

THE WHALER

July 12, 2025

Message from the Commodore



Ahoy CFSA members!

I hope you are getting out on your boats and enjoying the summer weather. Make sure to mark your calendars for the CFSA Club Rendezvous from August 15-17, see below for details.

Please submit a photo of your summer trips to be featured in the next Whaler newsletter and consider submitting an article about your favourite anchorage or lessons learned.

Safe Boating:

- Where a life jacket: 82% of those who drowned boating were not wearing PFDs
- Be prepared to call for help. Have a plan in place in case of an emergency.
- Understand how to survive in cold water: The shock of the cold water can take your breathe away. Understanding can help you or a loved one survive.



For more information and resources check out [The Canadian Safe Boating Council](#) or use the QR Code.

Tidy docks and shop: Please return tools to the shop and avoid storing gear on fingers.

Check Your Lines: If you are going away, please double-check mooring lines and fenders.

Reminder for those paying Monthly moorage: If you plan to cancel your moorage, you need to give 30-days notice before the date your boat leaves CFSA. Please email Moorage@cfsaesq.ca as well as Membership@cfsaesq.ca. This is to allow PSP time to stop the automatic payment. Those paying annual moorage should also give 30-days notice.

Mike Wills, CFSA Commodore

CFSA Club Rendezvous

We are once again excited to host the CFSA Club Rendezvous! This fun filled weekend will bring together CFSA members, family and friends at Maple Bay Marina. This is always a great way to start or end your summer cruise. If you are not able to make it by boat, join us by driving up.

Date: August 15 to 17
Reserve moorage: <https://maplebaymarina.com/>
RSVP: Oldvicsailor@gmail.com or on Facebook

What to expect? Fun!

BBQs and Picnic shelters are reserved. Bring music maker and your vocal cords. There will be a BBQ (burgers and dogs) potluck salads and deserts. Hoping our oyster catchers and crabbers have some success. Expect a secret gift exchange.



Dave Gasser, Celebration of Life

Together, Dave and Mary welcomed many members into CFSA becoming mentors, friends and volunteers of the club. Friends and former CFSA members are invited to join Mary in celebrating Dave's life by gathering together.

- Date: Friday, July 26, 2025
- Time: 2:00 - 4:00 pm
- Location: Chief and Petty Officers Mess, 1575 Lyall Street, Esquimalt, BC

Cruising in our Backyard Again

Member article: Submitted by Chris Maier

In the past couple of years we've been cruising further afield. Recently the whole family was out together in Argyle. It was a great (but short) cruise to the Gulf Islands, where we've been cruising for years, but there were a series of discoveries for us this time. These small reports may not be news to everyone, but we thought we'd share:

D'Arcy Island:

We've been many times, but were always just visiting for the day. We had normally anchored in the bay near the light on the West side of the island. This time, we used the newly installed moorings on the East side. It was great to be able to explore the rock beaches on that side without trying to navigate the overgrown trail, and be able to moor in safety overnight. It is exposed to wake from the traffic in Haro and anything from a southerly direction.

Cabbage and Tumbo Islands

One of our favourite places, but be advised, activities/visits ashore have been restricted by Parks Canada. See: <https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/gulf>

Saturna Island and Breezy Bay

When we started cruising we used to visit the Saturna Island Winery by anchoring off Breezy Bay and coming ashore at Thomson Park. The winery closed down several years ago. The winery is now operational again and under new management, called Sage Hayward. They have installed 5 mooring buoys and have reservable dock space. It is well worth the trip and a lunch at the Feral Goat Bistro. <https://sagehaywardvineyards.com/>

Stay Connected Cruising:

Sail Canada recently announced some sponsorship from the app "Sail Ties." It's a mixture of Social Media and sailing log. You can record your sailing adventures, share your location, and find your sailing club.

Our club is on the app and so are a couple of our boats. It seems like a fun way to keep a record of what you've done and connect with other sailors.

<https://sailties.net/>



The Swing at Thomson Park - Saturna Island



Why Volunteer at CFSA

CFSA is more than a marina, it is a community.

I've been giving a lot of thought about why I volunteer at CFSA when we don't have a boat at the marina. It comes down to a couple of things. It's about the people and the community, but it is also about CFSA and what our club means to the sailing community, to serving members and their families and those who just love sailing.

Volunteering involves giving one of your most valuable commodities - your time.

Margaret Mead said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

At CFSA, the world changed when the marina moved. The volunteers who were tapped on the shoulder again and again have literally changed the world of CFSA by building a new marina. It is not perfect and needs work, but it is a safe and affordable place for our members to keep their boats, participate in weekly racing, use the the shop and tools and reach out to a boat neighbour for helpful (or not so helpful) tips to continue the never-ending boat projects. It also is a place where we celebrate together, sail together, and host club activities or just a place to be greeted with a friendly smile.

CFSA wouldn't exist without volunteers, we would be forced to find other communities, more expensive moorage and take advice from those we don't know. As an executive team, we have called out for volunteers again and again. It is a thankless part of our role, but necessary to be able to continue to as Margaret Mead says "change the world". So when you are asked, please really think about what CFSA means to you and say yes. Everyone who does help, lightens the load a bit more for the club and becomes a part of the change.

"I volunteer with CFSA because I see there's a strong need for it and because it brings satisfaction to offer my skills to benefit the membership of CFSA. CFSA is very valuable to me and my spouse, with low-cost moorage, a great location, and a small-community atmosphere. For that reason, I want to do what I'm able to contribute to its running and development, and with the added pleasure of getting to know other members much more than I would have otherwise!" Ginette Gibeault, CFSA Membership Chair

Thank you Ginette and thank you to all the CFSA volunteers who take the time to be the change.

Shannon Jones
CFSA Communications