter with many issues that we believe will have a positive impact on our community. I am privileged to work with such a committed and creative board and our many committee chairs.

GOVERNANCE

At last summer's Annual General Meeting [AGM] the membership approved a restructuring of PABIA's board of directors. We now have a smaller number of directors consisting of the various portfolio heads. These directors are ably assisted by the chairs of the committees within each portfolio. Your board has been busy this winter seeking to fill many of these committee chairs and I am pleased to mention the following volunteers who agreed to join in PaBIA's support of our community. Reid Bowlby - Sailing Commodore; Jack Marley - Marketing; Diane Penfold - Permanent Community Liaison; Louise Richardson - Sr. Regatta; and Faye White - Member Events. I believe your board's effort to reach out to our community and increase the breadth of PaBIA's management is working.

As a fine example of fresh thinking we anticipate that the AGM will be moved to a date earlier in the summer and will be preceded by a pancake breakfast for all members. We hope that this will allow more members to attend, provide a social gathering for our members and provide an important addition to the "regulars" who seem to attend year in and year out. We also are going to try to provide forward looking reports for everyone to consider rather than reports of past activities which in many cases have already been covered in the newsletter or elsewhere. We want to encourage the involvement and participation of all members, especially our younger ones and hope that you will mark your calendar to attend this year's AGM.

BOATING SAFETY AND COURTESY

This continues to be an important focus of your board. Based on comments from several PABIA members it seems that our community is paying more attention to safe and courteous operation of their watercraft. For instance I have noticed an increasing number of boats that slow to minimum wake speed when entering the station narrows. I make a point of doing this to avoid throwing a large wake when passing close aboard Desmasdon's docks and while many boats speed past, an increasing number seem to slow down. I was very pleased to see the no wake zone encouraged by the Ojibway Club last summer and encourage our members to consider their wakes when passing near any dock even if not marked. Please think about your wake as well when passing smaller craft and be aware of your speed when approaching blind corners in narrow channels. I cannot over stress the importance of using your running lights at night. I

have heard many members protest that their night vision is diminished when using running lights and I agree that it is; this is not a valid reason for breaking the law and making your boat invisible to approaching craft. Perhaps slowing down at night would offset the night vision problem and you might even have the time to enjoy seeing a shooting star. When I was young the boats we were allowed to drive at night couldn't go very fast and I think that limitation allowed me to gain a deeper appreciation for the beautiful night sky.

DUES

Your association has managed to avoid a dues increase for 10 years. This is in spite of increasing costs such as maintaining our channel markers to give just one example. Again this winter your board discussed the need for a dues increase and again it decided to maintain dues at the current level. I must say that this cannot continue indefinitely and that you should expect a dues increase in the not too distant future. Of course we will do our best to explain the immediate reasons for any increase.

WEBSITE

Many of our members may not be aware of the great PaBIA website at www.pabia.ca that is available to you. Among many other things you can see the complete list of the services that PABIA provides to its membership, who in our community is active in PABIA and a preview of next summer's calendar. There are also some great pictures as well as forum for on line discussions. Your web masters Ed Garner and David Anderson have put a great deal of effort into this and I would encourage you to visit it.

I look forward to seeing you next summer and encourage your feedback either by email or in person. Your board is trying to make PaBIA's activities more visible to our members and I would always welcome your assessment of how we are doing.