

To change direction in a sailboat, a sailor has two options: to jibe or to come about.

JUNE 2010

For Paul Ivanoff, a sailor, psychologist and art gallery curator, coming about seemed the perfect philosophical metaphor for an event that combines an art exhibit and a regatta to extol environmental and psychological health.

Changing direction and going against the wind mirrors the Chancery Sailing Festival's mission to challenge the powerboat's reign on Muskoka's lakes. So it's no surprise the festival's mixed media art show, featuring sails and sailing yachts, is titled *Coming About*.

From July 1 to 24, international and local artists will use paintings, photos and sculptures to extol the clean, quiet, ecological psychotherapy of sailing. The works will be on display at the Chancery Art Gallery, where Dr. Ivanoff is curator.

"Because we have the psychology office and the gallery together, the slogan of the sailing festival is Sailing, Art & Sanity," explains Dr. Ivanoff, who created the festival with gallery owner and fellow psychologist Lena Kolobow. "The Chancery Sailing Festival is our little effort to try to save our world, to make a contribution."

"A little improvement is actually a sign of sanity. If you don't do it, it's a bit insane. Shorelines are destroyed by powerboats' waves. In many ways, sailing is sane and lots of pleasure."

In conjunction with *Coming About*, the annual Chancery Regatta will set sail on Lake Muskoka at noon on July 10. The regatta begins at Eleanor Island, whose bird sanctuary made it the natural choice for the start of this environmentally friendly, non-competitive race. Sailors of every vintage in sailboats of every type are encouraged to present a united case for the pleasures of sail by joining in the run from Eleanor Island to Taboo Resort on a course that circles islands sporting some of Muskoka's most idyllic scenery. Registration is not necessary, but those who register

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The Sane Art of Sailing

through chanceryart.com receive charts, directions and commemorative bandanas.

Skippers and crew members are invited to a sailor's gathering at the opening of *Coming About* on July 1. The party starts at 6 p.m. and ends in time for everyone to see the Canada Day fireworks over Bracebridge Falls. In keeping with a gallery policy to provide free space for non-profit events, Dr. Ivanoff also invites anyone promoting green living ideas to stage a non-profit event at the gallery during the festival.

Inspiration to champion green navigation practices arose three years ago when a documentary by Norman Loftis called *An American in Muskoka* was shown at the gallery. The film recorded the sunset of Muskoka's sailboat era and the steady growth of powerboats.

"The idea was to put people who sail on Lake Muskoka together once a year to make a statement," said Dr. Ivanoff, who sails an Ontario-made 20'

Matilda, a style of boat that was also built in Australia, England and the U.S. "My aim is to show some respect to the world around us, especially when we live in such a unique place as Muskoka. People come from around the world to see it, and to continue to destroy this place is a bit shameful."

Regatta participants will meet on Lake Muskoka's South Bay and circle Eleanor Island just before noon. On the bell, boats follow a racecourse, "at your most pleasant pace," to the finish line at the Taboo Resort docks. After the last boat is in, sailors celebrate with champagne and invite fellow tars and the public aboard to view the yachts and swap tales. Lunch follows at Taboo's Boathouse Bar & Grill.

"Lake Muskoka is a beautiful lake for sailing," says Dr. Ivanoff. "There are many sailboats on Lake Simcoe, but it is kind of flat. Lake Muskoka is so complicated and the scenery is so beautiful. We hope with this regatta some people will switch from powerboats to sailboats." *BTC*

BY PATTI VIPOND

Above: © 2010 by Gisèle Bouliane. *Vague* (fragment) Acrylic on canvas, 30"x 24" exhibited in "Coming About 2010" at Chancery Art Gallery