

Press Release: FOR GENERAL DISTRIBUTION

EVENT NOTICE: July 31, 2010, 3pm at Portland village on the Big Rideau Lake

Portland's Admiral Kingsmill Sailpast & Salute

PORTLAND OUTDOORS, through the combined efforts of the Rideau Lakes Legion Branch 231, the Big Rideau Lake Association and the Portland on the Rideau Historical Society, will hold a boat Sailpast and Salute honoring Admiral Kingsmill on July 31, 3pm at Hanna Park on the Big Rideau Lake shoreline of Portland village.

The sailpast event will focus on:

- Recognizing Admiral Kingsmill's achievements in founding the Royal Canadian Navy in 1910, his naval leadership for many years and his residency on Big Rideau Lake;
- Recognizing Portland's great local history;
- Recognizing Big Rideau Lake's fabulous opportunities for boating;
- Encouraging family fun ashore and on Big Rideau Lake.

Admiral Kingsmill was founder of the Royal Canadian Navy in 1910 and resided near Portland on Grindstone Island. Recently his gravesite in the Anglican Cemetery near Portland was honored with much fanfare and recognition of his achievements by being made an official Ontario Heritage Site. A naval cadet squadron is also named after him.

The Admiral Kingsmill Sailpast and Salute will consist of a long line of a variety of local boats sailing past a floating dock placed at Hanna Park in Portland village where a stand-in and costumed Admiral Kingsmill will take the salute from the "Big Rideau Lake Fleet" as it passes. It is expected that many interesting antique, classic, power boats and sailboats from the area will take part in the sailpast. They will each dip their Canadian flag in passing to commemorate Admiral Kingsmill's efforts for Canada, the Royal Canadian Navy and Portland.

The Admiral Kingsmill sailpast and salute on July 31 will take place starting at 3pm at Hanna Park in Portland Village. This is a great opportunity for family fun on and off the water and to learn more about the exciting history of Admiral Kingsmill and Portland.

All aspects of the sailpast on the lake are FREE [just bring your own boat!!] The fleet will form up under the direction of an organizing Lake Marshall at the first green buoy about 2 kms out [NW] from Portland. Under the direction of the Lake Marshall they will follow a lead boat in line to the salute location on the shores of Portland. The salute will be taken by Admiral Kingsmill from a floating dock provided by Portland Docks.

The public is invited to participate either with their boat in the afternoon's sail past events or by coming to Hanna Park and enjoying the view, the park and the event. It is a great place to bring a picnic lunch or to follow up the boat parade on the lake with a chicken barbecue from the nearby Portland Community Hall. Barbecue begins at 4:30 pm sharp. A chicken barbecue meal can be purchased at the Portland Community Hall to eat in or take out. Be early as they may sell out fast.

The media and public may contact prhs@live.ca with any inquiries prior to the event.