Official Newsletter of the Royal Newfoundland Yacht Club

Volume 12 · Q3 2026

The Spindrift News

August – November 2026



Racing on Conception Bay, 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

Race Week 2026
Results from five days on the bay

Sailing School
83 youth certificates and a strong provincials

A Full Marina
Berthing, visiting boats and the wharf

Jedi's Big Year
Trinity Cup, Round the Islands and the Bean Crock

National Honours
Sail Canada recognizes Ian Lunt and Christopher Pratt

Change of Watch
Your 2027 Flag Officers and Executive

CONTENTS

From the Editor's Desk 2
From the Commodore 3
Fall AGM & Change of Watch 4
Sail Canada Recognition 4
Race Week 2026 5
Trinity Rendezvous 6
Wednesday Night Series 6
Round the Islands Race 7
Bean Crock Cup 7
Sailing School & Junior Sailing 8
Sail NL Provincials 8
Marina & Docks 9
Visiting Boats 9
Safety Officer's Corner 10
Club Information 11

Now a Quarterly

Spindrift now comes out four times a year. Each issue covers one quarter of the club year, so you get the news while it is still news.

This issue: Q3, August to November 2026.

Next issue: Q4, winter 2026–27. Send articles and photos to krisdrodge@gmail.com

The quarter at a glance

Aug 1 – Trinity Cup
Aug 11–15 – Race Week
Sep 13 – Provincials & Gear Market
Sep 26 – Round the Islands
Oct 3 – Bean Crock Cup
Nov 4 – Fall AGM

Editor: Kristopher Drodge, Past Commodore

From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to Volume 12 of Spindrift. It has been a long stretch since the last issue came off the press, and a good deal has changed around Long Pond in that time. The newsletter is changing too. From here on, Spindrift is a quarterly, and this Q3 issue picks up the story in August and carries it through to November, when the last boats come out of the water.

It was a season worth writing about. Race Week came back strong in mid-August. The Trinity Rendezvous drew a fleet down the shore to Trinity Bay. The fall distance races were sailed in sunshine, wind and a bit of fog. Through all of it, *Jedi* and Kenny Harris's crew kept finding their way to the top of the results sheet.

The best news of the year may be on the junior side. The Sailing School issued 83 youth sailor certificates this season, up from 15 the year before, and a group of our 29er sailors raced nationally and internationally. Those young sailors are the future of this club, and the instructors and volunteers who put them on the water deserve real thanks.

We were also proud to see two members of our community honoured by Sail Canada in October. Ian Lunt was named Volunteer of the Year and the late Christopher Pratt, Past Commodore and Life Member, was inducted into the Sail Canada Hall of Fame. You will find the details on page 4.

Our marina is close to full, and the executive is working through what that means for berthing, visiting boats and future wharf space. There is a short update on page 9 and a safety reminder on page 10 that is worth reading before your boat goes to bed for the winter.

As always, this newsletter belongs to the members. If you made a passage this year, fixed something clever, learned a lesson the hard way or caught a good photo, send it in. A few paragraphs is plenty. Fair winds, and enjoy the read.

The Editor, Spindrift

From the Commodore

Commodore Carol Bryant

Good day Members,

With one year ending and a new one on the horizon, I can't help but feel the excitement that the 2027 season has to offer!

As Commodore, my passion to further continuous engagement within the membership will always be near and dear to my heart! To further that, one of my goals for the coming year is to engage with the communities surrounding the RNYC as it will be beneficial for continuous exposure and increased growth in membership.

We have also restructured our corporate packaging in order to attract both smaller businesses and larger corporations as social members. Because this will require a constitutional change, a membership vote will be necessary at our Spring AGM. This change will serve to attract the broader business community. The model of three levels of membership will remain but with a more achievable cost.

Continuous search for funding is always a priority and 2027 will be no different! The Royal Newfoundland Yacht Club is quickly gaining attention on international waters as a destination stop, be it to provision and service a passage or to explore our shores! Last season we received a total of 24 visiting boats with a minimum three-night stay, and as well, 4 international boats are presently wintering on RNYC property! Also, hosting the Youth Sailing Competition for the 2025 Canada Summer Games landed us on the national stage! With a few exciting prospects on the forefront, which will be communicated at a later date when more information is available, sourcing government funding will be on the table for discussion to support infrastructure improvement as we continue to serve as ambassadors for Newfoundland and Labrador!

