



## West Hawk Lake Yacht Club Update May 2020

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

Sail Canada has reported to us that they have formed a COVID-19 Health and Return to Sailing Task Force. This expert group is providing advice and recommendations to Sail Canada so that Provincial Sailing Associations, Member Clubs, Schools, Camps and Outdoor Centers can make informed decisions on how and when to allow members to return to sailing related activities in a safe and prudent manner. Don Adams, CEO of Sail Canada stated: *"Sail Canada is extremely fortunate to have this expert task force to help our member clubs to return to sailing activities when provincial and local authorities give clubs the green light to start resuming sailing activities"*. The Committee is composed of Scientific and Medical Experts who understand the sport of Sailing and have expertise in the prevention of COVID 19 spread. It also includes Manitoban and Falcon Yacht Club's own David Telles-Langdon – PhD. Thanks Dave!

With the Province of Manitoba's direction individual sailing should be approved for the next phase of openings with other non-contact sports. Tennis and golf have already begun! Our club made the fortuitous decision last fall to extend our lessons over 3-4 weeks in the summer of 2020 while significantly reducing the class sizes down to a maximum of 6 with two instructors. 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 this year it's not possible and potentially not safe.

The WHLYC will have rigorous social distancing, safety protocols and cleaning in place following the advice of Health Manitoba and Sail Canada. We appreciate your patience during this time while we organize these new protocols and regulations.

Our online registration for sailing lessons is open and available; approximately half the sessions are filled as of May 14. 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.

[info@whlyc.ca](mailto:info@whlyc.ca) or 204-479-7100

Stay healthy and safe and see you on the water!

Paul Krestanowich

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