

THE MAREP REPORT

Spring Tides

November, 2004

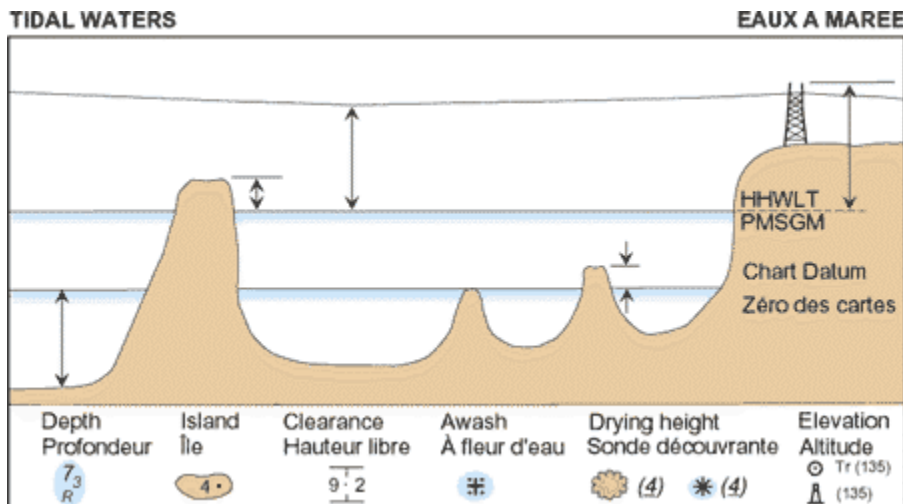
Here we are again with the run-up to another winter boating season. For most of us, winter boating is largely confined to Indian Arm or Howe Sound, as day trips usually are the rule during the short hours of limited sunshine.

Looking ahead for the next four months, be ready around mid-month for large Spring tides coincident with new or full moons, and with the moon at perigee (closest to earth). These 15-16 foot Large Tides tend to lift off storm-placed beach flotsam and move it out into the channels as the tide drops to or near zero feet. This, combined with the debris run-offs from many full streams can create a real obstacle course out there. Watch your speeds, as the low winter sun can hide driftwood in the wavelet shadows. Given the lack of strong tidal currents, Indian Arm can be bad for driftwood.

If overnighing in Bedwell, watch the overnight zero tide, the resulting change in your swing, and the potential for unforecasted late night outflow winds of 20 knots or more – especially if the weather is clear and cool.

As I have said before, please think about carbon monoxide while you are running at slow speed, all closed up and snug with the heaters going. You should really have a CO detector installed, and ensure that fresh air is entering the cabin – even if it is a little cool. CO - related tragedies continue to happen.

Finally, since I have been talking about Large Tides, here is a little reminder of what Higher High Water Large Tide and Lower Low Water Large Tide (Datum) mean on your chart.



Have fun on these anticipated still and bright winter days.

P/Cdr John Northey AP
MAREP Officer