

## Senior Regatta

As with everything in life a shift of ones perspective helps to clear away the fog of naivety and enables a new appreciation.

As I take on the role of Chairperson for the Senior Regatta and I begin to grasp the enormity of the various details that have to be considered, I reflect on how as a participant over the course of many years, I took for granted that the regatta would “just happen” year after year; that I would participate and because it always had, that it would be seamlessly executed. For the past four years Gord Phippen has been a dedicated and inspiring chair of the Senior Regatta. His leadership, enthusiasm and desire to ensure that every attendee enjoy regatta day guaranteed that all of us were left with fond memories. Thank you Gord for the hours of time you gave to this event; you made it all seem so effortless!

The Senior Regatta, sponsored by the Pointe au Baril Islanders’ Association has been a special day for 103 years and for 103 years has been run by volunteers; they make it possible. Over all those years, there have of course been numerous volunteers; startling when you think about it. This got me to thinking about volunteerism in general. Who volunteers and why? What does it feed in them? What do they connect to? I think volunteerism is a necessary part of humanity. Volunteering is not *what* we do- as in our work; and it is not an obligation...it is a choice and probably inspired because we are some how connected to the event or organization. Volunteering holds a special importance to us and therefore our participation evokes a certain sense of pride-selfless giving. Surprisingly, pride isn’t an achievable goal-we either feel it or we don’t, it sneaks up on us and before we are cognizant of it, it is suddenly there in our hearts.

This piece evolved perhaps influenced by warm memories of summer as I look out at the rainy, grey Vancouver day, but mostly as a result of a new awareness and I guess as well, this is a round about request for help on Regatta day. Most importantly, this is a belated thank you to all those volunteers who have quietly given their time over so many years. I, like so many others have thoroughly enjoyed being a participant in the Senior Regatta; whether excitedly waiting at the start line, catching up with childhood friends or cheering friends and family on-it is a fabulous day of celebration.

I look forward to being witness to all that the Senior Regatta gives us. See you on July 31<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 p.m. for the 104<sup>th</sup> Pointe au Baril Islanders’ Association Senior Regatta.