

West Hawk Lake Yacht Club - Fall 2020

Hard to believe the sailboats are put away and the boat house closed for the fall. It was an interesting summer to say the least with all kinds of new covid rules, hand sanitizing, cleaning and social distancing. Manitoba's active covid numbers were extremely low over the summer and with the sport of sailing conducive to our new reality the kids were able to sail in their own individual boats after being given the go ahead by Sail Manitoba.

For the first time in many years we ran lessons over 4 weeks and only used our fleet of boats (Optis, Lasers and Code 40's). We greatly reduced the numbers daily to only 6 kids sailing in the morning and 6 in the afternoon. The adult class was able to use the club's Enterprise, with its big blue sail, generously donated by Steve & Evelyn Seniuk years ago, it was nice to see it on the water again.

A big thank you to our young coaches who came from near and far. Heidi Cloutier, our head instructor joined us from the Kanata Sailing Club in Ottawa after their sailing season got shut down by the province of Ontario. Linus Schweizer came from the Winnipeg Sailing Centre to help us run our Laser training week and Kendra Penner and Katie Sauer from Falcon Yacht Club coached our Opti classes. The Learn to Sail lessons were almost fully booked online with 34 participants so plans for 3-4 weeks of lessons are in the works for 2021.

Our long term fundraising goals & plans are to finish our deck & railings which were put on hold this summer after the provincial guidelines for social gatherings came into place. With this project eventually being completed we will be able to hold yoga and BOOT camp classes at our boat house on a regular basis from June-Sept. long. Look for the announcements about a wing night, wine raffle and possibly a 50/50. Proper signage and some finishing touches on the building saluting our donors are in the works. All West Hawk Lake and surrounding lakes are welcome to come check us out, watch for the announcement of the grand opening party in 2021!

The 2020 Manitoba Games were postponed until 2021 and we have a few WHLYC members in the hunt for sailing spots in the games. Madeline Krestanowich & Sydney Odowichuk (Pelican Lake) in the double handed Club 420 boats and Cole Anseeuw & Aaron Krestanowich in the Laser Radial. Our Learn to Sail Coordinator Paul Krestanowich is the Sailing - Games Chair for this event.

With all inter provincial travel on hold only local sailing races were able to be held this summer. West Hawk sailors Evan Owen and Brennan Agar did very well with some great races at the Centennial Cup Regatta in Gimli at the end of August finishing 10th & 13th in a tough fleet of 30 boats with some crazy weather conditions over two days.

Our West Hawk Lake Yacht Club Annual Races only had good enough wind this year for one day of races in August. Thanks to Phil Burns from Black Sturgeon Sailing Club and his crew for joining us on that super windy day. Winds were gusting 15+ knots making for tough racing conditions for the course set up at Big Island. There were a few last minute sailor withdrawals due to the wind and occasional swimming for a few of us who did participate. Thank you to our race committee Tom Saunders (mark set), Cory Krestanowich and Colin Krestanowich (race committee boat) and congrats to the top sailors: 1st Place – Marc Pellerin – Black Sturgeon Sailing Club, 2nd Place – Brennan Agar – West Hawk Lake Yacht Club, 3rd Place – Phil Burns – Black Sturgeon Sailing Club

For those that would still like to donate to our upcoming projects please contact us at info@whlyc.ca or 204-479-7100. Check out our website for regular updates and all the recently downloaded 2020 pictures or follow us on Facebook. www.whlyc.ca <https://www.facebook.com/whlyc/>

Have a great winter, stay safe and we'll see you on the water soon!