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Dear members and friends of the Edmonton Yacht Club,

After two years of pandemic disruption to all facets of our lives, we truly hope that this year will be an upswing for all of us, including the sailing community at Wabamun Lake. After one virtual meeting of your new board, we are just beginning to set our agenda for the year ahead. Our veteran Harbour Master Mark VanderLinden said it well: our best hopes for this year are for high water (in the lake) and fair winds. Our new Social Director Liliana Cordero has high hopes that we can gather once again for fun events and that invigorating sense of community we've all missed.

It has been a very challenging time for volunteer run organizations, and for anyone trying to get work done virtually. In spite of this, our club has managed to stick together, maintain stable membership, make substantial improvements to our clubhouse, and carry on our business safely with no COVID outbreaks. For this, we owe a tremendous debt of thanks to outgoing commodore Tim Bowles and the past two EYC boards he led, as well as the COVID committee lead by Treasurer Don Simoneau. Let me say thank you on all our behalf to each member who has mustered out to keep our club safe and strong.

Because we are largely volunteer run, we have been able to keep our costs down, and our fees remain by far the lowest on the lake. However, after several years of fee freezes (and a one-time COVID-reduction in 2020) the board had to grapple with cost pressures that have been building for EYC. Over the past four years, some of our larger expenses have risen substantially:

- Insurance up 18%
- Utilities up 22%
- Property taxes up 53%

Overall, our costs are up around 8% just since last year. As we've seen at the gas pump and the grocery store, inflation pressure is real for all of us, and the club is no exception. Therefore, after a thorough discussion, and very mindful of the financial pressure many families are facing in this economy, the board passed a motion to increase the all annual fees for membership, moorage and Hurry Inn by 5%. This only partially offsets that 8% cost pressures from last year. We are unsure of what cost pressures 2022 will bring, but nothing is getting cheaper. A motion for an 8% increase was considered but didn't carry.

The club is working hard to increase revenue by attracting new members with the strategic takeover of the sailing school, as well as promoting EYC at the boat show—and by keeping our fees lower than other clubs. We are going to refresh our marketing approach this year too, and look at using events to drive more revenue and interest. We also understand there are persistent questions about cost allocation between Hurry Inn and the club, and we are forming a board committee to examine this issue thoroughly.

I look forward to serving you alongside your board. We appreciate your questions, suggestions and feedback on how to sustain and grow our sailing community at EYC, so reach out any time. Portfolios and email links are below.

See you at the lake,

– Don Iveson
2022 EYC Commodore