



# THE WATER LINE

Volume 46 / Winter 2009

A Voice For Recreational Boaters In Ontario

## CBA ONTARIO LAUNCHES TAX PIRATE THEME AT THE 2009 TORONTO BOAT SHOW



there with a municipal tax for marinas in the Toronto Harbour!)

For too long, the provinces and feds have taken tax revenue from the marine industry for granted and invest little (or none) of it back into boating infrastructure.

Recent surveys show Canadian recreational boating is a \$20 billion industry and half the jobs created are here in Ontario. If you are spending a weekend, a two-week vacation or the summer on your boat, you are most likely spending all your leisure money locally and putting it back into our economy as opposed to vacationing outside Canada.

Unfortunately, we do not have the same legislation in place as the State of Michigan, where it is mandatory that all tax revenues from marinas must be reinvested. As a result, you have over 100 municipally funded marinas with state-of-the-art facilities, including launching ramps for trailer boaters. Here in Canada we face a potential shortage of both seasonal, transient slips and boat launch ramps as more prime

waterfront land is acquired for private residences, condos and time shares.

While the province of Ontario invests millions in snowmobile trails to promote winter tourism and to keep snowmobilers from going to Quebec or the northern states, boating sites on the Trent-Severn Waterway and Georgian Bay have all but disappeared, or are simply falling apart. Back in the '70s and early '80s there was a network of overnight boating sites maintained by the Ministry of Natural Resources that provided excellent docking and kept boaters away from tying up in front of someone's cottage. As a last-ditch effort to save these sites, the CBA suggested a nightly fee, but that did not change the minds of

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If you drop by the CBA booth this year, you will notice two gas pumps as part of our display. There will also be a PowerPoint presentation detailing **the millions of tax dollars collected by the federal and provincial governments at our marinas every season.** (Please do not tell Toronto's Mayor David Miller about this tax grab as he will be right

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# CBA ONTARIO LAUNCHES TAX PIRATE THEME



*A share of our gas taxes should be re-invested into the boating infrastructure*

Ontario's MNR. As an example, look at provincial parks on the water, like Killbear, that want boaters to put a fee in an envelope if they come to shore, but offer no docks or safe tie up facilities. There are shower facilities, but boaters are tacitly discouraged from using them.

At the federal level, we have seen the removal of many navigation aids, lack of infrastructure spending on the Trent-Severn Waterway and outside channel up Georgian Bay, which is funded by the GBA along with donations from groups like the CBA. There is no excuse for Canada's Coast Guard to not fund these from

their own budget, especially since the outside route takes more traffic away from the small craft route, reducing shoreline damage from boat wakes. Look at the fees we now have to pay to use the Welland Canal!

Professional lobbyist, Tony Bernardo, has advised us that demanding the provinces and federal government re-invest a share of the gas taxes back into boating infrastructure is not impossible, provided it is pursued properly and presented to the appropriate ministers (not middle-management civil servants, who are only interested in building empires and do no more work

than they have to).

When you drop by our booth at the boat show we will be encouraging everyone to send a letter to both their provincial and federal MPs and copy others. Letters will be available at the booth and **there is no cost to you. There is also no postage necessary when sending a letter to your MP.** Did you know MP or MPPs must respond to all written correspondence? Did you know most e-mails are simply deleted?

These efforts are important to the future of Canadian boating. In January (once we know who is in charge in Ottawa), the next budget will be introduced and will likely contain billions of dollars in infrastructure funding. **We need to see our fair share of this money invested in our recreational waterways and lakes.** Aids to navigation, overnight boating sites, Georgian Bay Islands National Park, Thousand Islands National Park, the Trent-Severn Waterway and the Rideau Canal are just a few areas that badly need upgrades and repairs.

If you know of any public facilities in need of repair or improvements, please send us the information and we will pass it on to the right person in Ottawa, including Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, who will have the final decision on where the money goes. You can also go to the CBA Ontario website and see a list of Federal MPs and Provincial MPPS to contact.

**We are counting on everyone's support to make this happen. This might be an uphill battle, but we are prepared to fight for the rights of boaters!**

If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to call me at (905) 717-0884 or contact me by e-mail at [erniewilliams@sympatico](mailto:erniewilliams@sympatico)

## LONG WEEKEND INCIDENT IN SPIDER BAY

*Editor's note: Relationships between boaters and the cottage community have much improved over the last five years or so. Sadly, life is not perfect. The following should be a reminder that some cottage owners don't fully understand that they do not own the waterways. Specifically, Spider Bay may prove to be a safety threat based on the article featured below, which is a first-person account of the experience of the cruisers involved in an incident in the Spider Bay Anchorage on the 2008 August Long Weekend.*

**O**ur boat, the *Malteazer* was anchored and rafted with another boat, *Corsair*, enjoying a peaceful day at Spider Bay when we were suddenly interrupted by a watercraft driven by a young man. The driver started to circle the two boats several times at a fast speed, coming within 15 feet of the two boats. A couple of the ladies were swimming in the water at the time and we were becoming concerned about safety.

