

## Leamington Rally June 19 – 21, 2009

One thing which can always be said for the Leamington Rally – the weather never fails to surprise us!



Thursday evening, June 18, about 45 early birds were treated to a ride on a school bus to visit two of the Essex County wineries.



Our first stop was Erie Shore Vineyard where we were greeted by Alma Hollingshead, one of the owners. We sampled three of her wines, and several bottles were purchased to take back to our boats. We soon discovered that if you give our Commodore a nice glass of wine and a comfortable chair, he turns into a real pussy cat!

Then it was on to Muscedere Winery, where we enjoyed a tour of the vineyard, tasty samples and a fabulous supper prepared by “Mama” Muscedere.



The store did a good business here as well, and our boats should now be well stocked with Ontario wines.

Friday morning dawned with our usual Leamington rain, followed by gale force winds. Things in the harbour were a little bouncy for a while, but the weather settled in time for our Registration and GLCC Ships Store to run smoothly in the afternoon.



Then it was cocktails and fellowship in the marina pavilion before we once again enjoyed our legendary broasted chicken and perch dinner. We had a great group of First Timers with us this year.



Saturday morning brought more rain and cool temperatures, but a cannon shot across the marina woke us up, and many hardy souls gathered at the flag poles for a moving flag raising and Blessing of the Fleet which was given by our Chaplain, Carl Tucker.



This was followed by an awesome pancake and sausage breakfast hosted by the Leamington Yacht Club in the pavilion.  
At 11:00 our Port Captains gathered for a meeting.



The afternoon, which turned sunny and hot, provided great fun for us and entertainment for the locals. The sailboat Summer Wind pulled in to port carrying "Lord Nelson" (aka Bullfrog) to visit his band of cut-throat pirates and hold court for any and all charges brought to him. Judgements were passed by a jury of wenches, and sentences levied and carried out.







Duels with noodles, and throwing water balloons were some of the punishments. Some of the costumes were truly awesome!



Saturday evening found us back in the pavilion for a cocktails and fellowship once again, followed by a fine dinner of Pirate Fare Ribs and Spit Roasted Beef. Our Rally Chairmen, Jim and Janice Ehrman had arranged for a terrific DJ to join us from Ohio, and we danced the night away.



Sunday morning we enjoyed coffee and donuts in the Marina Courtyard before setting sail for our next destination. Be sure to mark your calendars for Father's Day 2010 – same weekend, same place – for another memorable event in this beautiful location.



Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Atkinson  
Photos by Sheridan and Susan Atkinson