



Bay of Quinte Yacht Club – BQYC – Youth Laser/Opti Sailing Project 2015

‘A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor’ – English Proverb

Dear Friends of BQYC

The Bay of Quinte Yacht Club lies in one of the most idyllic sailing regions of Canada. Established in 1876, we are the second oldest Yacht Club in Ontario and the fourth oldest in Canada. BQYC is home to passionate sailors with an impressive array of accomplishments on a provincial, national and international stage. Our club has a long history of training many accomplished sailors, with some world champions in our midst.

We firmly believe that youth are the future of any vibrant organization and BQYC is no exception. In addition to the well-respected Junior Sailing Program, a group of volunteers started a youth race team last season with the intention of drawing younger sailors, possessing a competitive spirit, and their families, to BQYC. This has been successful on a small scale and we are now ready to build upon this positive experience and grow our team, our club and our future.

It is the goal of the Youth Laser/Opti Sailing Project Committee to introduce a fleet of single handed dinghies in time for the start of the 2015 sailing season; a daunting challenge no doubt but one we feel is doable with your support. The fleet will consist of at least six Optimist (Opti's) and six Laser dinghies. This will be accomplished by both purchasing used boats that have race potential and building Optimist dinghies. The overall intent of this project is to build a strong base of young sailors (8-16 yrs old) who love the sport of sailing and will want to compete in regattas.

But we can't do this alone; we need your help! Purchasing even used boats is expensive and upgrading boats to 'race ready' is even more expensive; as is building new Opti's. Our goal is to raise **\$30,000** this season in order to purchase and build this new fleet. Utilizing the skills and talents of club members who are volunteering their time and expertise, the building of the Opti's has already begun. Our club was primarily built with members' volunteer time, talent and treasures. This sense of contribution still exists today and provides new members the opportunity to meet and work with fellow members.

This acquisition of Opti and Laser sailboats will bring the club fleet in line with Sail Canada's national training program for beginning sailors. The Laser and Opti fleets will be used by the sailing school, and by community youth to join the race training program. They will also be available for club and out of town dinghy racing

When this new program was outlined to Dr. Birchard, he had this to say:

"As a boy growing up in Ottawa I read every book written by Arthur Ransome who told marvelous tales about children sailing dinghies in the pristine waters of Northern England.

I became obsessed with sailing, but during the war money was scarce so I built a boat, similar to the very popular Optimist, in the basement of my parents' home. This construction project was challenging because I had no access to power tools. Brass screw nails, copper nails and lumber were in short supply because of the war. I used a sheet of boiler plate steel for the dagger board which added significantly to the weight of the boat and the almost insurmountable challenge of getting the boat up the cellar stairs.

The following year I added a jib to the Marconi Rig, bolting an old paddle to the forward deck as a bowsprit.

I proudly sailed the little ship hundreds of miles on Balsam Lake, mesmerized by the sun, the wind and the gurgle of water under the bow, each mile implanting an addiction to sailing, which I possess to this day.

It is exciting that a group of BQYC Members are currently building Optimist prototype boats and have plans to build and purchase a small fleet of these wonderful little sailboats which will be available for Young Club Members to hone their sailing skills and compete with each other on the water."

Our committee is asking for your kind and generous financial support to make this project a reality for the 2015 season. As one can imagine, time is now of the essence. There is a real sense of urgency and challenge to this project, hence our use of the English Proverb, 'A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor'.

We are very optimistic that you will see the importance of this project and will join us in supporting this new program. You will be actively contributing what is one the finest clubs in the Quinte area and the belief that our youth are our future.

Through a partnership with Sail Canada a charitable receipt can be issued for income tax purposes. Please make cheques payable to **Sail Canada** and complete the attached Donation Form. These can be left at the bar at BQYC or mailed to Bay of Quinte Yacht Club, PO Box 22171, Belleville ON, K8N 5V7 Attn. Dave Corbett. Please say **YES** today and make this project a reality!

We would be delighted to provide you with further information and answer any questions you might have. To make a donation or have your questions answered please contact either Dan Steinitz (dksteinitz@me.com) or Rob Lander (rlander2610@gmail.com) or Kathy Graham (sailingbqyc@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Dave Corbett, Jr. Sailing School Director – Bay of Quinte Yacht Club Board of Directors

Dan Steinitz, Volunteer Manager - BQYC – Youth Laser/Opti Sailing Project 2015