

does about 100 personal income tax returns every spring.

"That keeps me busy," she laughed.

Boating is what introduced Lawson to the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club in the mid-1980s.

"I got to know the members and we started to come to functions. And I really enjoyed the camaraderie," she said.

Lawson didn't officially become a member of the yacht club until 2002.

"I was asked to be a treasurer because of my bookkeeping experience and in order to be a director, you had to be a member first."

She has been treasurer for the past three years and stepped into the commodore's position Dec. 1. She succeeds Peter Savidge.

Lawson said she is "honoured" to spend 2005 as commodore and serve both the boating and non-boating members.

The club's headquarters at Victoria Park boasts a banquet facility, members' lounge, licensed bar-patio and enough land to accommodate dozens of members' boats over the winter.

She said the yacht club isn't strictly for boaters, though.

"It's not necessary to own a boat to join the club. The club is a good place to socialize, learn about boating and go on the Bay of Quinte together for various rendezvous," she said.

Lawson added the club has operated a sailing school since 1953 and many of these graduates have gone on to buy sailboats and join the club.

Her goal as commodore is to encourage members to use the club's facilities more often "and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow boaters and non-boaters.

"I believe in the club because of the fellowship it provides. It's a good way for boaters to get to know one another."

Being a female commodore is especially gratifying for Lawson "because there aren't too many of us willing to take on the responsibility."

Contrary to what people may think, Lawson said this is a busy time for the commodore. There are Christmas parties, dances and other social functions that require her attention throughout the winter months.

"We have a busy social season between now and the lift-in in May so there is a lot of work to do as commodore. But once the boats are in, it's an entirely new season for me."

dren, Suzanne and David. Her first husband died unexpectedly.

She and her husband, Bill, who operates a home inspection service, have been together for 22 years.

Lawson has lived in Bayside for several years and previously worked for AOCO and Bardon Supplies. In 1982 she completed correspondence courses and became an independent bookkeeper.

"I just enjoyed doing books and it carried on from there," she said.

Lawson works out of her home and has about a dozen regular clients, including several small local businesses. She also

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