The captain of the *Malteazer* waved to the young man and raised his arms in a questioning gesture wanting to find out what was taking place and why the sudden disturbance to our quiet afternoon. The young man approached the two boats and told us

that his family had owned the cottage on Haggis Island for over 60 years and we were not welcome in the bay. Our boats were anchored in the middle of the bay and we felt that we had not disrupted anyone as there was not a building in sight.

The young man was informed that we were going to call the police if he continued to circle our boats. He told us to go ahead and he would deny his actions. We did place a call to the OPP, who arrived three to four hours later as they had to attend to another incident.

The police took our report and then went to talk to the occupants of the cottage. We then saw the police boat approach a sail boat that was also anchored in the bay and then they headed back to the cottage. About an hour later, the officers returned to our boats and told us the owners of the cottage had been cautioned and that we had little to worry about and to enjoy the rest of our weekend.

Well, shortly after that, a Boston Whaler type of watercraft zoomed by the boats a couple of times and then all was quiet for the night. I know that none of the occupants of our two boats slept very well that night as we were expecting some sort of retribution.

The following morning, as we were setting the *Corsair* free of our boat, two Boston Whalers drove by the boats creating a wake. These boats had several people on board and they seemed to be going around and



*Cottage on Haggis Island*

around Haggis Island while we were trying to set the anchors free. They were moving quite fast and creating a wake thus harassing us again.

Spider Bay is a designated anchorage and we have been there several times without incident. There are quite a few campsites and some abandoned mines around the bay. We were not creating any noise to disturb the occupants of the cottage; we did not even run our generators for any great length of time. It was very upsetting and we could not understand why we were being harassed.

The officers did not give us a copy of the incident report and may not have filed one, but I am certain that the 911 call will be logged.

**SAVE 10% ON  
YOUR BOAT  
INSURANCE!**

Visit  
**[cbaontario.com](http://cbaontario.com)**  
for details.

## CBA UPCOMING EVENTS

### CBA Booth at the Toronto International Boat Show

If you are planning on going to the boat show, please take a moment to drop by the CBA booth (#1860), which is located on the south wall directly across from Bombardier –Johnson/Evinrude display. You can also renew your 2009 membership at the same time. If you are interested in volunteering to help out any time during the show, please call Diane Guite at (877) 671-6147 or Ernie Williams at (905) 717-0884

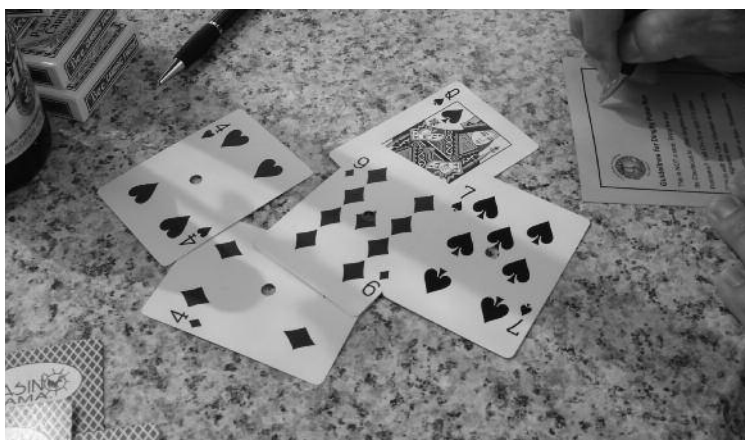


### 2009 CBA DINGHY POKER RUN SET

Saturday, June 20, 2009  
Delawana Inn, Honey Harbour

You can sign up for the 2009 CBA Dinghy Poker Run at the boat show. Do not forget, this event is open to PWCs as well as inflatables of all sizes and horsepower. Each passenger or guest can also enter individually.

The more entries, the bigger the prize pool!!!



### OTHER EVENTS

January 16 to 25, 2009  
**Cleveland Boat & Waterfront Lifestyle Expo**  
I-X Center, Cleveland OH

January 29 to February 2, 2009  
**Montreal Boat & Water Sports Show**  
Place Bonaventure, Montreal QC

February 12 to 16, 2009  
**Miami International Boat Show**  
Miami Beach Convention Center, Miami FL

February 14 to 22, 2009  
**Detroit Boat Show**  
Cabo Center, Detroit MI

February 20 to 22, 2009  
**London Boat, Fishing & Leisure Show**  
Western Fair Grounds, London ON

February 26 to March 1, 2009  
**Ottawa Boat, Sportsmen's & Cottage Show**  
Lansdowne Park, Ottawa ON

March 18 to 22, 2009  
**Toronto Sportsmen's Show**  
Direct Energy Centre (Exhibition Place), Toronto ON

For "Boat Shows in 2009 anywhere in the world, Google search "World Wide Boat Shows."

The CBA is operated primarily by volunteers, so to ensure that your questions or concerns will be addressed please EMAIL the CBA as emails are our primary method of communication.

[info@canadianboatersalliance.ca](mailto:info@canadianboatersalliance.ca)

Be sure to check out our new website at [www.cbaontario.com](http://www.cbaontario.com)

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