



REPORT FROM YOUTH SAILING 2024

BETH GRAHAM, CHAIR

First and most importantly, I would like to thank Paul Cairoli for his dedication to Youth Sail.

Back in 2017, our new Commodore, Paul Cairoli, presented a proposal at our Annual General Meeting to proceed with the establishment of a Youth Sailing Program. It was passed by the Membership and we have never looked back because of the vision that Paul articulated and his commitment to Youth Sailing.

Because of Paul's business background and his experience as Commodore, not only at CIYC, but at other yacht clubs, he knew who to approach for assistance. For the first time ever for CIYC, Paul went to the Town of Kingsville for support in getting the program off of the ground. What is amazing, they are still very supportive, providing a grant each year to the program. He also approached Truax Lumber and they provided lumber to build the floating docks. And finally, Paul approached Ontario Sail and brokered a deal to get used boats so we could grow our own program.

We've had our struggles because of members doubting the program but I feel that we have most members on board and supporting us.

Unfortunately, Paul has left the Club and we have lost a good advocate. We will miss the knowledge, support and insight that he brought to our Committee. As one member said, "Paul is Youth Sail".

Secondly, I would like to thank the Youth Sailing Committee for their continued support. I would not be able to continue on with the job without their help and unwavering enthusiasm.

Without Sue Brewin, our Treasurer, and her determination and perseverance, we would not have a separate bank account for Youth Sailing making Bob's job a little easier. I also want to thank Lloyd Ayotte and Robert Stafford for the many hours that they spent at the bank or on the phone with the bank helping Sue with this process.

Brian Isaac is our guy in charge of the boats. His job encompasses repairs and maintenance for the boats, making sure that sails are repaired, motors are working and fueled. Brian also receives assistance from the two Mike's, Mike Lippmann and Mike Sealy. On Thursday nights you can also find Judi and Brian with the Instructors making awards for the kids to be presented at ceremonies held each Friday afternoon.

Mike Lippmann has been responsible for hiring our instructors and in the past has provided room and board for the summer without cost to the program. The instructors get gourmet meals each night and Ally refers to them as "my boys". Mike is always there to assist with the boats and troubleshoot when necessary.

Shelley Lamoureux is in charge of supervision for the summer. In past years, we have had two adults present for each day. This year because of a change in the structure of the program, we will usually have only one adult supervisor on the premise. Getting volunteers has been a challenge because each supervisor must complete their National Coaching Certification Program (Safe Sport Training - Direct Athlete Contact). We are grateful for the many volunteers that have stepped up to the plate to help.

Not only do they supervise but they also keep the clubhouse, washrooms and grounds neat and tidy during the week.

Our head instructor, Kieran Smith, has been with us for three years and because of his devotion and enthusiasm for the program and wanting to feel part of CIYC, has joined as a Social Member. Thanks to Kieran for designing our new logo. By the way, the kids love Kieran.

Taylor Eagen, previously an instructor at SPSC, will be joining us this year. Ontario Sailing is “Inspiring Girls to Sail” through their Leadership, Empowerment, Adventure Programming so we are delighted to have a female instructor on board to inspire girls to stay in the sport.

Paul’s plan from the very onset of the Youth Sailing Program was to grow our own instructors. To honour that dream, Bryanna Pearce and Jack Puddy, who have both been part of the program, are on the journey to become instructors. During the past year, they have completed their Community Instructor Clinic, Coach Boat Safety Course, CANSail Fundamental Course, NCCP Make Ethical Decisions and First Aid & CPR. They will be working this summer as junior instructors.

Because of the enthusiasm for the course and the ongoing waiting list, it was the decision of the Committee to extend the course from six to eight weeks this summer. It would also provide employment for the full summer for our instructors. We are at a standstill as far as registrations so for the first time we have advertised the program hoping to fill it to a 100%.

I continue to manage registrations, advertising and anything else that requires a helping hand.

At the time of writing this report, we are awaiting a decision from the Ontario Trillium Foundation as to our 2024 grant application. We have asked for money to purchase 2 Zests and two 420’s to enhance our program. In the meantime, we were able to purchase 2 Zest Sailboats to replace two of our weary RS Quba’s.

I would like to thank you for your continued support. Please drop by during the summer to see our program in full swing. These young people are the life of Cedar Island Yacht Club.