



# ROYAL LAKE OF THE WOODS YACHT CLUB

May 2018

## COMMODORES NEWS

A group of the Executive made their first trip out the the Club this past weekend and report that it has wintered well! Getting her ready for the season is now underway with staff arriving in early June.

The calendar, roster and schedule of programs are being finalized and headed to print later this week and we anticipate program registration to open mid-June. The newsletter will be published every two weeks until the season starts with information on everything in store. If the summer weather is anything like this past weekend we are in for an amazing 2018 on beautiful Lake of the Woods.

*Bill Parrish  
Commodore, 2018*



## Sad News

This has been a sad month with the loss of two members of our Club.

On May 6th, J. Derek Riley passed away in Winnipeg. Sports played a particularly important role in his life and extended to football, squash, and representing Canada as an Olympic rower. As a sailor he would round up his children as crew in his Lightning and sail on this beautiful lake, often against the Konantz Family. He served as Commodore of RLWYC in 1969.

To say that Gail Konantz had a glow from within is an understatement. On May 14th the sky got a little brighter as her inner light became a star. Wherever there was action is where you would find Gail. She brought energy, enthusiasm and unwavering support to everything and everyone she touched.

Derek & Gail will be dearly missed. They both left this world after lives well lived and with nothing outstanding on their "bucket lists". They also left an incredible legacy in their families who are woven into the fabric of this lake. Our thoughts and hearts are with the extended Riley & Konantz Families at this time of their loss.

See last pages for full obituaries.



## Season At A Glance

(Additional events will be added as dates are confirmed)

Friday, June 22

Ice Breaker Royal Hour

Saturday, June 30

Commodore's Reception & Dinner

Saturday, July 14

Fish Fry

Sunday, July 22

Pancake Breakfast, Verandah Sale & Yachtion

July 25 to 29

Opti Training Camp, Opti Provincials & Richardson Regatta

Tuesday, July 31

Golf Tournament, KGCC

Saturday, August 4

Three Island Swim  
Dance

Saturday, August 11

Hospital Dinner

## Weekly Action

Programs begin July 2nd  
Ladies Tennis Tuesday  
Family Night Wednesday  
Club Dinner Thursday  
Mens Tennis Friday  
Royal Hour Friday  
Club Race Series on Weekends  
Mixed Tennis on Sundays

## Tennis Update

We have great news: Ron Heifets will be returning as our Head Pro! He is working hard on programming and coaching strategies to bring out the best player in all of us.

The Club courts will be open in early June. The dates for the Club tennis tournaments have been set:

Junior Doubles Tournament, [July 17, 3:30](#)  
Men's Tournament & Luncheon, [July 20, 9:30](#)  
Mixed Doubles Tournament, [July 21, 9:30](#)  
Junior Singles Tournament, [August 6, 10:00](#)  
Ladies Doubles Tournament, [August 7, 3:30](#)  
Angie Ferguson Tournament, [August 11, 9:30](#)



Club tournaments are open to all levels of players - so dust off those tennis sneakers and pull your racquet out of the "water toys" bucket. Sign up for a lesson or two with the Pro or a weekly tennis program and hit the courts! We are looking forward to seeing you.

## SAILING

### McLAUGHLIN SCHOLARSHIP - apply NOW!

Applications are now being accepted for the prestigious **McLaughlin Scholarship**. The recipient will have the use of a top-of-the-line black racing Opti for the sailing season, including both practice and race rigging. Regatta fees are also covered. Interested sailors should apply to [RCSailing@rlwyc.ca](mailto:RCSailing@rlwyc.ca) prior to June 15.



### CLUB RACE SCHEDULE - 2018

Sat June 30, 10am	Konantz Cup
Sat July 7, 10am	Commodore's Cup
Sat July 14, 10am	Galt Cup
Sat July 21, 10am	Gage Cup
Sun July 22, 1pm	Parent & Child Race
Sat July 28 & Sun July 29	Richardson Regatta
Mon Aug 6, 10am	Kenora Cup
Sat Aug 11, 10am	McLaughlin Cup, Powder Puff
Sat Aug 18, 10am	Nanton Cup
Sat Aug 25, 10am	Rat Portage Rowing Club Cup

## Members Corner

Need to buy, sell, trade or hire some help this summer? Members are welcome to submit advertisements for the RLWYC newsletter. Send your submission to [executivedirector@rlwyc.ca](mailto:executivedirector@rlwyc.ca).

