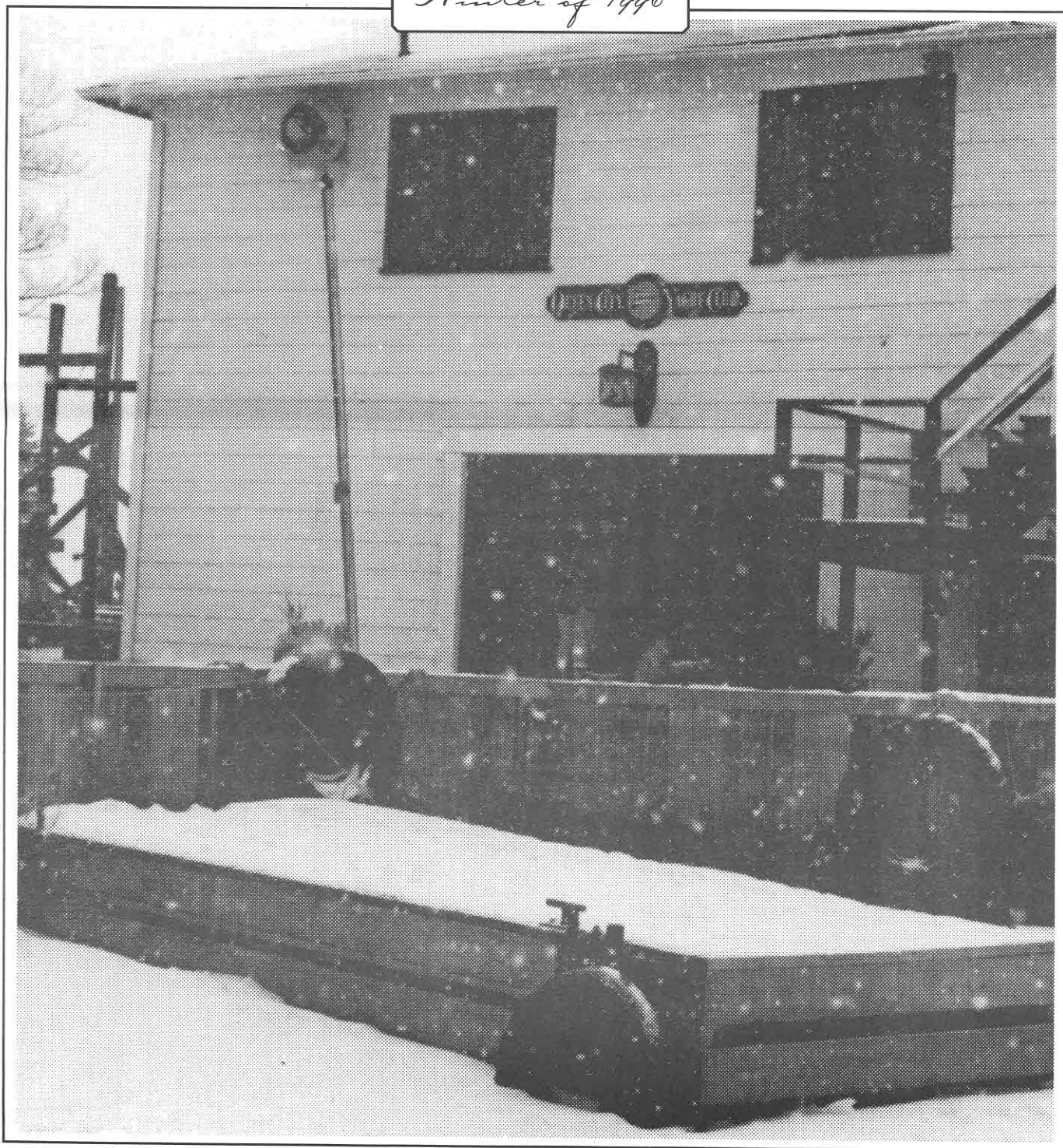


# CLIPPER

*Winter of 1996*



## Commodore

**A** very Happy New Year to you all. If 1996 is anywhere near as good as 1995 was, we can look forward to another great season!

