

2023 President's Report



We are rebuilding our infrastructure, exploring new ideas and making progress. We have found an outstanding Provincial Coach with coaching and racing experience in almost every discipline from New Zealand – big welcome to Braedyn Denney. We were also able to identify and hire a new Administrative Assistant, Kathy Speck, after our previous Administrator resigned from the role (this placed us on the backfoot, and we did struggle to get back in phase – Kathy is really embracing the challenge). Kathy does have a massive learning curve, though she is tackling every obstacle with enthusiasm and determination to which we are so grateful. To add to our win of hires, Meaghan Sullivan stepped forward to volunteer as the Alberta Sailing Communications Coordinator – she is a computer wizard – managing our website and social media – awesome!

The 'Alberta Series', a Long Series event that was started in 2017, continued to flourish this year. An exciting addition was having the Glenmore Sailing Club's regatta back in the Series (it is not represented in the schematic below though they had nine boats competing for a total of 34 races). We included Sail Canada's Regional SailWest regatta that was hosted by the Wabamun Sailing Club, where they had four fleets and a total of 40 boats competing. The other regattas were held at the CYC: Calgary Yacht Club Ice Breaker Regatta; WSC: Wabamun Sailing Club Founders' Regatta; NSC: Newell Sailing Club Prairie Winds Regatta – this event also hosted the Fireball and SeaSpray National Championships; and Provincials which were sailed at Sylvan Lake. Alberta Sailing was the OA for the Provincials, to help eliminate volunteer fatigue at clubs. It was a massive undertaking, though with incredible teamwork and quick thinking, we had a dinghy course and a separate keelboat course. The event had incredible wind for three days of awesome racing.

Year	CYC		WSC		NSC		Provincials	
	# Boats	# Fleets	# Boats	# Fleets	# Boats	# Fleets	# Boats	# Fleets
2023	37	4	36	5	57	8	54	7
2022	49	7	41	8	46	6	58	7
2020 & 2021	COVID							
2019	46	6	44	5	70	7	50	5
2018	51	7	37	6	60	5	48	5
2017	44	6	26	5	51	8	38	5

Our Youth program, thanks to athletes, parents, volunteers, clubs and club coaches, has continued to grow. We had 29'ers, C420's, Optimis and ILCA 4, 6 & 7's participating in events across Canada. The Youth, Masters and coaches are all very focused and driven, wanting more training and regattas.

The Alberta Sailing Association continues to be in a strong position with renewed enthusiasm, passion, hard work, determination, drive and commitment from Braedyn Denney. He brings a new vision, solid goals and is pushing the Board very hard to accomplish what he has already accomplished and plans to do in the 2024 season – exciting developments are on the horizon in Alberta!

Sail Canada is working very hard to get the 'Safe Sport' requirements in place, and this is something that we *all* are required to adopt. This is not something that the ASA and/or Sail Canada is just trying to force clubs and schools to implement into your policies, it is mandated from the Federal government. We ask for your cooperation in this endeavour and we have been told that any club/school that does not will be viewed in 'Poor Standing' with Sail Canada.

The ASA would love to see further support from Sail Canada to return to pre-COVID levels. This a continual push and taking on the 'squeaky wheel' does get tiresome, for both parties, though we seem to have to continually remind Sail Canada that the Prairies are still here, located between Ontario and British Columbia.

At this time I would like to thank the Board, both remaining and individuals that needed to step down due to massive work commitments: Phil Paxton (Secretary/Treasurer); Luke Sullivan (*was* Treasurer); John Cormack (Equipment Director); Paula Patterson (Youth Director); Ken Dixon (Director at Large); Sasha Mishchenko (*was* Secretary when Luke resigned and Phil took over as Treasurer – *was* Director at Large). Your efforts and commitment are/were greatly appreciated. Special thank you to Kathy for joining us as Administrator and Meaghan for volunteering to do Communications & Social Media, plus Braedyn as coach extraordinaire!

The ASA is still on track for the 2024 season and beyond – we have great vision and I hope that you will continue to support myself and the Board as sailing continues to grow in Alberta.

With much appreciation,

Stacey Gibb (Wabamun Sailing Club)
President – Alberta Sailing Association