From the Commander’s Log
By Commander Eardley Beaton

When the Nominating Committee approached me to be Commander for the next year, I was honoured to consider it after twenty-six years being a member of VPSS and having served in Program, Newsletter, Class Chair/Proctor and Public Relations positions. As the birthdays pile up I couldn’t help think of that country song, “I’m not as good as I once was, but I will be good once as I ever was.” Let’s hope so as we have fun together in our quest to make boaters safe on the water.

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Upcoming Events (see also Cruises on page 9)

• June 18 - Student Graduation
  Let’s fill the place and give a warm welcome to the newest Vancouver Power and Sail Squadron members. We’ll also be treated to a short, timely presentation on Diver Safety from the knowledgeable folks at Skookum Yacht Services on Granville Island.

• September 17 - Squadron Night
  By popular demand, the ever-personable Jeff Coté will tell us what we need to know about electrical systems. Bring a pen and paper, or your Notepad – his presentation is not to be missed.

• September 15 - Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup (see page 12)
  Past, current and incoming Power Squadron members are all welcome at Squadron Nights, held at the False Creek Yacht Club on the north shore of False Creek under the Granville Street Bridge. The doors open at 7:00 pm, the event begins at 7:30 pm, and the cost is only $5.00 per person. We look forward to seeing you there!
Past Commander Bill Stewart and all the Bridge members and the Training group led by STO Glen Hodgkinson are to be congratulated for a job very well done this past year. There are so many wonderful people in the CPS organization that it makes one want to be a part of it all. Our Squadron goes back to 1955, so you can imagine the terrific dedication of all the past members…..we just have to stay the course but keep a lookout for constant changes.

One objective that I name is “Speak to the Members,” where we reach out to make sure we are doing what the members want. With over 700 members, I feel there are some that may now have the time to assist on the Bridge positions or get involved with Training. This may be only as a back-up mentoring assistance for a term or as a volunteer on a “one-time” basis at one of our many events. If you like what you see, then you could get more involved. But, it doesn’t have to be a “sentence.” Give me a call to discuss what you wish to do.

The Squadron has been very active in the past month, especially with the Kits Coast Guard issue that brought us exposure by speaking on CBC-TV and Radio, CKWX, City TV, Globe and Mail, etc. Hopefully, a sensible solution will be worked out.

We have taken training for the Courtesy Check program, and several members have been checking boats; we’ve been involved with “Ready-Set-Wear-it” Life Preservers for Safe Boating Week and a Cruise to Bowen. Coming up there’s the Keats Island Rendezvous and False Creek Raft-ups, and a Stag Cruise for the men. We encourage our women boaters to take a look at the Women’s Survey and potential Seminar by Blue Water Cruising below. Then there’s the Wooden Boat Festival, Lawn Sign Program, Shoreline Clean-up, etc. We are excited about the Fall Boating Courses, and Glen has a big Planning Meeting in June. This is followed by our exciting Student Grad party June 18 with PMD Officers in attendance. Read all about the many events elsewhere in the Masthead. Come and enjoy!

Eardley Beaton
beatonsbeat@shaw.ca

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Ahoy, women boaters!

Your opinion is valuable! We want your thoughts about a new women's boating seminar in Victoria. Please fill in this short survey by June 30, 2012 – you might even win a $50 West Marine gift certificate. We'd like as much input as possible, so please pass this link on to other women boaters.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VDFJVWGZ

Thanks from the WOW (Women on Water) committee.

PS Men: Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to forward this link to the women boaters in your life. Many thanks!

Janice Hayward
SV Ta Daa
AGM and COW

District Representative PMD Commander Nancy Gibson swearing in new VPSS Commander Eardley Beaton, while outgoing VPSS Commander Bill Stewart stands by.

Nancy Gibson, Barbara Constantine (VPSS Program Officer) and Bill Stewart.

The new Bridge...

Glen Hodgkinson, VPSS Training Officer, presenting his report

Photos courtesy of Dennis Steeves
# Merit Marks Presented at the AGM COW

The following people, who have contributed more than 20 hours to the Squadron in the 2011-2012 season, have been awarded a Merit Mark and Certificate. The number of years each has been volunteering is also listed below. Congratulations to all of you and thank you for your continuing commitment and generous support. In the words of Winston Churchill, “We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.”

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<td>Sylvia Steede</td>
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<td>Peter Bennett</td>
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<td>Dennis Steeves</td>
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In the words of Winston Churchill, “We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.”
Bowen Island Cruise Highlights

We had a great turnout for the first cruise of the season – to Snug Cove – seven boats and a total of 16 people. The sun agreed to shine and we were able to sit along the dock, relaxing, drinking and chatting, blessed with fabulous food, including three wonderful desserts and a very fresh crab dip, good conversation and amazing music – piping by Doug Puddifant to start things off, and later guitar playing and singing by Ted Kent. Here’s to a wonderful summer of cruising and safe boating – hope to see a good crowd at the Keats Island Rendez-vous in August (18-19).

