

# CROSSCHOP

Official Newsletter of the NORTH BAY POWER AND SAIL SQUADRON

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## New Life Member



We want to send out our congratulations to Anne Taylor, who received her Life Membership this past year. A Life Member is a member who has been awarded their 20th Merit Mark.

Anne is our Past Commander, and is currently our Public Relations Officer, Supply Officer and Education Officer.

We salute Anne for all her hard work over the years.

## Online Boating Courses

Since you're stuck in the house during the pandemic, why not take a boating course? All courses are online and you, or anyone, can take **any** of the courses offered nationally. Go to [boatingcourses.ca](http://boatingcourses.ca) to find a course - Boating 1 (Basics), Boating 2 (Beyond Basics), or Maritime Radio. All registrations are done online and attendance is limited. So book early!

We will be offering a virtual Maritime Radio Course starting April 19. For details, visit [boatingcourses.ca](http://boatingcourses.ca). And if you or anyone you know is interested in a Boating 2 or 3 or another Marine Radio course, please contact Anne Taylor at [annemutotaylor@gmail.com](mailto:annemutotaylor@gmail.com).

## Planning for Summer

The pandemic will probably still limit our activities this summer. However, we are planning some things this summer.

We will have some safe boating signage posted at local marinas, stores, etc. If you know a great place for a sign, let us know. There will also be some boat and in-person get togethers - all physically distanced and based on public health guidelines at the time. As well, join the Scavenger Hunt for boaters and those currently without boats. Stay tuned as we have more details closer to summer.

[nbpss.on.ca](http://nbpss.on.ca)

 [facebook.com/northbaypowerandsail/](https://facebook.com/northbaypowerandsail/)



North Bay Power and Sail Squadron is  
a division of the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron



## MAR 14

Find out what activities we're planning this year at our online Bridge Meeting. Contact Jill at [nautical4life@gmail.com](mailto:nautical4life@gmail.com) to get connection info.

## APRIL 5

Join the next Bridge Meeting as we make plans for summer fun. Get connection info from Jill at [nautical4life@gmail.com](mailto:nautical4life@gmail.com)

## APRIL 19

We're holding our local online Maritime Radio Course. Register at [boatingcourses.ca](http://boatingcourses.ca).

## MAY

Our AGM will be virtual this year. Date TBD.

## National CPS

The National office of the Canadian Power & Sail Squadron is located in Toronto and they are working remotely due to the pandemic. As a result they are asking that all correspondence be sent electronically. Below are the links for each item.

## COVID Operational Plan

National has prepared a plan for Squadrons, Districts and National to help get us through the pandemic. If you want to have a look, contact one of the Bridge for a copy.

## Membership Renewals

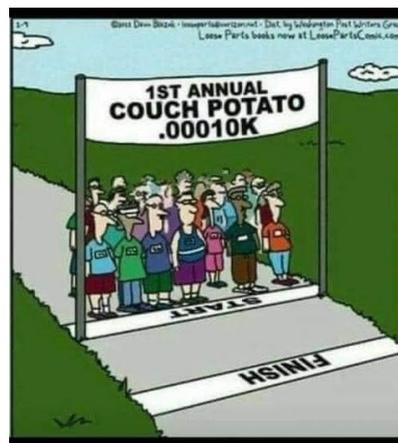
Last year membership renewals were not sent out. If you have renewed, great! If not, National will be calling you to help you renew online. Due to the pandemic, they do not recommend mailing cheques to the office.

## Contacts

- Card replacements: [Click here](#)
- Membership renewals: [Click here](#)
- Application processing: Scan the documents and send them to [cartes-cards@cps-ecp.ca](mailto:cartes-cards@cps-ecp.ca) for quicker processing. Send the paper ones for filing to the office. Don't send them using registered mail or Priority Post as no one is going to the post office to pick them up.

If you have any questions, send an email as indicated below or you can call 1-888-CPS-BOAT (277-2628):

- Accounting - [accounting@cps-ecp.ca](mailto:accounting@cps-ecp.ca)
- IT- [ithelp@cps-ecp.ca](mailto:ithelp@cps-ecp.ca)
- Membership - [membership@cps-ecp.ca](mailto:membership@cps-ecp.ca)
- Cards - [cartes-cards@cps-ecp.ca](mailto:cartes-cards@cps-ecp.ca)
- General Inquiries - [hgg@cps-ecp.ca](mailto:hgg@cps-ecp.ca)



## Gulf Stream

Want to know more about the Gulf Stream. Find out all about it at [Let's Talk About the Gulf Stream](#)

([www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2021/01/26/lets-talk-about-the-gulf-stream/](http://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2021/01/26/lets-talk-about-the-gulf-stream/))

## Winter Boat Check

Here are four easy tips to look for when you do a midwinter checkup on your boat.

[www.canadianyachting.ca/diy/maintenance/6033-how-to-do-a-midwinter-checkup-on-your-boat-four-tips](http://www.canadianyachting.ca/diy/maintenance/6033-how-to-do-a-midwinter-checkup-on-your-boat-four-tips)

**CROSSCHOP** is a newsletter for members of North Bay Power & Sail Squadron and is published four times a year.

We believe the information in this publication is accurate and reflects contemporary expert opinion. However, NBPSS assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy or sufficiency of this information, nor does it endorse any product, system or method not originating from CPS that is mentioned in this publication.

If you have any stories, photos, or other ideas, please contact the editor, Jill Faulkner at 705-493-7131 or [nautical4life@gmail.com](mailto:nautical4life@gmail.com).

We are online at [nbpss.on.ca](http://nbpss.on.ca) or on Facebook.

