



Banff Harbour Newsletter – September 2007

Thank you to those who have given me positive comments to our recent newsletters. Please remember that this is your platform for communication between all harbour users.

I recently met with Richard Wheeler, the Chairman of the Banff Harbour Residents Association, and it has been agreed that the newsletter will also be distributed to the residents who live in the immediate vicinity of the harbour. I welcome you as readers, and feel confident that this will enhance the communication channels with all who are involved in Banff Harbour.

During the month, we achieved a successful shore-based dredge of the channel and entrance to the harbour. I had requested that the contractor did his best to clear the sand bar at the entrance, and also to do what he and his machine could to clear the growing sand bar just outside the entrance on the southern side.

I was extremely impressed to watch the operator, Alf, build himself a new sand bar in the entrance, and park the long reach digger on this to enable him to reach well out past the entrance. It looked as if we had a large digger grounded in the entrance for a while! Well done to Alf, the tipper drivers and Les Taylor Contractors.



The result has given us the following depths to calculate from:
The shallowest part of the entrance (just as you get alongside the pier end, under the lighthouse) is 300mm. BELOW chart datum. The entrance, and channel are deeper, being 400-800mm. below chart datum.

These figures are from soundings taken on 5th September. Since then we have had a fresh northwester, and the depths could have changed slightly. Please watch your sounders, and let me know if you observe any changes.



We intend starting the pressure grouting of the stonework on the seaward side of the East Quay on 12 September, and the work should be well progressed, or completed when you read this. All the work will be undertaken from the East Quay, using crane and man-basket operating over the side.

The new toilet/shower/laundry building has stumbled over a few delays, and we are now expecting work to commence early in the New Year. I include an elevation sketch of the proposed building, which will be an extension of the current office. It is most likely that we will provide temporary facilities similar to those used this year, for summer 2008.



FRONT ELEVATION.

The end of the season is now approaching, and I would like to mention a few items that could assist in wintering our boats, and leaving them unattended for longer periods.

- Prior to leaving your boat, please carefully check all your mooring lines, fenders and chafe points for secure holding.
- Remove all items of value, particularly outboards, and remove electrical instruments, for dry storage over winter.
- Ensure that your boat is securely locked.
- Disconnect batteries, or isolate systems.
- Flush engine cooling systems with fresh water, and anti-freeze if deemed necessary.
- I would suggest taking all sails off, and storing in a dry place.



As a courtesy to residents in the vicinity, please ensure that all halyards are well tied-off to reduce the clatter and slap during a blow.

For those boats that are being stored in compounds over the winter, I will issue a plan shortly. Our space is at a premium, so it is going to be very important that the plan is carefully adhered to. Please also note that the compounds are for storage only – you cannot undertake any major work in the compounds.

An area in the lower compound will be made available where any significant work (such as engine out, or structural work as examples) can be undertaken. If you intend doing anything major on your boat this winter, please come and discuss it with me so that we can make the appropriate plans to suit.

Should you just be cleaning off and renewing anti-fouling and anodes, these jobs can be carried out at your compound berth. Owing to the close quarters, it will be imperative that you maintain a clean and tidy area around your compound berth at all times.

I would like to welcome a recent arrival – Sandy Inglis (berth 58) and his yacht “La Strega”. We all hope you settle well at Banff Marina. With “La Strega” now in place the alongside pontoons finally look complete.



A welcome home, also, to Steve Brockman and “Melady Fair”. We trust that you thoroughly enjoyed your summer on the West Coast.

As the summer draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have given me in this, our first season. The foundation of Banff Marina is firmly in place, and you and your boats will ensure the continued success of our Harbour.

Jory