

# Power and Sail Squadron Marks 50 Years

*by Jane Barry, The Greater Saint John Community Foundation*

The Kennebecasis Power and Sail Squadron (KPSS) is a volunteer group of 248 who contribute to public safety on the waters of our community for power and sail boaters. It represents part of the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron, (CPS) a 41,000 member group founded in 1938 and organized into 162 Squadrons across Canada. Their mission is to increase awareness and knowledge of safe boating by educating and training members and the general public, fostering fellowship among members, and establishing partnerships with organizations and agencies interested in boating. Since 1960 it has helped CPS become the “go to” leader in recreational boating.

As part of the Atlantic District, safety-minded volunteer members from Evandale to the Bay of Fundy, Sussex and St. Stephen have completed the now mandatory safe boating course and conduct nationally standardized, introductory and advanced training, courses and seminars in boating, navigation, GPS, maritime radio and maritime weather courses. Saint John Firefighters are among their graduates, having completed Water Rescue Service and the Maritime Radio courses. As boating enthusiasts successfully complete qualifying examinations they are eligible for special membership categories.

The Kennebecasis Squadron has been an active group with noted community leaders who have been named charter members: H.R. Crossley, D.W. McKinney, C.L. Francis, W.W. Black, C.D. Kirby Sr., E.V. Flewelling, C.H. Pratt, J.E. Rowley, Wm. Mills, R.D. Wheaton, R.T. Gard, N. Marcus, R. McNamara, E. N. McKelvey, Doug Kirby Jr., R.D. Munro, D.R. Hartt, E.F. Coffin, R.G. Johnston, H. Likely, A.E. Bruce, D.F. Seely, J.W. Fawcett and J.A. McKinnon .

KPSS is not a Yacht Club nor has physical premises but has cordial relationships with several community groups, especially the Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club (RKYC) with whom it has members in common. To reciprocate, KPSS has presented RKYC, their principal training venue, with Safe Refueling Practice signage at their fuel dock, a stained glass window depicting the CPS Flag, a sailboat for their juniors’ training program and dock carts.

KPSS has been a leader with community based activities by offering Transport Canada’s compulsory Boating Course and the Pleasure Craft Operators Card testing, in Saint John, St. Andrews and the Kennebecasis Valley. Their Port Captain Service can be welcome when visiting sailors are faced with the daunting challenge of navigating the Reversing Falls for example. It provides CPS awareness, local knowledge and assistance to boaters who may be unfamiliar with our local waters. It participates regularly in boat shows, promoting safe boating programs and courses.

KPSS recently celebrated a significant milestone with a special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner with close to one hundred attending. Malcolm Blann, CPS’ Chief Commander commended the local volunteer spirit noting “This would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our members and, in celebrating 50 years of service, the members of Kennebecasis Squadron can be proud of its achievements and contributions to this great organization.”

Atlantic District Commander David Estey called KPSS “a leader in safe boating instruction in the Saint John area which provides valuable support to the district.” Outgoing Squadron Commander Bob Harrity stated

“It's a win- win situation every time someone graduates from one of our courses - more fun, more knowledge and better safety for all.”

Most CPS Squadrons have designed distinctive pennants. KPSS' pennant was designed by Donna Black and features the Three Sisters lamp within a ship's wheel, a reminder of our rich shipbuilding and seagoing traditions. The Prince William Street landmark has aided sailors entering Saint John harbour for over two centuries. The addition of a gold bar to the hoist commemorates 50 years. Vertical blue and white stripes, combined with a stylized red maple leaf complete the design.

As their tag line states CPS is: “Volunteers teaching safe boating”. KPSS has hosted National gatherings and members have served on national committees. The KPSS' Bridge, Instructors, Proctors, operating committees and special project groups volunteer their time and talents to advance CPS goals, receiving an official Merit Mark after contributing twenty hours. Members awarded twenty Merit Marks are designated “Life Members”, a designation is held by eight KPSS members representing over 40 years of service. Del Buckley has been awarded the significant Navigator designation, an even higher distinction. "Our “Life Members” can attest that volunteering is personally rewarding, satisfying and fun" says Yves Dauphinais. He is keen to spread the word about the June 12th Boaters' Awareness Day, which takes place at RKYC. Fun activities and lots of information are planned and all welcome.

For course or event information call: 1-888-CPS-BOAT or visit [www.cpsboat.ca/kennebecasis](http://www.cpsboat.ca/kennebecasis)



[ Treasurer Del Buckle, left, past commanders Bob Harrity and Joanne Fitzpatrick, executive officer Yves Dauphinais, instructor Peter Dunphy and commander Hugh Horwood are volunteers for the Kennebecasis Power and Sail Squadron, which is celebrating 50 years of promoting safe boating. (Peter Walsh/Telegraph-Journal)]



*Community Profile is a weekly column highlighting community causes and work done by non-profit organizations in the Greater Saint John area. It is contributed by Jane Barry, executive director of The Greater Saint John Community Foundation. Contact the foundation at 506-672-8880, [sjfoundation@nb.aibn.com](mailto:sjfoundation@nb.aibn.com) To view other Community Profiles go to [www.saint-john-foundation.nb.ca](http://www.saint-john-foundation.nb.ca)*