Many more projects will roll out as we roll up our sleeves!

I feel honoured and privileged to serve with an amazing and talented executive as well as our General Manager, Kathy Evans!

With much gratitude,

Carol Bryant

Commodore, Royal Newfoundland Yacht Club



Commodore Carol Bryant on the foredeck, ready to take the helm for 2027.

24 **visiting boats last season,** each staying three nights or more

4 **international boats** wintering at the RNYC

Fall AGM & Change of Watch

November 4, 2026 · RNYC Clubhouse

Members gathered at the clubhouse on November 4 for the Fall Annual General Meeting, chaired by Vice Commodore Carol Bryant. The meeting opened with a safety moment and a moment of silence for members and friends of the club we lost this year.

Members adopted the agenda and the Spring 2026 AGM minutes, heard from the Vice Commodore and received the fall financial update before electing the 2027 Executive Committee.

New faces at the table include Dr. Sean Hagenbuch (Sailing School), David Miller (Grounds), Trevor Harris (Outreach), Debbie Savage (engagement/event assistant), and Tom Foran, who gives the power fleet a voice as Powerboat Chair. The full list is on the back page.

A New Commodore for 2027

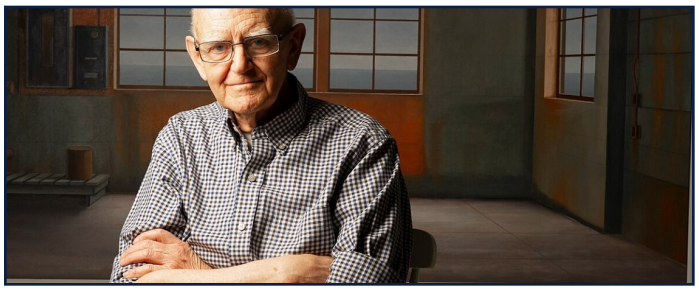
Carol Bryant takes the helm as Commodore for 2027. Carol has been at the centre of member engagement this year, from Sail Past and the summer's visiting rowing teams to the Past Commodores' event, and she steps into the role with a clear sense of what makes this club work. Marco Ahrens moves to Immediate Past Commodore with the club's thanks. Sheilagh Murphy joins the Flags as Vice Commodore and Fundraising Chair.

RNYC / SAIL CANADA LETTER OF RECOGNITION

By Jodi Cooke · October 7, 2026



Ian Lunt, Sail Canada 2025 Volunteer of the Year. Photo courtesy of Sail Canada



Christopher Pratt, Sail Canada Hall of Fame. Photo courtesy of Ned Pratt

The Royal Newfoundland Yacht Club is incredibly proud to see two remarkable individuals from our community recognized by Sail Canada on the national stage for their contributions to sailing.

Ian Lunt — Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Ian Lunt, recipient of Sail Canada's 2025 Volunteer of the Year Award. Ian's extraordinary leadership, dedication, and commitment to the sailing community were instrumental in the success of the sailing competition at the 2025 Canada Summer Games and have helped strengthen the sport in Newfoundland and Labrador for years to come.

His efforts began long before the first race as he spearheaded a massive community effort to secure the "field of play", notably by coordinating a complex fleet of boats from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Coast Guard, Marine Institute, and private club members. His ability to mobilize these diverse groups ensured that the athletes had a world-class environment in which to compete. Ian was also recognized for his true leadership qualities, defined by how one reacts to the unexpected, when the competition began. This included when the "field of play" faced unprecedented challenges at these Games, when nearby forest fires broke out.

Ian's recent appointment as President of Sail NL is a testament to his ongoing commitment to the sport and his reputation as a leader who welcomes teams from across the country with open arms.

Christopher Pratt — Hall of Fame

We are also honoured to recognize the posthumous induction of Christopher Pratt into the Sail Canada Hall of Fame. An internationally renowned artist, Past Commodore, and Life Member of the Royal Newfoundland Yacht Club, Christopher captured the elegance and spirit of sailing through his celebrated paintings and prints, leaving a lasting legacy both on and off the water.

These well-deserved honours reflect the passion, leadership, and commitment that continue to define our sailing community. Congratulations to Ian, and to the family and friends of Christopher Pratt, on these outstanding national recognitions.