The new Board is already active in the planning stages for this year's operation. As usual, a number of significant projects must be undertaken in order to maintain our facility. The initial project to get underway in this year was unfortunately somewhat shortlived. The repairs to the concrete pile caps under the Clubhouse represented the last phase of the foundation work, with **Willy Shubat** in charge. The start of the work was delayed several weeks due to high water levels in the sand under the Clubhouse. Finally, Willie was able to get started, but with only a small portion of the work complete, Winter arrived with a vengeance, forcing us to abandon any thoughts of seeing the project completed. It will now be next Fall before this work can be completed. Thanks to Willie for all of his efforts working in a frustrating and difficult environment.

Other projects are in the estimation and prioritization stage, and include major repair work to the outside stairs and balconies, security lighting, improved docking facilities for the Queen and members' dinghies, construction of an enlarged garbage compound, and yes, even a new pumpout.

As I write this report, the Boat Show is underway, and Queen City is once again well represented. Our booth attracts a great number of people, and that interest level consistently results in new members for the Club. It is a fact of life these days that we must actively sell our product, rather than expecting new recruits to find us, and it is through the efforts of over 60 volunteers that this major promotional event is such a success. Special thanks to **Gail Smith** and her committee for their efforts this year.

### RENT CONTROL

As you will recall, late last summer Metro Council turned down recommendations made by their own Parks and Recreation Department with respect to the fixing of a new rental rate for yacht clubs for the next five years. Instead of extending the existing formula whereby our rent would increase by the greater of 5% of the cost of living, Council, as the result of a charge lead by Jack Layton and Howard Moscoe voted to increase rental rates by a whopping 25%, and that was just for one year.

While this does not by any means put us out of business, it does raise some serious questions about the future, not least of which is Metro's ability to negotiate in good faith. At Metro's request, the negotiations were handled collectively for all affected clubs by the Council of Commodores. Several discussions have taken place already to establish a response or appeal strategy, including a detailed review of the legality of Metro's actions.

It is clearly not in anyone's best interest to get into a public fight with Metro, however, the yacht clubs' position will be made very clear. Development of a response strategy must also focus on recognition of the fact that 2005 is not far away. At that time, all current leases expire, and it will be a whole new game, potentially with completely different rules. It would be unwise to follow a course of action now which might jeopardize our ability to successfully negotiate the future. Queen City will be an active participant in the Council of Commodores' efforts to manage the current situation and establish future direction.

DAVID HALL  
COMMODORE

## Rear Commodore

A quick update on some of the 1996 schedule.

### Skippers Meeting

Wednesday, May 8

### First Wednesday night race

Wednesday, May 15

### Sailpast

Saturday, May 18

### Blake van Winkle

Saturday, May 25

### Star Regatta

Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2

### Past Commodore's Cruise

June 29, 30 & July 1

### Women Skippers' Race

Saturday, July 20

### Champion of Champions

Sunday, September 22

### Last Chance Cup & Awards Banquet

Saturday, September 28

**V**arious training courses are available for those interested in serving on either the Protest or Race Committee. A three night Protest Committee Course is scheduled for National Yacht Club starting on Thursday, February 8 and continuing on Thursday, February 15 and 22. The Club will cover the cost. Anybody interested in volunteering for either the Race or Protest Committee, please contact me.

### SPRING THAW

The annual Yachtsmen's Spring Thaw Luncheon is set for Friday, April 19th. The cost is \$39.95 with the proceeds going to the Toronto Brigantine Sail Training Program. From personal experience, I can assure you that there are excellent prizes. So hope to see you on April 19th.

GRAHAM DOUGALL  
REAR COMMODORE

