

## The Tall Ships Race Start:

Immediately following the Parade of Sail, approximately 16 of the Tall Ships will make their way to the start area located in the harbour approaches south of McNab's Island. There they will prepare for the start of the final leg of their race around the Atlantic. The race start process is similar to that used by racing pleasure craft. A start line is established between a committee boat carrying the race officials and a floating mark approximately 1 nautical mile (1.85 km or 6080 feet) away. A pre-determined timed starting sequence is initiated to signal the start of the race. For the details of the race rules and starting procedure, and a wealth of other information, go to: <http://www.sailtraininginternational.org>

For the start of Tall Ships Race in Halifax, the Committee Vessel will be the Maritime Coastal Defense Vessel *HMCS Goose Bay* and the other end of the start line will be marked by the RCMP Patrol Vessel *Murray*. They will be anchored in position at approximately 3pm on Monday afternoon after the completion of the Parade of Sail. A third vessel, the RCMP Patrol Vessel *Preventer*, will be located some ½ mile directly astern of *Goose Bay* creating a no-go zone behind the Committee Boat.

There is a wide variety of shapes and sizes of the racing Tall Ships. Each one is assigned a computed handicap based on a number of factors including design, size and past performance. The intent of the handicap is to level the playing field and give everyone a fair chance in the race to the finish line. The handicaps are used to adjust each ship's elapsed sailing time. Engine use during the race is only permitted to charge batteries or to maneuver in unusual circumstances such as collision avoidance.

## Watching the Start:

From the water: The start line will be located in the harbour approaches at approximately 44.32N 063.26W. That location has been chosen to give the ships plenty of room to maneuver for the start.

Pleasure craft are welcome in the starting area but must keep well clear of the Tall Ships and not interfere with them in any way. The recommended areas for watching are outside each end of the start line. As the water depth in that area is approximately 100 feet, anchoring will be a challenge for many and engines will be required for station keeping. A radio watch must be maintained at all times on Channel 12 and 16.

From Land: The starting area will be visible from the western shore of the harbour approaches from the Herring Cove area to Chebucto Head, with better views from higher ground. On the east side of the approaches, the Hartlen Point area should also offer a good view. From both areas the start will be some 5 miles off shore.

Of course, the assumption is that the weather will be perfect for the start!