Sail Canada's annual awards ceremony was held on October 4 at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax.

— Jodi Cooke, Membership Engagement Chair

Race Week 2026

August 11 – 15 · Conception Bay, in front of the club

Race Week ran from Tuesday, August 11 to Saturday, August 15, with an optional practice race on Tuesday, evening races on Wednesday and Thursday, and two full days of racing to finish the week. Boats were split into Division One, Division Two and White Sail under PHRF Nova Scotia ratings, with time-on-time scoring and drop races as the series built up.

The event went ahead without a title sponsor this year and was still a real success on and off the water, closing with the awards dinner and dance on Saturday night. Thanks to Race Chair Kenny Harris, the race committee and every volunteer who spent the week in a committee boat or on the mark boats.

A Tie-Break in White Sail

The White Sail fleet, now the largest at the club, produced the closest finish of the week. *Dynamique* (Mike Shawyer) and *Pourquoi Pas* (Timothy LeGrow) finished level on 11 points. Under Rule A8.1, *Dynamique* took the division on the strength of four first-place finishes to three.



Jedi (J/35) and the fleet on the bay. Jedi won Division One at Race Week.

Race Week 2026 — Overall Results

Division	Place	Boat	Skipper	Points
Division One	1st	**Jedi**	Kenny Harris	8
	2nd	Shalloway	Justin Ladha	—
	3rd	Déjà Vu	Tim Burrill	21
Division Two	1st	**Raging Bull**	Mike Hasson	7
	2nd	Wanderlust	Mike Dwyer	13
	3rd	Scully	Darcy Butler	20
White Sail	1st	**Dynamique**	Mike Shawyer	11*
	2nd	Pourquoi Pas	Timothy LeGrow	11*
	3rd	Rabbagast	Ian Lunt	19
	4th	Thunder Road	Paul Goulart	21
	5th	Ginko	Pete Quinton	30
	6th	Merlin	Frank O’Connor	36

Full results and a Race Week video are posted on the club website.

Trinity Rendezvous & Trinity Cup

July 31 – August 2 · Dock Marina, Trinity, Trinity Bay

The annual Trinity Rendezvous invited members and friends to the first weekend the Dock Marina in Trinity in late July and early August. It started that Friday, with an evening at Rocky's Place, followed by the Trinity Cup on Saturday afternoon, a dock party and BBQ that night at the Marina and a Rendezvous pickleball tournament on Sunday morning. Crews rafted up or took moorings where berths ran out.

Nine boats started the Trinity Cup together at 1:00 p.m. in light south-easterly air of 5 to 10 knots and typically mauzy conditions. *Jedi* crossed first and held on to win on corrected time, with *Raging Bull* second and *Apres* third. Thanks to race committee coordinators J. Moir and D. Baird. A total of 26 boats attended and we look forward to 2028!

Trinity Cup 2026 — August 1

Pos.	Boat	Skipper	Design	Corrected
1	**Jedi**	Kenny Harris	J/35	1:10:59
2	Raging Bull	Mike Hasson	C&C 35-3	1:20:23
3	Apres	Dave Whelan	J/35	1:21:33
4	Happy Puppy	Hubert Alacoque	C&C 115	1:21:44
5	Trinity Waltz	Kris Drodge	C&C 40-2	1:24:51
6	Zig Zag	Carson Noel	Catalina 22	1:25:20
7	Nomad	Steve Mercer	LaCoste 42	1:28:13
8	Blue Harmony	Al Spurrell	Discovery 55	1:52:48
9	FireFly	Trevor Harris	Beneteau 345	2:03:49

Note that no boat has ever won the Cup twice!

Wednesday Night Series

Summer and fall series · Skippers' meeting 5:30 p.m. in the clubhouse

Wednesday nights carried on right through August and into the fall series, which ran September 2 to 16. On August 19, a sunny evening with 5 to 15 knots from the south-southeast, the fleet sailed a double header. *Asylum* (Caroline Muselet, J/24) took the first race in the spinnaker division and *Jedi* took the second, while *Dynamique* won both in White Sail.

September 2 brought a brisk 15 knots from the northeast. *Jedi* won Division One, *Asylum* won Division Two and *Dynamique* won White Sail. A week later, on a cold and overcast September 9, *Jedi* was first overall again with *Asylum* second, and *Dynamique* edged *Raging Bull* in White Sail by 46 seconds on corrected time.

