

Alberta Sailing Association 2021 Report



Once again, the 2021 COVID sailing season was another atypical affair. All things considered, I believe that all of our clubs and sailing schools did an outstanding job of providing sailing opportunities within COVID guidelines. The Alberta Sailing Association (ASA) supported our constituents, when requested, though our COVID regulations were higher than that stipulated by the Alberta government for we did not believe that we were in an *endemic*.

We saw an increase in the number of sailing clubs and sailing schools in Alberta, which is extraordinary. We are really looking forward to having events at these locations, for the greater Alberta sailing community, in the future.

Staffing was reduced due to a lack of demand and available coaches. Our 'Sailing Director' is still occupied by Lauri Kalkkinen. We hired an Administrative Assistant, through a Canada Summer Jobs Grant, to address many of our administrative needs, thus removing those tasks from Lauri and our volunteer board. We contracted a number of our Club coaches for regattas with our youth across the country.

Our Youth program, thanks to athletes, parents, clubs and Lauri, has grown substantially. We had 29'ers, Optimis and ILCA 4, 6 & 7's participating in events across Canada – from the West Coast to facilities at Kingston, Ontario. The Youth are very focused and driven, wanting more training and regattas, which is very exciting to witness. At this moment in time, we have 39 youth boats heading to the West Coast for regattas this Fall. Thankfully we had the resources to purchase a new truck for coaching/towing and we have a new sizable trailer for transporting, granted we are thankful for the trailers that our clubs own to get this number of boats to regattas.

'Youth Olympic Training' in August – the sailors were once again thrilled to have this opportunity. They are also looking forward to participating in training on the West Coast & possibly Florida – this a brilliant opportunity for our youth athletes to have the exposure to other youth athletes and coaches from across the nation.

I know that I am desperate to have COVID under control in our Province so we can return to our regular programming of 3 three training camps in May, the regular regattas circuit in Alberta and our Alberta Series (a Long Series event in which our goal is to have a regatta at each of our sailing/yacht clubs).

The ASA is on track for the 2022 season, looking forward to the Canada Summer Games and beyond.

With much appreciation,
Stacey Gibb (Wabamun Sailing Club)
President – Alberta Sailing Association