

winter 2012

# MEAFORD HARBOUR

## Welcome Message

Welcome to the first issue of the Meaford Harbour Newsletter! The newly formed "Friends of Meaford Harbour" in partnership with municipal staff are developing a series of quarterly newsletters to provide helpful boating tips, address common issues and concerns for Meaford Boaters and most importantly improve communication. The Friends of Meaford Harbour is a volunteer group comprised of local boaters who share an interest in Meaford's picturesque harbour facility and are willing to donate their time and expertise to the community. Our first newsletter provides helpful information for those planning a cruise to a US port, tips for winter storage and information on knots, including a how-to guide. If you have any suggestions for future issues or would like to volunteer please contact Catherine Purcell, [cpurcell@meaford.ca](mailto:cpurcell@meaford.ca) Happy New Year! *FMH (Friends of Meaford Harbour)*

## important dates

**January 23-27**

2012 Slip Contracts Mailed Out

**March 2**

Signed Contract and Payment Deadline

**March 19**

Wait Listed Boaters contacted for 2012

## ...coming soon

*Look for these informative topics in our upcoming newsletters:*  
**Spring 2012 Newsletter**

- . FAQ's
- . What to do in an emergency at Meaford Harbour
- . 2012 repairs and improvements
- . Tips and Best Practices
- . 2012 Boating season information

**June 2012 Open House**

- . Meet Harbour Staff
- . Tour the Facility
- . Meet fellow boaters
- . and More!



**Meaford**  
the other big apple

# Are you thinking about a cruise to a port in the U.S.A. in 2012?

Make sure that you visit the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol website [www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/pleasure\\_boats/boats/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/pleasure_boats/boats/) You will find detailed information there as to the necessary documentation and permits. For example, a Customs Decal must be purchased and it takes several weeks to get it. A complete list of Ports of Entry and numbers to call in advance of your arrival is on the site.

## Tips for the off season

During the off season, don't forget to check your boat. Remember tarps occasionally come loose, rigging lines on masts may be loose and clanging and pads and blocking may have shifted putting increased pressure on your hull. A few minutes now could prevent problems in the spring.



## Knots...

There are probably hundreds of knots, but only six knots (along with variations) will get you through life – not just boating. Knowing these six basic knots, you'll be able to tie fenders, lines, join lines, create rescue lines and secure your boat.

### Knots to Secure Your Boat to an Object

Figure Eight Cleat Hitch – to secure a dock line to a dock cleat. Round Turn and Two Half Hitches – to secure a dock line to a post or piling or tree, to tie a fender line to a bow rail or stanchion post; Clove Hitch – used to tie a line from the boat around a large piling or tree, to tie a fender line to a stanchion or bow rail (Note: In most cases, a clove hitch needs to be locked securely with a half hitch).

### Knots to Secure a Line to a Line

Reef Knot – to join two ropes of the same diameter and weight; for example, two pieces of nylon; when only a small amount of load is going to be applied like reefing a sail or carrying a bundle; Sheet Bend – joins two lines together that are a different material and/or different size, useful when the knot is going to be put under extreme load and you want to easily untie it later (Note; an example of an 'extreme load' is towing another boat).

### Knots to Form Loops

Bowline – forms a loop at the end of a line for many uses like dropping over a cleat or a bollard when the eye splice is too small, used as a rescue line when a ring buoy is not available, a triple bowline can be tied to create a bosun's chair, two lines can be joined together with interlocking bowlines.

Winter is a great time to learn these knots, so you start out next season prepared. Using the correct knots can save your boat from damage. There are many books and websites on knot tying or as a special offer for Municipality of Meaford Boaters, download a free copy of "Tying & Using Knots" e-Lesson from [www.BoatingWithDawsons.com/meaford](http://www.BoatingWithDawsons.com/meaford) (go through the shopping cart and insert the promo "knots" to reduce the purchase cost to \$0)



### CONTACT INFORMATION

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