Racing is open to RNYC members, non-member sailors and members of other clubs. Check in with the race committee on VHF channel 8.



Close quarters on a Wednesday night. Photo © Rick Austin



Hump Day Cruising Nights

As a result of the Club power boaters coming together on Wednesday nights to go on the water, a fabulous friendship has grown into a large group and they carry on through the off-season with celebrations and gatherings - further proof that the model of engagement can be very successful. While there was no Poker Run held this year, is is on target for 2027 under the new Powerboat Chair, Tom Foran.

Fall Distance Racing

Round the Islands · Bean Crock Cup

Two distance races closed out the keelboat season, and both went the same way at the top. Jedi took line honours and first overall in each, finishing off a season that began with a win in the Iceberg Shakedown back in June.

Round the Islands Race — September 26

Rescheduled by a week to Saturday, September 26, the Round the Islands Race was sailed in sunshine and 10 to 15 knots from the south and southeast. Nine boats started together at 11:00 a.m. for the run around the islands of Conception Bay. *Jedi* finished in 2:42:09 elapsed for first overall. Mike Shawyer's *Dynamique* was second overall and first in White Sail, and *Scully* (Darcy Butler) won Division Two and placed third overall. Race committee coordinators were J. Smith, G. Short and A. Fitzgerald.

Pos.	Boat	Div.	Skipper	Corrected
1	**Jedi**	Div 1	Kenny Harris	2:46:15
2	Dynamique	WS	Mike Shawyer	2:50:45
3	Scully	Div 2	Darcy Butler	2:53:54
4	Pourquoi Pas	Div 2	Chris Legrow	2:54:16
5	Gingko	Div 2	Pete Quinton	2:55:17
6	Shalloway	Div 1	Justin Ladha	2:57:49
7	Wanderlust	Div 2	Mike Dwyer	3:02:55
8	Apres	WS	Dave Whelan	3:04:06
9	Islay Mist	WS	Ken O'Brien	3:18:13

Bean Crock Cup — October 3

The Bean Crock Cup is the traditional last word of the racing season, and this year it came with a proper breeze. Six boats started at 11:00 a.m. in 15 to 22 knots from the west-southwest on a muggy October day. *Jedi* was first home in 1:39:07 and won on corrected time. *Pourquoi Pas* (Chris Legrow) was second and *Gingko*, sailed by Jack Kenny and Rory Murphy, was third. Visiting boats were offered complimentary berthing for the weekend. Race committee coordinators were A. Fitzgerald, G. Short and J. Smith.

Congratulations to every crew who raced this year, and to the volunteers who ran it.

Pos.	Boat	Div.	Skipper	Corrected
1	**Jedi**	Div 1	Kenny Harris	1:42:06
2	Pourquoi Pas	WS	Chris Legrow	1:48:25
3	Gingko	Div 2	J. Kenny & R. Murphy	1:50:01
4	Scully	Div 2	Darcy Butler	1:55:23
5	Dynamique	WS	Mike Shawyer	1:57:07
6	Wanderlust	WS	Mike Dwyer	1:57:34



The legendary crew of Dynamique preparing for the Bean Crock. Photo credit: Gary Hillyard

Sailing School & Junior Sailing

A record season for the RNYC Sailing School

83 youth sailor certificates	**15** certificates the year before	**20** Friday night dinghy sailors	**12** sailors at the provincials

The Sailing School had a remarkable season. Sail School Chair Dewi Jones reported 83 youth sailor certificates awarded this year, compared with 15 the year before. The school teaches all four Sail Canada CANSail levels through its junior day camps, and the growth shows what a full program, good instructors and steady boats can do.

Several of our 29er sailors travelled to race nationally and internationally this year, carrying the club burgee a long way from Long Pond.

Friday Night Dinghy Series

Twenty sailors took part in the Friday Night Dinghy Series, sailing 13 races between late June and the end of August in Optimists, ILCA, C420s, RS Fevas and even a Martin 16. On the provisional results, Ben McDonald (ILCA 4) won the series, with Cole Hagenbuch (ILCA 7) second and Celia Hagenbuch (Optimist) third.

