

## Ontario Sailing Report

We want to first start out by thanking each and everyone of you for your gifts of time and talent on behalf of your Clubs, athletes, coaches, and our sport of Sailing. Without you, there would not be a community of Sailing in Ontario and Canada.

We have so much to be thankful for. Our sport continues to flourish and grow. There are new technologies being introduced every day including foiling, wing sailing, new materials for sails, hulls, better environmentally friendly engines, and even recyclable boats.

As we celebrate another year of season of sailing please don't forget to look forward as we learn from the activities, members, partners and participation in our courses, regattas, and socials at our clubs.

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight some very special partnerships that Ontario Sailing has developed over this last year to help benefit our clubs.

On the environmental side we signed on with Boating Ontario's Clean Marine Program. This program sees a trained expert attend your club and audit how your systems in around the water are working. By making suggestions on better and more environmentally sustainable ways of doing things, your club is recognized by the initiatives you have taken. I encourage you to book with the program and become a leader in your area around Clean Marine.

At the same time, we have signed on with Sailors for the Sea. You can register and take advantage of leading resources to make your Regattas Cleaner. We are also working to introduce youth training thru Sailors for the Sea KELP program into the CANSail system.

This year we signed a significant partnership with Suzuki Canada. Suzuki has hired a well-known sailor and long-time coach Jeff Beitz to support

our sailing community. Clubs can purchase outboard engines at good savings from either Ontario Sailing (30 HP or less) and from dealers across Ontario. Suzuki invested in a support boat operated by Jeff and was at events such as Mobility Cup, Fall CORK, regattas at PCYC, RCYC, ABYC, Cottage Club Regatta and at the F18 North American Championships.

At the same time, we have worked with Daniel Melo owner of Great Lakes Boats and Melo Craft to support our clubs with the best RIBS custom designed for coaches by coaches. By system matching the RIBS with Suzuki engines we are benefiting from state-of-the-art safety patrol equipment for learn to sail and regattas around the province.

We equally thank Suzuki and Melo Craft for supporting our Access Boom Program and Ontario Sailing Team Coaches with Engines, maintenance, and RIBs.

How do we measure success in Sailing is a question we seem to always get asked? Is it participation in Learn to Sail Programs, High Performance results, number of member Clubs, schools and camps, volunteering, officiating or a combination of all the above.

We can tell you without a strong youth participation in Learn to programs, we would not have good High-Performance results. Without strong High-Performance results, it can affect youth participation levels it is a two way street.

We have seen increases in all aspects of CANSail programming across Ontario. Keelboat programming has increased significantly this year. More clubs have opted to join Ontario Sailing and in turn offer new and innovative programs for Youth and Adults.

Where is your club at? Are you challenging the norm. Are you looking forward and creating such things as a Club owned boat membership

program. Are you supporting club to club racing, do you have a youth program and youth memberships. One of my many suggestions for clubs is that we try to avoid using the old membership level of “Junior Member”. I know its part of the culture of many of our clubs but who wants to be called a Junior these days. Consider Youth.

I want to welcome the many new member clubs from around Ontario. Seeing the value of membership is key to the growth of all our Clubs. Having resources supplied to you to help you with policy, procedures, governance, and the list goes on, is time and money savings.

Let’s celebrate our successes on the racecourse.

Did you know that 10 of 15 athletes competing at the up coming Pan Am Games are from Ontario Clubs. This is huge news for the programming and diversity of our sport in Ontario.

Of course, we celebrate with Sarah Douglas on her continued hard efforts in the ILCA 6. Sarah was the first athlete to stamp her ticket for the next Olympics. Here’s to many more.

We thank the many clubs that hosted regattas this year. We had so many events such as North Americans such as the F18 hosted by Burlington Catamaran Club, Worlds (Shark Worlds successfully hosted by Niagara on the Lake), Canadian and Ontario Championships, Mobility Cup put on by National YC and Able Sail Toronto, and a host of Youth events by CORK, RCYC, PCYC, RHYC, Sarnia YC, ABYC, and the list goes on. If you have never run an event, why not try it. Supporting one another is the backbone to our success as a sport. One example of this goes out to Hamilton Bay Sailing Club which hosted the Ontario Albacore Championships. Macassa Bay YC, RHYC, Burlington Catamaran Club all jumped in to support the event. It takes a community to raise a great sailor.

We want to highlight the success of our Main Sail program and some great host clubs from this year. Stormont Yacht Club has hosted for two years and have their feet firmly under them to run their own program next year. Little Current YC got back into youth training after a few years break. We celebrate with Port Stanley Sailing Squadron and Cedar Island Yacht Club that are successfully running their own programs now thanks to the support of Main Sail.

We would be remiss in thanking Etobicoke YC in hosting our Mobile Able Sail Program. It's great to see our Able Sail programs around Ontario thriving. Consider reaching out to any one of them to volunteer some time as a skipper or just to lend a hand.

Here is a challenge for you for next year. Why not try something totally different. Host an event, invite sailors from other clubs, start a weekend youth try it program. Whatever it is, don't judge success by numbers but instead by the smiles on the participants' faces.

I always want to make sure you know that Ontario Sailing works for you, not the other way around. Well, we are a small staff of 9, we are so very much supported by hundreds of volunteer Race Officers, Judges, Umpires, safety personnel, Learning Facilitators and Instructor Evaluators.

My thanks to our Ontario Sailing Board for their continued support of Sailing in Ontario. I want to personally thank an amazing staff at Ontario Sailing. Cam, Lisa, Laura, Megan, Chris, Violet, Kathleen, and Andra. Each of the staff care so deeply about the continued support of our Clubs, volunteers, sailors, and athletes.

I would be remiss in not thanking the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport who help fund our sport. And finally on behalf of our board and

staff we thank Sail Canada for their ongoing efforts at the National Level.

Our very best to each one of you

Glenn Lethbridge ED

Jeff Dejean Chair