

Junior Sailing - The Junior Program at the Chester Yacht Club had another successful year for 2011. We provided four (4) sessions of instructional sailing over the course of the summer to 195 registered sailors. In addition to this we had a number of youth attend area regatta's at Bedford, St. Margarets Bay, Lunenburg, and RNSYS; culminating with Canadian Optimist Nationals. Many thanks to those parents who helped make this happen.

Our Junior Program currently utilizes sixteen (16) Optimist Dinghies, five(5) Echos's, and seven (7) 420's. Over the past year we added the Echos's, a Club 420, and Rigid Inflatable Coach Boat/Motor & Trailer to our inventory. The Junior Program and the Chester Yacht Club embarked on a joint venture to fund the hiring of a Water Operations Supervisor. This position was filled by Warren Barkhouse, who was responsible for the day to day to operations of the junior program, its staff, wharf, and moorings. Junior sailing instruction was undertaken by seven (7) instructors.

Isabel's Cup was once again a tremendous success. The Chester Fleet of the Bluenose Association in conjunction with the Junior Program incorporated a fun evening of keelboat racing and BBQ. While the weather was less than ideal, all the participants had a great time.

Chester Opti Jam celebrated its 8th year. As a result of the tremendous support from volunteers and sponsors, this event was a huge success with 90 sailors racing in front harbor Chester. I would like to point out that at this level of participation there were youth who chartered boats for Nationals (98 sailors) who couldn't get a boat for Opti Jam.

Tuesdays Junior BBQ continued this year under the supervision of our club manager. This weekly event open, to all members, hungry youth and parents alike, generated sufficient funds to support our Junior Dance. The Junior dance was organized by Caro Creighton , that by all accounts was well received and attended.

Under the direction of the Water Operations Supervisor, CYC has begun to offer charter/rental of club dinghies during evenings and weekends. It is our hope that this program will be accessed by all club members, junior and senior.

I would like to thank all the sponsors and supporters of the Junior Program at Chester. Once again Jose Val Verdes' race week painting (Braving the Waves) was the centerpiece of our fund raiser. The highlight of the evening had to be the positive energy generated as a result of the Mraz family matched pledge which involved virtually everyone in the room. Combined with the delightful hors d 'oeuvres supplied by the Junior Parents, the auction raised close to \$10,000. Following on this, Lee Sweet promoted a match race between Bellatrix and Dawn Treader from which some lucky and generous supporters of Junior Sailing contributed \$2,700 to experience big boat racing. Our tax receiptable fund raising initiatives through the Municipality of the District of Chester have begun to generate support.

Plans for 2012 include:

- employing eight(8) instructors so that we may pursue a racing component without impacting general programming
- acquisition of an additional coach boat and motor(\$10,000)
- expansion our Optimist fleet to 18 (\$6,000 for two boats)
- purchase of new sail inventory for all program boats
- consideration of the development of a keel boat program for juniors
- consideration of the development of a junior race team
- sale of our Mirror fleet – interested parties please contact the club

The Junior Sail Program at Chester Yacht Club continues to develop. Any successful organization requires and depends on the support of its members both financially and through volunteering their time and expertise. I welcome any and all input to make this program work.

Special thanks to Gerry Giffen for all his work in maintaining our junior website. He has elected to hand the mantle of web management over, and we were able to have Ben Wiper fold our website into the existing club site. The website should be up and running by the time you read this report.

Lisa Lafrance has handed over the management of registration to Julia Avery.

Having assumed the duties of the Rear Commodore and the return of Warren Barkhouse as Water Operations Manager; my involvement within the Junior Program will, by necessity be supervisory in nature. I am currently seeking individuals to assume specific duties and responsibilities as they affect Opti Jam and the Junior Program at large.

IMPORTANT DATES

Session I	02 July to 13 July
Session II	16 July to 27 July
Session III	30 July to 03 August
Opti Jam	08 August to 09 August
Raceweek	15 August to 18 August
Session IV	20 August to 31 August

Paul Avery - Rear Commodore/ Junior Sail Director

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