

Salute to the Commodore 2019

A large crowd gathered at Artspring on Monday, November 4th for the annual *Salute to the Commodore*, this year taking the form of a cocktail party in a new venue. **Chef Dean McClernon** had prepared a variety of delicious appetizers, which were served by **Rhys Parry, Zach Morgan, and Lili Paulin-Kuroda**, members of the Junior Racing Team. While people nibbled on cocktail fare and visited, **Pete and Debbie Brouwer** made sure that everyone had a glass of their favourite beverage. Special thanks to Staff Captain, **Mike Dawson** and his hard-working crew for planning and working at this event: **Victoria Skinner, Dennis Fortin, Marilyn Dawson, Sharon Hawke, Edith Stevenson, Ruth Humberstone, Peter and Mary Grove, Laura Dafoe, Laura Shepherd, Gillian Taylor, and Chris Cheeseman.**



Midway through the evening, the crowd gathered for the formal part of evening, which was MC'd by **Pete McGovern**. First on the agenda was the presentation of flowers by **Gill Taylor** to **Kathleen de Jong** (affectionately known in some circles as "Mrs. Commodorable").



Pete McGovern acknowledged **John Walker** for his leadership role in this year's successful Round Saltspring Race weekend. Club Secretary **Richard Stevenson** presented the New Member Award to **April Faget** for her revitalization of the Junior Program. This award was accepted by her son Rhys, a member of that program.



Membership Officer **Deb McGovern** was thanked for her efforts in coordinating the new members' application procedure.

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Perpetual Past Commodore **Eric van Soeren** awarded the Past Commodores' Award to Treasurer **Norbert Schlenker** "for many years of outstanding service in the Club's financial management".



Commodore **Casey de Jong** awarded the Commodore's Award to **Wendy Vine** for her "steadfast and tireless support of the Club's volunteer culture".



Fleet Captain Racing, **Greg Taylor** presented three plaques prepared and engraved by **Lawrie Neish** to the following members for winning the Wednesday night series for each summer month: June **Tony Brogan**, Radiant Heat, July **Martin Herbert**, Kay D, and August **Craig Leitch**, Imp. **Tony Brogan** was acknowledged for being on track to win another total points trophy, which is particularly significant because he has won the trophy three times with three different boats, a remarkable testament to his racing skills and dedication to the sport.



Finally, **Heather Sloat** spoke about the increasing participation of women in the racing program, and encouraged other women to come join her and the other women racing with the Club. *(Ed. Note: this initiative builds upon the successful WOW—Women On the Water—boating program organized last winter by **Sunshine Wilde** and **Laura Dafoe**.)*

Article by **Karen Laidlaw**, photos by **Colleen Shantz**. More photos available on the Club's Flickr page.

