



HENRY BURY
Intelligencer

late
Dec 18/04
P. DZ

Rosemarie Lawson has followed history right to the top of the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club.

The Bayside resident is the new commodore of the yacht club located in Victoria Park. Formed in 1876 and now boasting 182 members, it is the second oldest yacht club in Canada behind only the Royal Canadian Yacht Club in Toronto.

Lawson is only the second female commodore in the club's history. Susan Smith broke the all-male tradition in 1991 by becoming the first woman commodore.

"I respect Susan for being the first lady commodore. She had a lot of opposition from the male members but she overcame the obstacles and she was a good commodore. I hope I can follow in her footsteps and do the position proud," Lawson said.

The 58-year-old bookkeeper received a special gift from Smith after she was acclaimed commodore earlier this month. It is a commodore's hat presented to Smith by the late Bridget Richards who brought it back from England.

The cap badge in the front was presented at the same time by the late Commander Frank Stockwell. It was the badge he wore while he was in command of the HMCS Haida.

"I will proudly wear the commodore's hat at the sail past June 18 to mark the official opening of the boating season. Now we just have to get through the winter without our boat," she said with a big smile.

Boating has been important for Lawson and her husband, Bill, for the past two decades.

The self-employed bookkeeper said boating is an ideal way "to escape from crunching numbers all day."

The couple owns a 35-foot Chris Craft Roamer, a trawler-type cruiser with a steel hull and powered by twin 165-horsepower

gas engines.

They have gone on many trips up the Trent-Severn Waterway as far as Buckhorn as well as around the Thousand Islands.

Their vessel travels "comfortably" at eight to 10 knots per hour.

"We enjoy puttering along to wherever we're going. We're usually not in a rush to get there," she laughed.

Born in Germany, Lawson was eight years old when her family emigrated to Canada and settled in Toronto.

After graduating from high school, she went to work for Eaton's for three years. She married at age 19 and had two chil-