



Quinte SailAbility

Celebrating 22 Years of Inclusion

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Quinte SailAbility is a sailing school for persons with a physical or developmental disability, regardless of age or degree of disability. Founded in 2001 and serving the greater Quinte area, it has grown to be the second largest school of its type in Ontario. Quinte SailAbility is co-located / independently operated out of the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club (BQYC), Belleville. Its goal is to be accessible, affordable and active. Through the use of technology, barriers are eliminated, providing the therapeutic benefits of sailing on one's own. Our core product is self-esteem and confidence. Quinte SailAbility is a member of the following organizations



IN MEMORY of Dennis 'Fletch' Fletcher 1946-2023

Quinte SailAbility Co-founder and volunteer President for 18 years, Dennis 'Fletch' Fletcher sadly passed away on September 2, 2023. The Quinte SailAbility Board of Directors, staff and volunteers would like to recognize Fletch's contributions to the community and to the success of Quinte SailAbility. Fletch had a vision, a dream and we are proud to continue carrying the dream forward. He was a teacher and friend who will be missed.



OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

Quinte SailAbility had a terrific 2023 season. With 4 staff members on board, and assistance of volunteers, the program ran full-time, 9am-3pm, Monday to Friday from July 5 – August 31. The weather this summer was perfect for sailing! Registrations were from all over the Bay of Quinte Region, and beyond. There was also interest from people who wanted to try it out through the 'Try It' service which Quinte SailAbility offers. Thank you to staff and volunteers!

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FINANCIAL

The majority of operating costs involves equipment and vessel repairs, replacement and/or maintenance. Many of the fleet are nearing 20 years old, requiring hull maintenance as well. In 2023, Quinte SailAbility received financial supports from donors, local service clubs, and community funding grant programs. Our goal is to continue maintaining a low membership fee.

As well, in 2023 funding was received through the Canada Summer Jobs Grant Program, as well as the Enabling Accessibility Grant Program. Research into funding resources to support eligible expenses is ongoing. Thank you for supporting Quinte SailAbility!



FUNDRAISING and RAISING AWARENESS

Fundraising and Awareness are both important components of Quinte SailAbility. 2023 Quinte SailAbility fundraising included volunteering at Belleville Lions Hall Charity Association Bingos. There is ongoing research and exploring of fundraising opportunities on an ongoing basis.

In the past, fundraising included bake sales and kayak raffles. When there is an opportunity, Quinte SailAbility participates in local events where people can stop by to see what we are all about! Below is a listing of some of the awareness raising activities completed in 2023:

- Volunteer fundraising at Belleville Lins Hall Charity Association Bingos
- Mention in the Brian Todd Memorial Fund Donation Booklet
- Active and Engaging on Social Media Platforms
- A number of in-person presentations providing updates on activities
- Website upgrade and enhancement project to meet technological and accessibility requirements



SAILORS REPRESENT BAY OF QUINTE REGION AT VARIOUS REGATTAS

Quinte SailAbility racing team members participated in a number of regatta's in 2023. Congratulations everyone!

Coupe de Québec, July

Nicole Flynn competed in the Coupe du Québec, which is an adapted sailing regatta open to sailors with disabilities. Racing takes place over two days and welcomes numerous competitors from all over the country and is hosted by Pointe-Claire Yacht Club.



John Farrell Regatta in Hamilton, August

Kai Freland and Nicole Flynn participated in the John Farrell Regatta in Hamilton, placing first and second place. The event is hosted by the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club.



Mobility Cup 2023 in Toronto, August

Kai Freland, Nicole Flynn and Brett Lyons competed in 2023 Mobility Cup. Mobility Cup is a “regatta of possibility” where personal, social, geographic, technological and organizational barriers are challenged in the spirit of friendly competition. It is international in scope, inviting people from around the globe to participate.



OPERATIONS

In 2023, the majority of the fleet was utilized. There a number of vessels, as well as operating equipment, that are nearing 20 years in age, thus requiring consistent / ongoing maintenance and repairs.

SAILING FLEET

- 4 Access 2.3
- 4 Martin 16
- 2 Coach Boats
- 1 Challenger Trimaran



STAFF

Quinte SailAbility employed 4 staff in 2023; Noah Carter-Chief Sailing Instructor, Ruby Kennedy-Dock Supervisor, Cara Parrault and Austin Gillard - Dock Assistants. Staff did an excellent job, and were friendly, professional, hard-working and went above and beyond expectations. Staff worked a combined **806 hours**. In addition to sailing program instruction related activities, staff assisted in fleet repairs, equipment inventory projects and more.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are a vital component to the success of Quinte SailAbility, specifically in keeping staff costs down. Volunteers provided over **855 hours** of activity assistance. Activity included season setup, daily dock opening/closing tasks, season teardown, maintenance/repairs, rigging, attending fundraising functions and more. Teenage volunteers are also a valuable part of the program. Volunteering with Quinte SailAbility is an excellent opportunity for high-school students to earn volunteer hours, which is mandatory for post-secondary school graduation.

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Looking Back 2023...



MOBILITY CUP



JOHN FARRELL
REGATTA



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