# Nipissing Marathon Swim

By Anne Taylor



Marathon swimmer Marilyn Korzekwa wanted to do a swim across Lake Nipissing in 2020. The 63-year-old Hamilton psychiatrist had swum some of the most difficult bodies of water in the world, including the English Channel, setting records along the way.

In 2019, Marilyn contacted Andrew Taylor, the North Bay byPower and Sail Squadron's Administrative Officer, looking for boaters to help with the swim. She then met with Rick, Anne and Andrew Taylor, all NBPSS members, as well as boater Jim Mainville, in North Bay to discuss possible routes and dates.

They decided the best and safest route for the boats and swimmer was from Campbells Bay at the mouth of the French River across Lake Nipissing to Marathon Beach at the North Bay waterfront - a swim of 28 km.

They also discussed which organizations could benefit from any donations received from the swim. An avid skier, Korzekwa decided to use the swim to fundraise for the Nipissing Trackers. They are a free downhill ski program run out of Laurentian Ski Hill in North Bay for special needs children and is supported by the Nipissing Association for Disabled Youth (NADY).

## 2020-21 NPSS Bridge

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Sandra Hay



In February 2020, Korzekwa spent the day in North Bay skiing with the Nipissing Trackers. Rick Taylor is the former coordinator of the Nipissing Trackers program. Rick was touched that Korzekwa had chosen to swim for the Trackers.

“It’s amazing. This is a lady from southern Ontario who’s willing to come up and swim Lake Nipissing. She’s willing to do that to support special needs kids here in North Bay, in our area,” he said. Taylor adds that the extra money will help the Trackers create more memories for its participants. “We have kids who we take kicking and screaming onto a ski hill, literally. After six weeks, we take them kicking and screaming off the ski hill because they don’t want to stop,” Taylor said, adding that he hopes that Korzekwa’s swim will help spread awareness about the Trackers.

Then COVID-19 hit and Marilyn was not able to access swimming pools or the beaches, losing two and a half months of training. Due to the late start, the swim was postponed to late August with weather and water conditions being the determining factor. As a result of the pandemic, the two boat captains, Rick Taylor and Jim Mainville, kept their 30-foot boats and dinghies in dry dock for the year.

We sent out appeals for boats and captains. As a result, Andy Geseron and Tim Shurgour from the North Bay Power and Sail Squadron (NBPSS) stepped up, providing boats and dinghies to help Korzekwa with her swim.

NADY spearheaded the donation logistics of the swim, with NADY President, Jim Stewart getting help from the City of North Bay to welcome Korzekwa on Marathon Beach. Stewart says he’s touched by the volunteers who have stepped up to assist in the swim. “The community itself is phenomenal. It is evident every time we have anything to do with the Trackers the community really comes together. It leaves me speechless,” he said.

Korzekwa and the team left the North Bay government dock on September 2, 2020 around 5:30 am. She started the swim at the beautiful sand beach of Campbells Bay near



the French River at approximately 7:15 am. The weather started out with a bit of rain but the lake lived up to its reputation for being an unpredictable and

sometimes dangerous lake.

As they were heading towards the Goose Islands, the winds started to pick up. When she reached Cross Point, the wind was coming from all directions. It was so cold with the wind and the rain blowing. She was fighting the three to four foot waves that were really hard on her shoulders. It died down for a period but started up again.



The winds were strong enough to cause two dinghies and a kayak, part of the flotilla that had been guiding her since the morning, to capsize sending people into the cold dark water. The waves were at times up to 10 feet and the winds were up to 65 km an hour for the last two hours. These conditions were not in the forecast and the storm came out of nowhere.

After 15 hours of swimming in the rain and sun and cold, the combination of powerful winds and strong choppy waves ended Marilyn Korzekwa's attempt to complete the 28 km swim of the lake. She was within two km of the shore when the swim was called off. The organizers, Anne Taylor AP, Rick Taylor AP, the shore crew, as well as a crowd on shore with some out of town people, waited at the beach. When the sun set, they could see the boat lights this side of the Manitou Islands, but then the lights would disappear with the wind and high waves.



Andy Geseron, captain of the lead boat, explained what happened so close to shore under the darkness of night.

"Three different people ended up in the water. The one was in the kayak and his kayak ended up filling up with water so the rear boat brought him aboard. At the same time that was happening, one of the dinghies with the Solo Swim official flipped over so the lead boat had to rescue her and let the wind take the dinghy. Because of the waves it was quite a challenge to get her on board."

She was there to officiate the sanctioned swim and was responsible for the safety of the swimmer and the crew. The second dinghy also flipped over but the rear boat

was able to tie it to the stern and tow it to shore upside down. All equipment and gear on both dinghies were lost including the camera with pictures of the day. Ending the swim was the right thing to do as it became a safety issue. It could have easily been a tale of tragedy when the swim suddenly turned into a rescue mission of the dinghies and kayak. Although Korzekwa did not finish the swim, as far as the organizers were concern – she did finish.

“With the conditions that were thrown at me, it was certainly international calibre. I was having flashbacks to the English Channel between the high waves and the winds and the cold,” said Korzekwa.

She is considering tackling the lake again next summer.

The lost dinghy was located the next day in the daylight down the shoreline. A month later, a good samaritan, Nicole Simard, found the lost camera and Anne Taylor was able to meet up with Marilyn to get it back to her.

The proceeds from the swim will go from NADY to the Nipissing Trackers, to provide downhill skiing lessons to children with disabilities. Donations to the swim can be made at [www.nady.ca](http://www.nady.ca) and reference “swim” on the donation.

## French River Documentary

Here is a beautiful documentary about the upper and lower French River. What a great way to avoid thinking about stormy winter weather and the pandemic.