Lois MacDonald
Cruisemaster, VPSS

After Jerry and Nancy Powers did informative safety checks on several of the boats, it was time for everyone to get together on the dock to enjoy the sunshine.

Ted Kent singing and playing guitar.

Doug Puddifant playing the small pipes.

Photos courtesy of Dennis Steeves and Barbara Constantine.

continued...
New Commander Eardley Beaton and his wife Etheleen returning to Vancouver.

The sun came out and so did the deck chairs.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mustang Survival and Industry Partners Help Set World Record at Ready, Set, Wear It! Event

May 23, 2012 (Burnaby, BC) – Mustang Survival, along with key marine industry partners, took part in the third annual National Ready, Set, Wear It! Event on Saturday May 19, 2012. Participants in cities around the world gathered to set another world record for the most personal flotation devices (PFDs) and life jackets worn or inflated in one day.

The goal of this year’s event was not only to surpass the 1,685 entrants from last year but also to promote the comfortable and versatile PFD and life jacket options available. The event also kicked off National Safe Boating Awareness Week (May 19 - 25). Other participants across North America hosted Ready, Set, Wear It! events to collectively beat last year’s record.

“This is the third year we’ve partnered with industry marine associations for the Ready, Set, Wear It! event and the turnout gets better year after year,” comments Rick Cassels, Mustang Survival’s Major Accounts Manager and long time marine safety advocate, “I always say the best personal flotation device out there is the one you wear. This fun and engaging event not only promotes safety on the water, but provides a prime venue for anyone interested in learning more about PFDs and life jackets to try one on and see how comfortable and easy they are to use.”

One lucky participant also won a Mustang Survival PFD family prize pack which included two Mustang Survival M.I.T. 35 Inflatable PFDs and two Classic kids’ vests.

This year’s participating partners in Vancouver, BC, included:
Canadian Coast Guard
Canadian Power & Sail Squadron
Canadian Safe Boating Council
Smart Boater
Transport Canada
Vancouver Marine Police Department

Learn more about inflatables and how to choose one that fits you and your water activity needs at www.mustangsurvival.com

See the latest results worldwide for the Ready, Set, Wear It! events at www.readysetwearit.com

About Mustang Survival

Mustang Survival has been providing lifesaving solutions for over 45 years. Through constant innovation and application of new technologies, Mustang Survival is the leading supplier of quality flotation and hypothermia protection products to the most demanding users – from fishermen, sailors and commercial mariners to water rescue professionals, the coast guard, fighter pilots and even shuttle astronauts.

Mustang Survival. We save lives for a living.

Contact:
Cindy Cheung, Marketing Services Manager
Phone: 1 800 526 0532
Email: media@mustangsurvival.com
Ready, Set, Wear It! Event, Saturday, May 19

**MAREP** (Marine Information Reporting)

1. Monthly notices to Mariner’s may be obtained through the Canadian Coastguard.
2. CCG, as of April 1, 2013, is offering publications in digital format, which include list of lights, radio aids and fog signals. To view, go to [www.notmargc.ca](http://www.notmargc.ca). Safe Boating Guide now discontinued (hard copy).
3. Pacific Blasting now provide marine flare recycling. Collection depots are at their office: 3183 Norland Avenue, Burnaby. Call: 604-205-6890 (Mark). [www.pacificblasting.com/contact.html](http://www.pacificblasting.com/contact.html)

John Cartmel  
VPSS
Cruisemaster’s Corner
by Cruisemaster Lois MacDonald at cruisemaster@vpsboat.com

UPCOMING CRUISES

Monday, July 16: Raft-Up & Potluck

Raft-up in False Creek near Spruce Harbour Marina
Informal – meet anytime after 1730 with your favourite appy.

NB: Please watch website for details as the date may change to July 23.

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Saturday & Sunday, August 18-19: Rendez-vous Weekend to Keats Island

Plumper Cover, Keats Island. Please arrive by 1200 on the Saturday -- watch website for details -- there may be a theme developing!

For further information, please contact Lois MacDonald at cruisemaster@vpsboat.com
A new weekly boating feature called “Lat & Long – Boating Adventures on the BC Coast” – was launched in the May 20 edition of the Province newspaper.

The writers will be boating throughout the spring and summer in a 17-foot Hourston Glascraft (built in 1983 in North Vancouver). They plan to spend 24 hours in each port and showcase the coastal lifestyle. The first two articles cover boating for all budgets, and a cruise to Miner’s Bay on Mayne Island. The inaugural column strongly encouraged readers to join a boating club.

