



WEST HAWK LAKE
SAILING CENTRE
MANITOBA, CANADA

West Hawk Lake Sailing Centre - May 2021

As we get ready for the summer sailing season we have completed the rebranding of our new West Hawk Lake Sailing Centre with the incredible design help of Andrea Tetrault from Tetro Design. All it took was the promise of a weekend of fun (and some wine) at WHL!

On a sad note we learned of the recent passing of John Bell who was one of the group of “first generation” sailors on West Hawk Lake in the late 1950’s & early 60’s, the proud owner of a beautiful Y-flyer – a boat he continued to own until his death and which he stored precariously on edge along a walkway inside his boathouse. He was proud of his boat but he was extremely proud of the fact that he could wrestle this 18 foot, 500 pound beast out of the water and onto the walkway and flip it on its edge single handed by means of an elaborate rope and pulley system.

With the revival of the sailing club in 2006, John became a big supporter of the drive to find a location for a new facility and offered to pursue a number of potential leads. As his last major contribution to the club, he donated his beloved Y-flyer, but forgot to provide the instructions on how to get it out of his boathouse. :) Rest in Peace John.

With the ice off the water and warmer temperatures arriving this is usually the time of the year where we open up the club house, get our safety boat and sail boats out, cleaned up and ready for the summer classes. Currently the club is closed again until we get further direction from the Province of Manitoba and Sport Manitoba.

With the Province of Manitoba’s direction individual sailing should be approved this summer just like tennis and golf. We continue to offer five weeks of lessons with a maximum of 5 students per class. Each student will have their own boat and with our new large dock and stairway we have lots of space for the kids to social distance while still learning the ins and outs of the sport in their own sailboat. In the past we have had anywhere from 30-50 kids/adults in one week on the water during lessons. While it is impressive to see all those sailors, it’s not possible again this summer.

The West Hawk Lake Sailing Centre will have rigorous social distancing, safety protocols and cleaning in place following the advice of Health Manitoba and Sail Canada. Our online registration for sailing lessons is open and there are still a few spots open in select weeks. If demand increases as we end up being one of the few sports open this summer we will endeavor to create a couple more weeks of lessons. The website is updated with all of last summer’s pictures of sailing, races, lessons and activities please check them out. If you have any questions about our programs and club please call or email us. www.whlyc.ca info@whlyc.ca 204-479-7100

Stay healthy and safe and see you on the water!