Dockside Used Gear Market

The club held its first Dockside Used Gear Market on September 13. Members and the public brought in clean, working sailing gear to sell, and 15% of proceeds went to the Junior Sailing Program. Some sellers chose to donate everything. Watch for it again next year. Many thanks to Trevor Harris for leading the effort on this new, and hopefully re-occuring and growing, event.

Looking Ahead

The school is looking at whether the club can support adaptive sailing, using equipment from the former Able Sail program. The executive still has work to do on liability and other questions before any decision is made.

Learn to Sail 2027. Registration is open for ages 8 to adult, with no experience or membership required. Register at rnycsailingschool.checklick.com. Canadian Tire Jumpstart and KidSport NL can help eligible families with fees.

2026 Sail NL Provincial Championships

The RNYC hosted the Sail NL Provincial Championships on Saturday, September 13, with five races sailed in an Open fleet and an Optimist fleet. Joel Smith (ILCA 6) won every race in the Open fleet. Liam Wells did the same in the Optimists. Thanks to Blue Water Marine & Equipment for sponsoring the event, and to The Outfitters and Jungle Jim's for prize donations.

Open Fleet

Rank	Helm / Crew	Class	Nett
1st	**Joel Smith**	ILCA 6	3
2nd	George Short / Annaka Spracklin	C420	6
3rd	Cole Hagenbuch / Ben Parsons	C420	7
4th	Ingrid Hagenbuch / Tegan Jones	C420	11
5th	Annika Philpott	ILCA 6	14

Optimist Fleet

Rank	Helm	Class	Nett
1st	**Liam Wells**	Optimist	3
2nd	Taylor Jones	Optimist	6
3rd	Celia Hagenbuch	Optimist	9
4th	Kylie Crickard	Optimist	9

Results are final as posted on the club website.



Marina & Docks

A full marina, and planning for what comes next



The RNYC marina at Long Pond, sheltered behind the barachois from Conception Bay.

Approaching Capacity

The marina has room for 133 yachts, and this year we came very close to filling it. The club has welcomed a lot of new members, and the executive has flagged that a new dock plan may be needed. Berthing will be on the executive's agenda this winter, along with the harder question of larger boats. Building wharf space for bigger vessels is expensive, and the executive will need to weigh that cost carefully.

Wharf Coordinator

Past Commodore Ted Laurentius has proposed bringing back a wharf committee and chair to look after berth allocation and dock space. That job sat with the executive until about ten years ago, when it moved to the manager. The Handbook (Section 10) already describes a Wharf Coordinator responsible for assigning wharf space, and the incoming Commodore has been asked to consider an appointment. The role would also take on planning for any wharf expansion.

Grounds

The spring cleanup was so successful that the fall cleanup was cancelled, and the grounds are in great shape heading into winter. Thank you to everyone who turned out in the spring.

Winter Storage Reminder

The 50-ton travel lift handles haul-out for seasonal storage, and the mast crane on the quay is available for spars and rigging. Spars must come down for winter storage because of icing and wind, so plan your unstepping with the office.

Visiting Boats

It was a busy summer for visitors. Boats from away began arriving before Canada Day, and the visiting rowing teams spent part of their season with us and enjoyed their time at the club. Visiting and transient yachts must register with the office and sign a usage waiver.

Under the club's policy, a visiting boat from within the province can stay up to 14 days in any 28-day period. There is no maximum stay for transient boats from outside the province. The limit exists because visiting boats berth at a deep discount compared with members, and it keeps the summer fair for everyone. The executive will be comparing our visiting boat fees with other clubs and marinas over the winter.

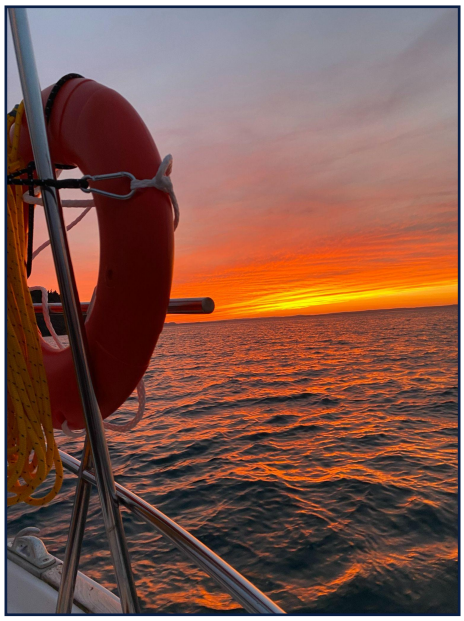
Fuel at the club is a member privilege. Visiting boats can buy fuel once they have registered and paid the visiting boat fee.

