



West Hawk Lake Sailing Centre 2024 summer report

Hard to believe that the boats are put away and the club garage closed down for the summer, sailing season is over.... It was another great summer of sailing highlighted by all kinds of events!

It was great to have Heidi Cloutier back as our head instructor after years of her working full time at the Kanata Sailing Club in Ottawa. She was ably assisted by Susanna Weatherill and Adam Stewart.

The Optis, Lasers and Tumbleweed sailboats had a busy summer with 40+ kids/adults rolling through the program, the highlight being the return of our female only classes this year!

Congratulations to Tom Saunders and his group of local Albacore sailors, they added another refurbished Albacore "The Green Hornet" that made its way to Evan Fox-Decent's dock. Next year the twin Albacore to Evan's, "Kato" will make its home at the Krestanowich family dock.

Sunday August 4 of the long weekend we ran our second annual Round the Lake Race. The start was again near Big Bertha in super light winds with the course headed to Howe Bay, Old Yacht Club Bay and finishing near Bertha. 17 sailboats and 25 sailors in 6 Albacores, 9 Lasers, 1 Tasar and 1 Fireball hit the line! 1st place – Brad & Kristy Hayden (Albacore – Daffodil), 2nd place - Lola Parkinson (Laser/ILCA), 3rd place - Scott Whyte & Bruce Samson (Tasar). Brad & Kristy Hayden hosted an after-race potluck dinner for racers and their families, close to 60 folks enjoyed a beautiful, fun evening of food, awards and great stories. Thank you to Tom Saunders & Paul Krestanowich for mark setting, Tom S. and Erik Cloutier for running the RC Boat, start/finish line & results, Andrea & Peter Brown and Kevin Harbottle for running the safety boats. There was a great crowd who came out to watch, hopefully next year will have even more sailors and spectators. Watch for us at 1 pm on the Sunday, August 3, 2025 of the August long weekend.

Congrats to local racer and coach Evan Owen who placed 8th overall at the Canadian ILCA 7 (Laser) Championships in a fleet of over 100+ boats, improving from last years 30th place! Evan is sailing out of the St Margaret's Sailing Club this summer in Glen Haven, Nova Scotia just outside of Halifax to take his racing skills to another level. Looking forward to seeing his continued improvements at the National level!

The club has recently put the finishing touches on our Province of Manitoba Sport in the Community Grant, the stairs to the road are complete thanks to the construction talents of Kevin Harbottle with help from Cory & Paul Krestanowich. The indoor lights for the garage and power outlets are being installed this fall. The new floating dock addition was a huge help to the summer learn to sail classes and gave everyone a lot more room to function.

Yoga classes continued on Saturday mornings with our amazing local instructor Stephanie Halprin.

A big thank you to Kevin Anseeuw with help from Lisa McBride & Janet Harbottle for organizing & coordinating the sold out West Hawk Lake golf tournament & dinner this August hosted at the Falcon Lake Golf Course. Part of the surplus proceeds paid for a new AED that will be stored at the sailing club garage near Big Island Landing between May and October long weekends. The closest AED was in the townsite and after a small health scare with one of our local residents a group decided an AED within close distance would be a good thing. Thank you to all the golfers, sponsors and donors for a great day!

The West Hawk Lake Sailing Club and the Falcon Sailing Club coordinated lessons and instructors again this year, thanks to Craig & Darcy Baker and the crew at FSC for their help shuttling Optis back and forth between clubs to make sure no kid was turned away from the lessons! FSC also hosted the Falcon Cup and provincial Optimist & Laser Championships with local racers Lola Parkinson finishing 6th overall in her Laser/ILCA 6 and Henry Lask finishing 3rd in the U10 Opti category in his first ever competition on super windy and gusty conditions Aug.24.

The Manitoba Summer Games sailing competition was held in Manipogo Provincial Park with local official Paul Krestanowich as the Race Chair. West Hawker Lola Parkinson gave us our first ever medal at the Manitoba Games with a silver medal in her Laser/ILCA 6!

The summer sailing pictures have been loaded onto our website for 2024 (over 200!) along with some vintage 1960's and 70's photos of the Mitchell and Gray families sailing their Fireball's, so check them out! If anyone has any old sailing photos that they would like to share with us, please email them our way so we can post them on our website.

If you have any questions about sailing, sailboats or any of our programs in the South Whiteshell including the South Whiteshell Women's Sailing League <https://southwhiteshellwomenssailingleague.ca/> please check out our website, www.whlyc.ca or call or email us at info@whlyc.ca, 204-479-7100.

See you all next summer on the water!