



Heritage Luncheons – 125 Years of Sailing on Burlington Bay

In 2013 the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club will be celebrating its 125 anniversary. In honour of that great event, four Heritage Luncheons are planned to explore the development of sailing on Burlington Bay, and the part that RHYC has played in that eventful history. Members of the public and all interested sailors, as well as members of RHYC, are invited to attend these presentations.

Speakers at these luncheons will be C&C Yachts Alumnus Rob Mazza, and RHYC Archivist Colin Jacobs.

The first Luncheon, scheduled for Sunday, February 3rd, will explore the development of Yachting on the Bay in the 1870s and 80s, and the position of Hamilton as one of the leading yachting centers on Lake Ontario and in Canada, leading to the establishment of what would become the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club in 1888. Some rare and recently discovered photos from the estate of AEmilus Jarvis will be shown, and the evolution of yacht design from British Cutters and American Sloops prior to the First World War will be discussed.



The second Luncheon, scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd will focus on significant Yachtsmen of the early 20th Century from the Hamilton area, with one such sailor receiving special recognition.

The third Luncheon on Saturday, April 27th will be a Celebration and Reunion of the 6 Metre fleet of RHYC and Lake Ontario from the 1950s and 1960s. The 6 Metre fleet on Lake Ontario represented the highest level of racing on the lake after WWII, with classic boats like Merenneito, Circe, Goose, Totem, Titia, Bibis, Buzzy, Gallant, Johan of Rhu, Fun, and many others representing the zenith of competitive yacht design, sailed by such great skippers as Skip Doyle, Tim Nelson, Jim Crang, Dick Scott, Denny Draper, Judge Morrison, Cliff Lunt, Jerry Castle, Hugh Brown, Reg Dixon and too many others to mention. There will be several surviving members from that fleet in attendance, as well as children and grandchildren who grew up around those incredibly good looking boats which rested at the mooring off the old RHYC clubhouse. This will be a great opportunity to relive those days and to honour the people who made it all happen.



The fourth Heritage event is currently scheduled to take place at the RHYC Shellbacks luncheon on Thursday, May 2nd and will include a guided tour of some of the half models on display at the club, most notably the Comm. Malloch models on the west wall in the Evergreen Lounge. Indeed, all these Heritage events will be modeled on the casual ambiance of Shellbacks luncheons.

There will be no charge for attending, but there will be a modest charge for a buffet lunch available at noon for those who want to partake, with the presentations taking place after lunch. Seating will be limited, so please contact Robyn Pahl, Event Coordinator, Royal Hamilton Yacht Club at 905-528-8464, Ext 228 or at dining@rhyc.ca to reserve a place at each or all of these Luncheons. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the history of sailing on Hamilton Harbour, the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club, and to gam with fellow sailors.

For more information about these events contact Rob Mazza at robertlmazza@gmail.com

[The Royal Hamilton Yacht Club 555 Bay Street North Hamilton ON L8L 1H1](#)