

## LCYC History Highlight Summary

- LCYC was organized in 1887 and incorporated in 1892 “to encourage the introduction and development of yachting on Lake Champlain.”
  - The first clubhouse, built in 1887, was located at the foot of College Street in Burlington. This clubhouse burned in 1901 was replaced and burned again in 1911. A third structure was built on piers at the same location in 1913. During this period the club was quite active sponsoring both sailboat and power boat races. Included was an annual sailboat race for the “Ladies Cup” which had been donated by the ladies of the club in the early years. The Club provided a dock master and restaurant service under a steward. The peak membership was 334 in 1922. This clubhouse remained in use until 1936 and was demolished shortly thereafter. A picture of this one is in the collection and it was used by the Architect as a model for the Boat House the City of Burlington constructed on the location of the original LCYC clubhouse.
  - In 1911, Milo C. Reynolds of Burlington was elected Secretary of the Club and he held numerous other offices until 1961. During his tenure he kept meticulous records and even paid corporation fees to keep the club a legal entity during the years of the Depression and World War Two. After 1936 the club did not own a clubhouse and was only minimally active using a leased facility on Shelburne Bay. Beginning in 1941 the club ceased to operate a facility and went dormant though Milo kept records of the Club officers and membership.
  - In 1955 the Lake Champlain Yacht Club Board of Governors met in Milo Reynold’s office in Burlington in response to renewed interest in boating. In 1958 the Board resolved to reactivate the Club, find a new location and determine the design and cost for a new clubhouse. After lengthy discussions and investigation of various properties John Dinse, Bill Foster and Oscar Drumhellar led a small group to purchase the Club’s present property on Shelburne Bay for \$20,000 in 1961. They were able to secure a bank loan for half, but the remaining funds had to be raised from people who were committed to reactivation.
  - John Dinse was elected LCYC Commodore in 1961 and he, his wife Ann and the other families who reactivated the Club in the early 1960’s set a tone that has endured. LCYC is a “working club,” whose members volunteer throughout the season to accomplish the many chores and projects required of a member-run club. With the new property in hand the Club Initiated a slate of programs to attract members. Included were sailboat races, a junior sailing program for children to learn sailing and a swim program as well as a harbor in which to moor their boats. A steward was hired for the summer to run people out to their boats with a motorboat that had been donated. In 1962 the Army Corp of Engineers designated the harbor in front of the property as a special anchorage area on the Lake navigation charts. In August 1963 a new clubhouse was completed for about \$15,000.
  - In 1971 the Club bought its first real 6 passenger launch made in England with a one-cylinder diesel engine for the steward to use. The launch was named for Milo C. Reynolds who had done so much to keep the Club in good standing during its dormant years. New floating docks were built for members to load and service their boats. The harbor is too exposed for slips that enable boats to be kept on docks. All boats are on moorings. Over the years 2 additional launches have been added as the membership grew and the harbor filled with boats.

- Over the years the swim program was dropped due to loss of the beach as the lake shore has changed. However, the junior sailing program has evolved and flourished. It currently consists of two week sessions over an eight week period with boats provided by the Club. Beginners are introduced to the Optimist Dinghy and the more advanced sail Flying Juniors. It is open to members and non-members. The junior sailors, participate in inter-club regattas with Clubs on Lake Champlain, Lake George and other parts of the Northeast. Scholarships are also provided from the Landau Junior Sailing Fund.
- Over the years the Club property and harbor have seen many changes and improvements including upgrades to the shore line and docks, installation of permanent moorings owned by the Club, replacement of the original clubhouse in 1998 and construction of two other outbuildings among numerous infrastructure improvements.
- Since the beginning of the modern era, providing sailboat racing has been a priority. Commodore John Dinse began a Wednesday evening Racing Series which has continued to be very popular. Over the years the racing program has seen many changes in handicapping systems, participation in the Lake Champlain Racing Conference series, the introduction of different one design fleets, significant improvements in race management equipment and procedures as well as the evolution of sail boat and sail designs.
- Though the Club does not have a dining facility or bar it does have an active social program throughout the season. This includes cruising gatherings at various anchorages around the lake, a children's day, pot luck dinners, burger nights, parties associated with major races and other social events. For cruising gatherings the Club owns private moorings at two popular locations on the Lake.
- In addition to its many membership activities the Lake Champlain Yacht Club is committed to being a good Shelburne citizen. Membership is open to all with the only exceptions being the limit on the number of members by the Town parking requirements and a potential member's willingness to contribute to the working nature of the Club. The junior sailing program participation is open to the public and the Club provides dock space on the work dock for the Shelburne Fire Department Fire & Rescue boat at no cost.