Hailing the club. Visiting boats often call on VHF channel 68. The executive is looking at ways to make sure someone is listening. If you are aboard alongside, please monitor this channel and if you hear a visitor calling, please lend a hand.

Safety Officer's Corner

Storm season, haul-out and looking out for each other

On September 19 the club closed for the day as a storm worked its way across the province. Storms like that are a good test of how well our boats are tied up, and every fall the same lessons come back.



A last sunset sail before haul-out.

Tie Up Properly, Every Time

When you leave your boat, even for a short time, it should have bow and stern lines and, most importantly, spring lines of adequate length and strength. Spring lines stop the boat surging fore and aft, which is what does the damage to boats and wharves. Too many lines are undersized for the boats they are holding. If your boat breaks free, it can damage your neighbour's boat as well as your own.

Never secure lines to the dockside power poles. It is a risky practice and it is not permitted.

When a Big Blow Is Forecast

- Double up your lines and use the longest available to allow for tide and surge. Add chafe protection wherever a line passes through a chock.
- Make sure cleats have proper backing plates. Add extra fenders, and do not tie them to lifelines.
- Reduce windage. Take off dodgers, biminis and canvas, remove or wrap furling sails, and lash or remove anything on deck.
- Disconnect and secure power cords, and close or tape hatches and vents.
- Never stay on board during a storm. If you must go on the dock, wear a lifejacket and do not go alone.

Critical Safety Equipment Checks

- Check the inflator and bobbin on inflatable lifejackets, and keep a spare rearming kit aboard.
- Look at expiry dates on flares and the contents of your first aid kit.
- Test carbon monoxide, smoke and propane detectors and replace batteries.
- Have fire extinguishers inspected, or replace any that read out of the green.

Speak Up About Safety

If you see something that worries you, let that person know. The last thing we want is for a friend or yard worker to get hurt. If you need to, please let the office know so it reaches Safety Chair Joshua Barnes. Members who are not sure who to contact can always go through the club manager.

The safety committee is also finishing a member safety survey and a safety report for the executive. Watch for the survey, and please take a few minutes to fill it in.



ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND YACHT CLUB INFORMATION

2027 Flag Officers and Executive, as presented at the Fall AGM

Flag Officers	
Commodore	Carol Bryant
Immediate Past Commodore	PC Marco Ahrens
Vice Commodore / Fundraising Chair	Sheilagh Murphy
Rear Commodore / Treasurer	Ken Peters
Rear Commodore / Secretary	Major Peter Savage
Rear Commodore / Race Chair	Kenny Harris

Executive	
Club Archivist & Port Captain	PC Ted Laurentius
Governance Chair	PC Larry Ledrew
Advisory	PC Mike Shawyer

Executive (continued)	
Government Relations Chair	PC Capt. Kris Drodge
Safety Chair	Joshua Barnes
Sailing School Chair	Dr. Sean Hagenbuch
Membership Engagement Chair	Jodi Cooke
Member Engagement / Event Assistance	Debbie Savage
Grounds & Infrastructure Chair	David Miller
Outreach & Marketing Chair	Trevor Harris
Powerboat Chair	Tom Foran

Member Reminders

- **Safety survey.** Watch for it and take a few minutes to fill it in.
- **Learn to Sail 2027.** Registration at rnycsailingschool.checklick.com.
- **Q4 Spindrift.** Stories and photos to krisdrodge@gmail.com

Contact

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Writing for Spindrift

Spindrift is the official newsletter of the Royal Newfoundland Yacht Club and is now published quarterly. Articles, cruising stories, technical tips and photos from members are always welcome. Send them to the editor - krisdrodge@gmail.com

Please send only your own material, or material you have permission to use.

Advertising

Businesses and organizations serving boaters are welcome to advertise in *Spindrift*. Each issue is shared with members electronically and posted on the club website and social media. Contact the General Manager at manager@rnyc.nf.ca.

Fair winds and following seas.