Barbara Constantine
Programs Officer, VPSS

The Laws of Boating

• Any tool, when dropped, will immediately bounce off the deck and into the water.
• The probability of being seen is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.
• After you start changing the oil, your nose will begin to itch.
• As soon as you have the fuel dock lined up, you'll get hit by a wake.
• The probability of someone you know wanting to raft up increases dramatically if you just stopped for a quiet afternoon.
• When you finally get the mechanic down to your boat to show him what won't work, it will.
• If your boat needs 1.5 metres of water, the only spot left on the dock will have 1m of water.
• The boat immediately upwind will start a generator as soon as you have your plates of food ready.
• As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, something will need attention until the coffee is cold.
• The chances of a red wine spill hitting fabric upholstery is in direct proportion to how new and expensive it is.
• The quieter the anchorage, the greater the chances that someone will be playing loud music.
• If the boat shoe fits, it's too expensive.
• As soon as your boat is old enough to start replacing parts, you will discover they no longer make them.

(From The Coastal Watcher, Number 50, 2012)
Wooden Boat Festival

Basking in the Sun in One of the World's Premier Destination Spots! It can all be yours during this year's Wooden Boat Festival which runs from August 23-26 on Granville Island.

We're looking for volunteers to help out at our CPS booth.

The festival runs from 10 am to 5 pm (Thursday through Sunday inclusive) and a typical shift lasts about three hours.

We'll do the heavy lifting, setting up the display as well as providing the paper and electronic material for the public (we'll even kick in the comfy chairs).

In return, between time spent sipping a fresh-roasted espresso and gazing wistfully at some of the finest wooden yachts on the coast, you get to extol the virtues of our wonderful boating education courses. What at deal!

Please contact Paul Heeney at paulheeney@shaw.ca or Eardley Beaton at beatonsbeat@shaw.ca to reserve a space.

Kits Coast Guard Station

The announced closure of the Coast Guard Station in Kits (False Creek) has been receiving a lot of attention in the media and Commander Beaton and Past Commander Mercer have done many media interviews. While the government has announced a new Royal Marine Search and Rescue vessel in Horseshoe Bay and a new hovercraft at Vancouver Airport, concern is still being expressed about potential slow response in the absence of the Kits Coast Guard Station. Much more will be heard about this in the next couple of years until the government either convinces mariners with a plan that demonstrates immediate response can still be accomplished or until the Kits Station decision is reversed (as it was once before in 1992).

For those of you who have not heard, the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary was renamed Royal Marine Search and Rescue about the same time as the announcement of the new vessel for them in Horseshoe Bay.

The other important theme that was in some of the media interviews is how proper training would eliminate many of the emergencies that require rescue as boaters embrace safer practices on the water and can navigate and that the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons in the Vancouver area are there just for that purpose! That is of course the teaching of safe boating.

In The Globe and Mail, May 18, 2012, "Eardley Beaton, commander of the non-profit Vancouver Power Squadron which teaches boating courses, predicted a ‘really serious’ impact on response times in the False Creek area that is jammed with recreational boaters. ‘This not being here?’ he said, nodding to the station. ‘It's sort of the whole basis of boaters in False Creek.’ He said he has seen boaters there from around the world. Sail boaters come into here and into Granville Island, False Creek. If something happens, it's nice to know the Coast Guard is here, and now it won't be."

Don Mercer, Past Commander, VPSS
Eardley Beaton, Commander, VPSS
Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup 2012
Volunteers required!

Come out rain or shine!

Well, it's that time of year again -- we need volunteers to participate in the annual Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. I encourage all our Squadron members and their families and friends to pitch in. It’s a fun and worthwhile event where you will meet new friends, climb over rocks and kick sand with your booties, and perhaps gain bragging rights over the most unusual item found.

Wear shoes or boots with grip and support, since you will be walking over rocks and uneven terrain; bring rain gear in case of inclement weather. We will supply such equipment as latex gloves, garbage bags, sharps containers, and pencils and clipboards for recording your results. We have a limited supply of tongs to pick up the garbage, so if you have your own please bring them.

We will supply coffee and refreshments. Bring a lunch if you want to stay and picnic at the beach afterward.

Thank you, and see you there!

When: Saturday, September 15, 2012
Where: Vanier Park boat ramp

Starts from the shoreline by the Coast Guard station to the end of the “dog beach” on the side of the spit that houses the boat collection at the Maritime Museum.

Registration and orientation is at 0930 hrs. The cleanup is from 1000 to 1500 hrs. Come to the parking lot near the Coast Guard station between the Bard on the Beach tents and the boat-launch ramps. There will be a table set up with signs proclaiming “Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup.”

For more information, contact Bill Blancard (VPSS Environment Officer) at 604-931-5153 or email GoneFishin2@Telus.net.

A brief history ...
The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup is part of the International Coastal Cleanup, held each September. Two staff members of the Vancouver Aquarium began this cleanup in 1994, and it has grown ever since, expanding nationally.

Since 2003 there have been cleanups in every province and territory across Canada. Together we have removed 15,237 bags of litter from over 3,100 km of shoreline across Canada. That weight is equivalent to 72 Steller sea lions, and that distance is the equivalent of driving from Montreal to Saskatoon.

The top five litter items:

- 351,238 cigarette butts
- 110,018 food wrappers
- 71,200 plastic bags
- 65,220 caps or lids
- 39,308 plastic beverage bottles