

Offer support to Sail Parry Sound

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by Bernice Graham

At last summer is here and the warm/hot weather is just wonderful for these creaky old bones. There is lots of time to spend in the garden developing a close relationship with the weeds and disappearing grass. Probus members have been busy with trips to the big city and the June Bbarbecue was a huge success too.

The speakers for the May meeting were from Sail Parry Sound, an organization which promotes sailing in this area. They each spoke in turn about the history, activities and future plans of their organization.

Marianne King-Wilson has served as president of Sail Parry Sound since it was founded in 1998. She grew up in Parry Sound, lived and worked away for many years and then returned in 1996. She chaired the capital campaign for the new hospital for the first \$3 million dollars raised and is committed to economic development in the Parry Sound area so that young people can find employment here. Executive vice-president Terry Johnson has been a director of Sail Parry Sound since its inception. He is a qualified captain for offshore sailing.

Tom Nelson began racing sailboats at age six. He was hired in 2004 as a FedNor youth intern and is project coordinator and race coach of the Parry Sound Race Team. He has led them in 16 regattas and 6 championship titles.

Adrienne Kolbuc is the director of the sailing school with the help of a team of enthusiastic volunteers.

Vice-president of operations Larry Woolner, has been a director of the Sail Parry Sound sailing school from 1998 to 2004. He received the 2003 Canadian Yachting Association award for "Sail Training Program of the Year", a national honour.

They spoke of their aim of restoring sailing to Parry Sound and of the sailing course for youth development. They have operated very successfully without a permanent facility.

Sail Parry Sound is now hosting World Championship events and in the next 4 to 5 years, they plan to develop a facility for the sailing school. There is much support in the area for a permanent facility and grants are expected from FedNor, Trillium Foundation and local businesses. Sail Parry Sound is looking at taking a 20-year lease on waterfront property at Belvedere Point with a view of the Stockey Centre. They feel that Parry Sound is the best venue in Ontario for sailing with its consistent winds. Next year, there will be an event for J24s, which are sailed by very keen business professionals of a very high standard. All lease approvals have been given. They invited each of us to join Sail Parry Sound and help develop sailing in the area. The new facility will cost \$600,000, of which \$400,000. would come from organizations and \$200,000. would be raised in the community.

This is a very interesting and enthusiastic group of people who need the support of the community to reach their goals. The members agreed to support them with a donation to their fund raising efforts.

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