



2017 President's Report – Annual General Meeting

The Yukon Breeze Sailing Society is a non-profit organization with a mandate to provide Yukon residents with an opportunity to learn basic, advance, and racing sailing skills, while promoting safe boating practices and developing a Northern sailing community.

From 2008 to 2014, we partnered with BC sailing's Mobile Optimist Sailing School (MOSS) to offer a series of week-long summer sailing camps in Whitehorse and Marsh Lake. The success of the MOSS program laid the foundation to create a Yukon based sailing school, independent from BC sailing.

In 2015, we began development of our current site on the east shore of Schwatka Lake and ran 4 weeks of kid camps. And in 2016, we continued infrastructure improvements with the addition of a floating dock and secure outdoor storage between the sea cans. Also in 2016, we ran 6 weeks of kid camps and increased our Laser fleet which let the society offer adult drop-in during the month of July.

This past year saw a transition in the board of directors, with several new members joining. With a renewed board came a renewed focus on programming.

In the early planning stages of the year we were hopeful we would be able to expand on the 2016 adult program to include adult lessons, a racing club, and casual drop-in, as well as continue the kids' camps. This turned out to be more ambitious than we could achieve and as planning continued we narrowed it down to focus on the kids' camps and an adult drop-in night.

Recognizing that we did not have the human or financial resources to hire and manage staff this year, we once again partnered with BC Sailing's MOSS program to secure a coach for the kids' camps. With the BC Sailing coach, we were able to deliver 2 well-received week-long camps in the later part of August.

The BC Sailing coach was supported by our volunteer community coach, Luanda Pronovost. Having an assistant community coach meant the camps could be offered to more children, growing the number of young sailors in our community.

We saw an increase in the community feel not just from the kids involved but from their parents as well, with some joining us for the evening drop-in sessions, which at times included having parents and children sailing together; a great family outing.

The adult camps were again successful this year, due mainly to the volunteer hours put in by board members. Running from late July through August, we saw a number of new and returning sailors at our Wednesday night drop-in sessions. It was great to have people stop by who had not sailed in years, who had never sailed, or were passing through Whitehorse and had got wind of our organization. Again, these nights felt like a contribution to a growing sailing community here in Whitehorse.



We owe Yukon Energy a huge thank you, as their community sponsorship program provided us with funds to help advertise the camps, cover some of the operational costs and insurance, as well as a number of other things throughout the year. In return we named Yukon Energy as the sponsor of the adult drop-in and recognized them in the promotion of those nights.

One of our other community initiatives this past year was the establishment of a Yukon Sailors and Sailing Facebook group separate from the society itself. It is hoped that this social media group provides a platform for discussion and sharing amongst Yukon sailors and it will be interesting to see how this develops in the coming years.

While we did not focus heavily on site development this year, we did secure an extension to our land use permit that will carry us through to next summer. This upcoming year, it will be imperative that we pursue a Licence of Occupation for the site, so as to maintain the use of our current location and set-up.

Next year, it is my hope that the society continues and builds on the success of the children and adult programming. It would be great if in a future year we could offer some level of adult instruction as that remains the second most requested program after the kids' camps. We will have to see what our new board has in store for us.

I look forward to the continued contribution that the Yukon Breeze Sailing Society offers the sailing and wider community here in Yukon. As outgoing President, I wish the society great success next year and in the years to come.

Chris Wearmouth
President
Yukon Breeze Sailing Society