

BYC LAUNCH SAFETY CHECKLIST

You should re-read your boat and motor operation manual before each launch; use the checklist(s) they contain to get ready for a safe launch. If you do not have the manual(s), talk to someone in the Club with the same boat (or motor) as yours to learn what to do. If this is your first launch with a recently purchased boat, have the previous owner help you before and during launch day: this is a usual condition for sale of a boat.

Before Launch Day

- Remove all winter covering including lines; make sure your mast is properly secured to your boat if stored on it over winter and all rigging is out of the way when walking on the deck.
- Re-secure life lines if removed over winter.
- Use a ladder that fully reaches your deck and secure it to the boat whenever using it.
- Replace out-board engine with fuel and battery (and fire extinguisher) so that you can start the boat.
- Replace fenders and hang over the side—at least four.
- Secure a sturdy braided (not plastic) line that is longer than the length of your boat fore and after.
- Secure (two) dock lines and secure stern lines with messenger to buoy but make sure buoy lines are not trailing in the water to snarl yours or someone else's prop.
- REMOVE ANY MESSENGER IN THE WATER OR IT WILL BE CUT AT LAUNCH.
- Close all through-hull fittings if possible; if engine water fed, check that the inlet hose is secure. (Boats, and engines, have flooded in not doing this.)
- Mark with tape where straps are to be used to lift your boat.
- Provide proof of boat insurance coverage to the BYC office

On Launch Day

- Learn when your boat will probably be going in and plan to be there well in advance.
- Stay near your boat and know when you are about to go in
- Secure a ladder to your boat for crew access.
- Drop your fore and aft lines to the ground for use by the launch crew; deploy fenders.
- Check that all seacocks/through hull fittings are secure.
- Prepare your engine for a fast start once in the water: turn on power, etc.

- Stay away from under your boat as the crew approaches; if you wish to rinse off the gravel from the slings, tell the crew chief and have a bucket with water and long handed brush available to do this smartly and safely as the slings are brought to your boat.
- Obey all launch crew instructions and let them do their job.
- Once your boat is in the water, have others hold it at the dock, board it, and prepare to move off smartly from the entry point to your mooring.
- If you suspect you may have engine starting problems arrange before hand to have a launch available to move your boat smartly from the launch area to your mooring.
- Once at your mooring do a final check of all through-hulls and bilge to insure no unusual water ingress. If there is a problem and the boat has to come back out alert the launch crew immediately.

For comprehensive check lists for both the spring commissioning and winterizing of your boats, these can be downloaded at: <http://bottrell.ca/BoatInfo.htm>