

Junior Sailing Report - Flag Officer: Learn to Sail - Paul Avery

The Junior Program at the Chester Yacht Club had another successful year for 2010. We provided four (4) sessions of instructional sailing over the course of the summer to 191 registered sailors- an increase of 50 youth. Not confined to sailing in our local waters we had a number of youth who attended regattas' at Bedford, St. Margaret's Bay, RNSYS, and Sail East, which this past year was held in Sydney, Cape Breton. This year we were able to offer fall sailing to 10 interested youth, and hope to provide similar programming in the spring. Congratulations to Will McInnes who won 1st overall in the green fleet, and Max Flinn who one 1st overall at the Provincial Opti Championships.

Over the last year we acquired three (3) Optimist Dinghies, which brings our total complement up to seventeen (17). We continue to utilize six (6) Club 420's and five (5) Mirror dinghies. The Junior Program functioned with six (6) coaches and a supervisor. Management issues required the presence of a full time Junior Manager, which was ably filled by Trish Finlay. We will be seeking a full time seasonal Junior Manager for the 2011 season. This year we doubled up staffing for the ½ Day Beginner Program and Full Day Opti Program. It is our intention to double up coaches for all four of our programs.

Isabel's Cup was once again a tremendous success. The Bluenose Association in conjunction with the Junior Program incorporated a fun evening of keelboat racing with approximately 45 excited youth. A huge thank you to Sandy Morash for her able co-ordination. Chester Opti Jam celebrated its 7th year and attracted over 73 young skippers. I would like to thank all the sponsors and supporters of the Junior Program at Chester. Once again, Jose Val Verdes Race Week painting was the centerpiece of our Junior Fund Raiser, and we generated close to \$5000 in pledges. I would like to complement Raceweek management for their efforts in clean up after Raceweek so that our fourth session could begin without any disruption.

The Junior Program, under the auspices of the Chester Yacht Club and with the support of Health Promotions & Protection, was able to

reconfigure the junior ramp to a wheelchair accessible floating dock system that accommodates Juniors and Seniors alike.

Plans for the 2011 season include consideration for a rack system to store our Opti's, investigation of implementing an instructional program for Lasers, and improved access to junior club boats for members and their families outside of normal instructional hours. We will continue to improve the logistics of the boat shed to better accommodate our gear and the youth who use it, and time and energy will be spent over the winter to develop a policy and procedure manual for regattas.

In order for our program to be successful and not overwhelm any one person, we need volunteers to step forward and fill various supportive roles. This year Lisa LaFrance is returning as the registrar and Caro Creighton has stepped up to organize the Junior Dance. We are still looking for someone to take the lead on the Junior Fundraiser Event on July 29. I look forward to working with any and all who agrees with me that Junior Sailing is invaluable, and that these young members are the very foundation and future of our Club.

IMPORTANT DATES

Session I: 27 June to 08 July

Session II: 11 July to 22 July

Session III: 25 July to 05 August

OPTI JAM: 03 August to 04 August

RACE WEEK: 08 August to 13 August

Session IV: 15 August to 26 August

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