

**SAIL CANADA  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
CANDIDATE NOMINATION INFORMATION**

***Hugh McGugan***

*Ottawa, Ontario*

*Member of Nepean Sailing Club and Kingston Yacht Club*

**PASSION FOR SAILING**

- Hugh is a "first generation" lifelong sailor with experience in a wide range of competitive, developmental and organizational activities for sailing in Canada.
- His sailing background includes extensive offshore racing and cruising experience on the Great Lakes and the Atlantic holding key sailing and management positions with the *Silver Shadow* and *Magistri* Canadian international offshore programs in the 1980's.
- After 5 years of professional offshore sailing, Hugh returned to "the real world" and a career in the high-tech space.
- Hugh has continued to sail competitively at all levels from club races to North American & World Championships in a variety of keelboats & dinghies including C&C-34, Etchells, Kirby-25, J-24, Laser, and most recently J/80 one-design classes.
- Hugh's passion for sailing further intensified through support of his kids' youth racing and CANSail Instructor activities, as well as Ottawa area paralympic sailing programs.
- Serving on Sail Canada's Board of directors for the past 3 years has allowed Hugh to channel his passion for sailing in more extensive directions throughout Canada.

**STRATEGIC SKILLS**

- Hugh's natural inclination is to consider the "big picture" when approaching challenges and opportunities both professionally and with sailing-related activities on & off the water.
- Hugh seeks first to understand and then to act upon the needs of stakeholders (sailing clubs and PSAs) and customers (sailors) alike in working to achieve success.
- Over the past 3 years on the board, Hugh has been instrumental in leading Sail Canada's Strategic Planning initiative and other key strategic imperatives for the organization in collaboration with PSAs, clubs, sailors and other stakeholders.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Hugh is a P.Eng. with his professional life focused on a variety of customer facing and management roles in the semiconductor technology space, developing, strengthening and utilizing strategic relationships in the fast-paced world of high-tech.
- Hugh also has extensive experience in the development and delivery of professional training programs to a wide variety of participants.

## **OTHER**

- Hugh is actively involved in a wide range of volunteer activities related to sailing in Canada including youth racing, regatta official duties and judging, as well as Sail Canada-related support needed for local and regional events.
- Hugh has Sail Canada club-level judging accreditation and frequently supports local, regional and national regattas through judging and protest committee involvement.

## **WHAT WILL YOU BRING TO SAIL CANADA BOARD**

- Working with my many talented peers on the Sail Canada Board and previously NSC's Board has allowed me to experience first-hand the joys of giving back to the sport that has meant so much to me throughout my life.
- Sail Canada's Strategic Priorities of “Participation, Development and Performance” have set a strong direction for the organization to drive towards. We are now ready to move to the next stage in the organization's evolution by enacting operations that support these priorities through a new CEO and High Performance Director.
- As any of my colleagues on the board will attest, I take a collaborative approach to working with others and am true to the credo “*none of us is as smart as all of us*” in setting direction, seizing opportunities and realizing solutions to the complex issues that Sail Canada faces as an organization.
- I look forward to the opportunity of continuing my involvement in Canadian sailing as a member of the Sail Canada Board by collaborating with my board colleagues and the talented team of Sail Canada professionals, committee volunteers, as well as member sailing clubs and PSAs.

## **REFERENCES:**

“I have worked with Hugh on Nepean Sailing Club’s Board, in his capacity as Board Member for Sail Canada and have had the opportunity to race with him on his J/80. I have been consistently impressed with Hugh’s strategic thinking, his ability to influence key stakeholders and his ability to work as an effective team member. Hugh has a high need to achieve and consistently gets things done!

Through my time working with Hugh, I have observed his passion for sailing and his drive to build it. Hugh has a strong understanding of our sport, is a highly effective board member and from my perspective has been a real asset to Sail Canada.”

- Peter Bradley, Ontario Sailing Board Member, Past Commodore Nepean Sailing Club

To whom it may concern,

I would like to offer my endorsement of Hugh McGugan for re-election to the Sail Canada board of directors.

I have known Hugh over a number of years. Many years ago when I joined the board at KYC I was primarily responsible for the Junior Sailing program. Hugh was similarly engaged at the Nepean Sailing Club, and we communicated regularly regarding what each program was doing, how we could improve or collaborate.

During my continued tenure on the KYC board, right through to being Commodore, Hugh was regularly in touch, particularly with his continued interest in developing and improving the NSC program. He was able to take the already large NSC sailing school program, and evolve it into a program of much higher caliber that included a race team, new and upgraded equipment, and an overall better compliment of instruction.

Since joining the Sail Canada board, Hugh continues to keep in touch with me to represent Sail Canada, ask what Sail Canada could do for KYC, and how Sail Canada could better serve clubs such as KYC. It is clear that his love for the sport continues, and his willingness to communicate and engage on behalf of Sail Canada shows me that he is dedicated to making progress and bringing improvements as he had done when at NSC.

More recently, Hugh has been racing weekends out of KYC, and I have had the pleasure of racing against him a number of times. He has proven a very competent sailor and racer, and has been elusive on the racecourse.

In summary, I believe that Hugh will continue to dedicate himself to tackling the many challenging issues that face the Sail Canada board and he will do so with competence and dedication.

Sincerely

Chris Walmsley  
Junior Past Commodore  
Kingston Yacht Club