

1987: THE PINNACLE YEAR



1987 dawned as a typical year for the club. However as the year progressed it was anything but typical. As Charles Dickens once wrote: "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." Two things happened that year which transformed the club.

CYA Sail West Regatta

The first significant event was the hosting of the CYA Sail West Regatta. There were 13 months of planning, thousands of hours of work by over 75 club members, 169 boats with 284 competitors, eight classes

of boats, 10 championships including two North American and three Canadian Nationals in eight days of racing at a budget of over \$45,000. Sailors attended from as far away as South Africa, Puerto Rico, New Mexico and California.


With 27 years of racing experience and facility development, the club tackled its largest regatta in its history. The club members also became adept at learning how to qualify for government funds for provincial sports events.

Besides hosting the event, the club obtained funding for a new barge, Boston Whaler and a multitude of race management equipment.

Everything about this event made all past events pale in comparison. Bill Russell, the Regatta Chairman, commented later that he had no idea what he was getting into when he agreed to take the position!

(LEFT) BILL RUSSELL, SAIL WEST REGATTA CHAIRMAN, welcomes the competitors at the skipper's meeting. *Photo by Robert Rose*

(RIGHT) WITH KLAUS GRUEBER'S LEAD, THE NEW BARGE TAKES TO THE WATER while the old barge is still in service. Sail West ran multiple courses simultaneously so the club needed two starting barges. *Photo by Robert Rose*


FACTOID

- During the Sail West Regatta, the club also hosted race management and judging training courses led by Bill Cheek and Leo Reise of CYA. After the event, there were more CYA qualified race officers and judges in the club than at any other time in its history.



THE CLUB DEVELOPED AND BUILT THEIR OWN MARKS FOR THE REGATTA. These designs are still used today. Roy Tichkowsky recalls building the starting pins and adding exactly 28 pounds of sand to each of them!
Photo by Robert Rose



KLAUS GRUEBER WAS RACE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. *Photo by Robert Rose*

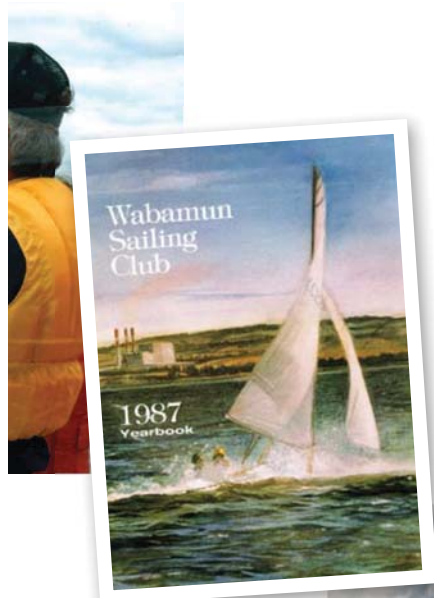


JAY MANN, JOHN EDMUNDS AND FRED HADLEY TAKE OUT THE NEW BOSTON WHALER FOR THE FIRST TIME.
Photo by Robert Rose

EVENTS:

<u>Fleet</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Laser	North Americans	July 8-11
SeaSpray	North Americans	July 8-10
Enterprise	Nationals	July 4-7
Fireball	Nationals	July 4-7
Laser Master	Nationals	July 8-11
Laser II	West. Canadians	July 8-11
Mistral:		
Superlite/SST	West. Canadians	July 4-6
Cruiser P.H.R.F.	Sailwest	July 4-5
Hobie 16	Sailwest	July 4-5

THE 1987 SAIL WEST SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



THE SAIL WEST PAINTING WAS USED FOR THE COVER OF THE 1987 YEARBOOK. The painting was made from a photo of Bill and Kate Russell on a Sea Spray.

Premier sports artist, Steven Csorba, Canada's artist at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, was commissioned to create an original painting depicting the sport of sailing. Framed, signed, limited edition prints of this painting were awarded in all classes as well as to all the club members who made major contributions to the regatta organization.

And so, by the end of the event, with the speeches all made, the trophies all awarded, the bills all paid, and the peanuts all eaten, the entire club felt pretty darn good about what they had achieved.

AFTER SAIL WEST, THE CLUB RETIRED THE OLD BARGE. Ken Anderson, the commodore, lowers the club burgee for the last time. *Photo by Robert Rose*



Changing of the Times

The second event in 1987 was just as momentous but not in a positive manner. Since the purchase of the land from George Prudham in 1966, the club had actually been squatting on County of Parkland property for the west 100 foot strip. The club decided to enquire about purchasing the land. To the horror of the executive, the county took the opposite approach and decided to turn the land into a park and requested the club to vacate it.

A number of political attempts were made to alter the decision of the county council. Ross Cheriton and Ken Smith led a team which met with the council but they were unsuccessful. After Sail West, the club was required to vacate the land.

A committee, led by Bob Drew and Peter Williamson, skillfully reviewed all the existing land use and miraculously found a way to accommodate all the members' boats. It was a tight fit but everyone still had a spot.




To come off the success of Sail West and launch into this change was a big shock to the membership. Members talked about it for years afterwards.

One factor that allowed the club to accommodate all the members' boats on the smaller property was the reduction in membership numbers. The club peaked in membership in 1984 and 1985. In Roy Tichkowsky's 1984 annual membership report, there were 109 active members and a total of 391 men, women and children. After 1985, the membership numbers steadily declined. In 1988 there were only 75 active members.

Another chapter in the club's history that ended in 1987 was the Down the Lake Races with EYC. With a major decline in small boats at EYC, interest in the race had disappeared. As an alternative, our club introduced its own Long Distance Race.

ONE OF THE CLASSIC MID 1970S Down the Lake Race with a beautiful wind from the West. Photo from the WSC archives


FACTOID

- Bob Hurlburt, one of the founding members of the club, and a dedicated Flying Dutchman sailor, had been one of the lead organizers of the Down the Lake Races since its inception in 1957 by RCNSA. Every year Bob would personally donate the keeper trophies for the east to west leg of the event. Bob, along with Dan Sorochan, was chosen as one of the first honorary life members of the club in 1978.