

Have your cake and eat it too – The C&C 27 is the ideal Racer/Cruiser for the Ottawa River - By Dawn Fasken

We'll start your introduction to the C&C 27 fleet with a little background and history. C&C Yachts is the largest ever builder of sailboats in Canada. As one of the best production boats ever built, the C&C 27 was the boat that made C&C Yachts a world leader in fiberglass sailboats. The 27 was the company's most successful design due to its outstanding sailing ability, her roominess, her quality construction, amazing success as a racer and comfort as a cruiser. With nearly 1000 hulls produced, the C&C 27 remains a classic Canadian sailboat.



C&C produced four versions of the original 27, which the market has labelled as the Marks I, II, III and IV. After production of the Mark IV ceased, C&C Yachts introduced a completely new boat, which is generally known as the Mark V.

The C&C 27 became the boat design that would shape the North American sailboat industry with its innovative building techniques, rakish design and lightweight construction. These features created a boat that excels on the racecourse while providing the versatility to cruise.

So, for all of you that are looking for a new fleet, a new challenge or an overall wonderful boat, I encourage you to learn more about the C&C 27 fleet. My two favourite features of the C&C 27 and fleet are:

1. The people are incredibly friendly, and
2. The boat is versatile – cruising, one-design and jam racing are all possible.

If any of you have met any of the C&C 27 sailors, you'd feel an immediate sense of welcome and their love of sailing. Everyone I've met or spoken with to date in this fleet has been friendly, encouraging, fun and they have provided a wealth of knowledge and at times have been so kind as to lend a hand, tool or trailer to aid another in the fleet (and others). It's why I want to promote the fleet so much, as I was so warmly welcomed and have received so much encouragement.

Some technical details:

The C&C 27 is a masthead rig with a large overlapping Genoa and a high-aspect ratio mainsail. The deck-stepped mast is straightforward to rig and unrig. The running rigging is simple and can be handled easily by two people when cruising, and some regularly single-hand them. The cabin has 6'0" standing headroom. There is a small galley and plenty of seating down below. The C&C 27 can sleep 4 comfortably on two double berths.

Racing the C&C 27:

Of all the one-design fleets the C&C 27 boats are the only class with standing headroom down below. Dreading that ensuing race in the bitter rain and cold? Just picture being able to put on your foul weather gear while standing down below, sheltered from the elements. In fact some of the best times can be had waiting down below on the 27 with your crew for that postponement flag to be dropped. The C&C sails around the buoys with speed and agility, challenges the beginner and keeps the interest of the seasoned racer. The crew is typically comprised of 5 people; a helm, two middle and two foredeck hands. There is plenty of room on the rail for the crew on the upwind leg while keeping dry. Downwind the large spinnaker is gybed end to end and can be launched and dowsed from the fore hatch. The 27s are good in light air and will stand up to a beating in heavy air. The C&C 27 is not as weight-sensitive as many race boats. The huge cooler/ice box can be stocked with after-race refreshments without being overly concerned about the additional weight.

The versatility of the C&C 27 is why most people purchase this boat. The options for racing on the Ottawa River are immense: Women's Monday night, PHRF on Tuesday, One-Design or JAM on Thursday evenings and various weekend races. The C&C's design is optimized when racing as the original designers intended. Cruising is always a wonderful way to let your hair down and relax out on the open water



and the C&Cs are a wonderful boat to do just that. They are easy for two or more to sail, lots of sleeping and storage room below, a convenient head is on board and a good-sized ice-box we've previously mentioned. And to top all that, they look sleek and beautiful at anchor or racing towards their next destination.

A recap of the 2007-racing season:

At the end of the 2007 racing season there were 43 C&C 27s (not counting MK 5s) on the Ottawa River, including 23 at NSC, 18 at BYC and one each at CVGR (Aylmer) and Rockcliffe. In 2006, there were 8 new owners and in 2007, there were 4 new owners making for a growing fleet in Ottawa. Some of the new owners like Peter & myself jumped right into racing our new boat (in 2006); while others are looking for crew or have decided they want to cruise. The C&C 27 one-design series included 12 different C&C 27s and we averaged 9.1 boats on the start line for the summer series. That's more than every other fleet, except for the Sharks, which averaged 9.9 boats per race. Hugh Morrin maintains the Ottawa C&C 27 web page at http://www.nsc.ca/nsc_racing/cc27.htm which has information for anyone looking to buy a C&C 27, buying in the US and much more.

**Nepean One-Design (NOD):**

The Nepean One-Design regatta had its first C&C 27 start in 2007 and we are looking for more involvement in 2008; it's a fun weekend for all involved. I can attest to this, as last year was my first regatta to participate and it was amazing fun. We need more racers and those interested in trying something different to sign-up this year to ensure that the C&C 27s will have a start in future years! I expect you'll be hearing from us soon with details of the fun to come for the NOD.

Social Scene:

After our race on August 2nd 2007, we organized a raft-up with boats from NSC, BYC and CVGR. A total of 9 C&C 27s and two wannabes joined in on the fun until after sunset. It was a great night of swimming, socializing and getting to know our fellow C&C sailors – racers and cruisers alike.



Keep a watch for the 2008 C&C 27 Raft-Ups, as there are sure to be more. Other possible upcoming social events are in the works and we'll see what the 2008 season brings.

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