



# Quinte SailAbility

Celebrating 23 Years of Inclusion

## ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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



### OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

Quinte SailAbility had a terrific 2024 season. With 2 staff members on board, and assistance of volunteers, the program ran full-time, 9am-3pm, Monday to Friday from July 2 – August 31.

**25 sailors participated with a total of 248 hours of sailing instruction!**

Participants came from all over the Bay of Quinte Region, and beyond. There also was an increase of interest in the 'Try It' free service!



### STAFF

Staff included Will Tomlinson, Chief Sailing Instructor and Claire Rivard, Dock Supervisor. Staff did an excellent job, and were friendly, professional, hard-working and went above and beyond expectations.

Staff worked a combined **515 hours**, which includes on-off water sailing instruction, rigging/preparing up vessels, preparing dock lift / equipment and other tasks as required.



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## OPERATIONS

In 2024, operations went well. Throughout the season, as well as off season, the condition of the fleet is regularly monitored with ongoing repairs and maintenance completed as needed. As the majority of the fleet is 20+ years old, the frequency of repairs, as well as cost, is increasing. Volunteers have been a tremendous asset in assisting and providing expertise including fiberglass repair and more.

## SAILOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- **ICANSail Certifications**

- In 2024, Quinte SailAbility sailors Hunter Prins and Michael Opstein earned their iCanSail Certifications The **CANSail Program** is Sail Canada's national learn to sail program. The CANSail program is taught by trained and certified instructors and it's curriculum is recognized by World Sailing.



*“Forever grateful to the organizers, sponsors, and volunteers of the Quinte SailAbility program that enables amazing individuals like our Hunter to be able to develop their talents and seek joy out on the water.”*

## SAILORS REPRESENT BAY OF QUINTE REGION AT REGATTAS

Quinte SailAbility racers participated in the John Farrell Regatta hosted by the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club. Kai Freeland came first in the Silver Class!



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## SAILING FLEET

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



## FINANCIAL

In 2024, Quinte SailAbility received generous financial support from private donors, corporate grant programs, local service clubs, and government grant programs including through the Canada Summer Jobs Grant Program. Research into funding resources to support eligible expenses is ongoing.

**Thank you for supporting Quinte SailAbility!**



## FUNDRAISING and RAISING AWARENESS

Quinte SailAbility fundraising includes volunteering monthly at Belleville Lions Hall Charity Association Bingos as well as attending events to network, educate, and celebrate, what we are all about!

See below activities:

- Monthly volunteer fundraising at Belleville Lions Hall Charity Association Bingos
- Participated in a 'Babes of Quinte Podcast' to raise awareness
- Attended the City of Belleville OLG Community Appreciation Event
- Attended the Brian Todd Memorial Community Fund Grants Presentation Event
- Presence at the Rotary Club of Trenton - Wilf Wilkinson Community Classic Golf Tournament
- Attended the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club Annual Banquet
- Active and Engaged on Social Media
- In-person presentations providing updates on activities



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## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are a vital component to the success of Quinte SailAbility, specifically keeping staff costs down. In 2024, volunteers provided over **1158 hours** of activity assistance.

Volunteer activities include(d):

- Assist sailors get in and out of boats
- Sailboat maintenance/repairs and rigging
- Sailboat cleaning
- Small engine/Coach boat maintenance/repairs
- Boat trailer repair/maintenance
- Dock maintenance/repairs/cleaning
- Season setup / Season teardown
- Assisting at fundraising and in person-events



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!

## Looking Back...

