

Ontario Sailings Report, Sail Canada Annual Meeting Oct. 30th, 2024

Ontario Sailing held its own Annual Meeting September 24th, 2024, by Zoom. Our season has seen a sharp increase in participation in Sail Canada CANSAIL programming across the province with many of our schools reporting full registrations. Our membership continues to grow with new clubs and schools joining Ontario Sailing and of course Sail Canada.

Ontario Sailing hosted over 45 instructor and coach clinics including technical clinics at Clubs, and online training for Fundamental, Coach Boat Safety and other training courses.

Our Main Sail program was totally subscribed, and we worked with establishing new sailing programs in Wiarton at Brakewinders Sailing Club, Champlain Sailing Club in Orillia and Stormont YC on the St. Lawrence River in Long Sault Ontario. We also supported Collingwood Sailing Academy re start of a sailing program in Collingwood taking over the school from the city.

We continue to be supported by a great group of volunteer course conductors for Race Management and Judge training and had many in person and online programs run this last year. Well Ontario Sailing has a fulltime staff; we are so thankful for the volunteers that continue to give up their time for the betterment of our sport across the province.

We thank the Ministry of Sport for their continued financial support of Ontario Sailing. This support helps us reinvest money into such things as Instructor and Coach Clinics, Race Management and Judge Training, Athlete programming and our Access Boom and Main Sail Programming. With out this financial support programming would be more expensive for everyone taking a course.

For those that missed our Annual Meeting, here are comments from the Chair of our Board, and our executive director.

Jeff Dejean, Chair of the Board shared some thoughts on the corporation's status and future. He commented how the excellent participation at this year's Ontario Sailing annual meetings from member organizations is very encouraging. As we seek to grow sailing it's important to ensure that we bring the community to prospective sailors. Let's look outwards to find new sailors and look for ways to generate exposure to sailing. As an example, in situations with a full harbor and a waitlist, perhaps a boat sharing programs can generate more sailors for the future despite physical constraints.

Jeff reminded everyone that Sail Canada's annual meeting will be on October 30. All organizations here should also attend that meeting and vote for the new Sail Canada Directors. At least one candidate is from Ontario, Peter Bradley, who is an Ontario Sailing Past President with experience on Sail Canada committees. There may be other Ontario-based candidates as well. Please review all the Sail Canada information when posted and be equally engaged in that process.

Jeff noted that this meeting concludes his time as Chair of the Board, and he thanked all Ontario Sailing stakeholders for their generosity of their time contributing to sailing in the province. He noted the retirement of Glenn Lethbridge and highlighted his anticipation for where the new leadership at the Board level and the staff level take Ontario Sailing.

Glenn Lethbridge, Executive Director, thanked everyone for being here and recognized everyone for their ongoing volunteer work and the value that volunteering their time has on helping the sport

overall. Glenn thanked Ontario Sailing Directors stepping off the board including Jeff Dejean, Felicity Rodness, and Carol Trupke. As well, he thanked the staff for their day to day-to-day efforts on behalf of the all the organizations and sailors to make sailing one of the top ranked sports in the Province of Ontario.

Glenn noted it is his final Annual Meeting for Ontario Sailing, sharing that it was a privilege and honour to work with every one of the members of Ontario Sailing, Instructors, Coaches, Learning Facilitators/Evaluators, Officials and especially the staff and board of Ontario Sailing.

Glenn concluded by challenging everyone to look to do something different this year to help grow the sport. Reach out to a new community within the catchment area of your club, run a new learn to program, host a regatta, Able Sail Program or challenge your club to invite more people to enjoy your clubs' activities and sailing events.