We are looking for a part time maintenance person for the summer season. Duties include: Grounds Keeping, Brush clearing, Painting, Light construction. Will require their own boat to access cabin located on Channel Island. Please email [kharris@harristransport.ca](mailto:kharris@harristransport.ca)

We are looking for a part-time Nanny for July and August for our 3 kids ages 7, 5 and almost 2. Our cottage is located on Mackies Island. Hours are flexible but must have access to a boat. Please contact Shereese at 2047910831 / [squally@tmlawyers.com](mailto:squally@tmlawyers.com) if you are interested."



Mr. John Derek Riley  
1 July , 1922 – 6 May , 2018

How do you measure a life? Happiness? Purpose? Integrity? Legacy? Love? Dad lived all these values with grace, humility, perseverance and the most wonderful sense of humour. He was passionate about business, sport, philanthropy and family and could recently be quoted saying “All you need is love...” John Derek Riley (JD) was born in 1922, the seventh of eight children to Jean Isabel Culver and Conrad Stephenson Riley. He attended a one-room school for his early education, followed by Grosvenor, Robert H. Smith, Gordon Bell High School and a year at St. John’s Ravenscourt. In 1939 he joined the Zeta Psi Fraternity and embarked on a Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Manitoba. During WW11, Dad served as a naval officer in the Royal Canadian Navy. He fought in the Battle of the Atlantic aboard the HMCS Skeena, a Canadian destroyer that escorted the merchant ships between St. John’s, Newfoundland and Londonderry, Ireland. He was appointed to the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm, where he received flight training and spent the remainder of the war stationed in Trinidad and England.

During a service leave he married Helena Day “Polly” Harris and enjoyed what he would endlessly tell his children was, “the greatest love story ever told”.

In 1945 Dad returned home to build a life in Winnipeg. He graduated as a chartered accountant at the University of Manitoba and worked as an auditor at Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. In 1950 the Hudson’s Bay Company hired Dad as a member of the accounting department, in the Fur Trade Division. He worked his way up to Chief Financial Officer, and left HBC after he purchased Dominion Bronze and Iron Limited. He grew that company until he sold it in 1971 to Indal, accepting a position on their board.

Mom (deceased 2007) and Dad had four children: Jeannie (Rod Senft), Debby (deceased 1999), Derek (Anne) and Leslie (Buzz Grant, deceased 2016). They had nine grandchildren: Riley (Sarah), Derek (Patchi) Lauren (Chuck), Andrew (Hilary), Kate (Chris), Jean, Tom, Shannon and Chris. Great grandchildren include Connor, Zoe, Isabela, Maia and four more coming very soon. Our parents’ legacy lives on!

For many years, Dad served as board director of multiple companies including Royal Trust, Molson, Indal, North Portage Development, Federal Industries, Inter City Gas, Vision Capital, and Manitoba Forest Products. He also served as Chairman of Balmoral Hall School.

In 1987, Dad was invited to become the founding chair of The North-West Company, where he played a lead role in its acquisition of the HBC Northern Stores. This resulted in extensive northern travel exposing him to poverty in reserve communities. It sparked a desire to support Indigenous access to post-secondary education. This led to the creation of the Polly and Derek Riley Scholarship fund at the William Norrie Centre and the Derek Riley Scholarship fund at the University of Manitoba.

Sports played a particularly important role throughout Dad’s life. He played football in high school and for the University of Manitoba Bisons. After the war, he joined the Winnipeg Rowing Club and trained as a competitive oarsman. Over the years he competed in singles, doubles, fours and eights and won multiple regattas regionally and nationally. In 1952, he teamed up to win the Canadian Olympic trials in doubles and represented Canada at the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki, Finland. He went on to win several more titles including a World Masters championship in 1985. At age 75, he rowed his last regatta and retired his oars.

Dad was an avid squash player and loved both downhill and cross-country skiing. In summers, with his children as crew, he raced his Lightning at his beloved Lake of the Woods and served as Commodore of the RLWYC. He completed his first marathon at age 58.

A leader in Manitoba’s sports community, Dad chaired the rowing venue of the 1967 Pan Am Games in Winnipeg, and served as president of the Winnipeg Squash Club, Winnipeg Rowing Club and Winnipeg Winter Club. He led the campaign for the Winnipeg Rowing Club’s new boathouse, which now bears the Riley name.

In latter years Dad very much enjoyed being a philanthropist. He was a passionate believer in Winnipeg and supported numerous charitable endeavours. Dad has been honoured for his business acumen, athleticism and philanthropy. Among his highest achievements are an appointment to The Order of Canada in 2013, an induction into the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame in 2009, and an honorary Doctor of Laws awarded to him by the University of Manitoba in 2017.

More than anything, Dad cherished his relationships with his family and friends. He was very proud of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and they all adored him immensely. For us, he was our rock, our North Star, our role model and our inspiration. He loved his city of Winnipeg and never missed a minute of any Jets hockey game. Dad always said, “All manner of good can be done if you don’t worry about who gets the credit.” He truly lived that ethos and was a pillar of his community. Our dear Dad will be deeply missed.

A celebration of Dad’s life will be held, at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at St. George’s Anglican Church, 186 Wilton with a reception to follow at the church. In lieu of flowers, please feel free to make donations to the Winnipeg Foundation, Winnipeg Rowing Club or Grace Hospital.



## Gail Konantz

*“A lifetime is like a flash of lightning in the summer sky. Knowing this, may I be well and happy, may I be peaceful and calm, may I be protected from dangers, and may my mind be free from hatred” – Gautama Buddha*

Gail was born in Winnipeg to Kathleen and Geoffrey Macdonald on February 19th, 1936 - the young sister to Allan and John.

From her earliest times, she was taught independence and courage. At 6 months old, Gail’s mother was injured in a car accident and would be wheelchair-bound for the rest of her life. When Gail was five years old she walked herself to kindergarten 5 blocks away. She was enrolled at Balmoral Hall School as the youngest weekly boarder at age 6 while her father served as a decorated Captain in World War II. Summers were spent at camps until age 10, then with generous family relatives at Lake of the Woods every year until she was married.

After receiving an undergraduate degree and later a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Manitoba, Gail worked at the Winnipeg Art Gallery and taught art for 6 years at Balmoral Hall and later in the public school system.

She credits the love her parents had for each other in her excellent choice of husband - she met Gordie at the Lake and they were happily married in 1959. *“Mine in ’59”* she would joyfully say. Leslie, Don and Erin - Gail’s first genetic works - were raised on prairie values and her ethos *“roots and wings”*.

At 43, her life was invaded by a lethal breast cancer ending her teaching career. Far more than surviving, she ignited a *“carpe diem with a vengeance”* mantra for which Gail was so well known.

With indelible Winnipeg memories of 19 Annual Tally Ho holiday sleigh ride parties, and looking at her empty nest at age 50, she and Gordie pulled up the long roots threaded deeply in prairie sod and moved to Vancouver. The call of the Lake would happily signal their annual summer migration back to her Winnipeg community.

Living in Vancouver brought her into proximal and regular contact with her 3 adult children now settled on the west coast and married: Leslie & Cam Landell; Don & Catherine Konantz; and Erin & Sean Anderson. Her beloved grandchildren are David and Madeleine Landell; Emily, Willy, Victoria and Geoffrey Konantz; and Luke and Lily Anderson.

Gail was always in motion. From a distance one might wonder if she was just trying to keep up with Gordie. However, on a closer look, physically, she was a Gailforce. She was a determined marathon runner, a competitive sailor, a fierce cyclist and an avid hiker. From the top of the Himalaya in Nepal to the smiling shopkeeper in India she was an adventurous traveller. Gail was genetically predisposed to hardiness, exploring and connecting with friends from all walks of life near and far. When not on the go, she could be found wrestling over canvas. She was a prolific artist. She loved to wonder and to be astonished and her creativity and curiosity were boundless. She always felt complete and whole when painting and described having butterflies when seeing other’s art.

Gail was threatened by cancer a 2nd time in 1993. Beating this involved supercharging her spirit. She was an original *Abreast in a Boat* paddler among the dragon boating survivors who pioneered post breast cancer exercise and took their celebration, songs, life force - and their boat - worldwide.

She was the genealogist of her family and proud of her Persse ancestry and connections to early Selkirk settlers. She cherished her Macdonald family and described looking into their eyes and seeing her own. She loved to publish: from a biography on Gordie’s grandmother Edith Rogers; to *Hasten Slowly*, a compendium of travels and lessons drawn from 31 years of Everest Trekking and the proceeds of which were returned to Nepal. *Family Matters* was her book dedicated to grandchildren chronicling family history dating back to 1402. She printed many books to mark adventures with family. Her last publication was of her life’s works of art *Munching Petunias* a remarkable compilation of her original and whimsical artworks.

Gail thought of her life as an opportunity to find joy and a feeling of accomplishment. She died with her loving family gathered, in her home on May 14th, 2018.

Gail Konantz was an original.

Celebration of Gail’s life will be held in Vancouver at Royal Vancouver Yacht Club 3 pm – 6 pm Monday June 4th, 2018 and on Spirit Island, Lake of the Woods on Saturday, July 7th at 3 pm – 6 pm.

If you wish to support causes Gail valued: the Kenora Community Foundation supports access to art resources for youth in Kenora. As well, advancing our understanding of lung cancer with research at BC Cancer.