

## Sailing school receives national award

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TORONTO - The Parry Sound Sailing School received a national honour here on January 18, when the Canadian Yachting Association awarded the school, a division of Sail Parry Sound, the William Abbott Senior Trophy for Sail Training Program of the Year.

Volunteer director, Larry Woolner accepted the trophy, given annually in recognition of excellence in a Canadian sail training program run by volunteers.

David Sprague, president of the Canadian Yachting Association, presented the trophy, an elegantly engraved glass plate. He cited the nomination, made by a senior official of the Ontario Sailing Association, which read in part:

“The Parry Sound Sailing School is a great school with a very short history. The school started in 1998, with only 20 students for two weeks, using boats donated by area families and sailors.

“The school now produces 300 graduates annually, with 10 of those graduates now certified CYA instructors.

“This past summer, the Parry Sound Sailing School was represented at every local regatta across Ontario by their enthusiastic and successful racing team. The dedication of staff, volunteers and sailors at the Parry Sound Sailing School is proof of what can be accomplished in a very short time.”

Accepting the award, Larry Woolner invited head instructor Tim Searle to join him on stage, and paid tribute to the professionalism Tim and the other instructors brought to the school’s programs as leaders and mentors to the students. He expressed his appreciation for the enormous dedication of the volunteers, parents and supporters of the Parry Sound Sailing School.

### Strong volunteers

Seven volunteers had accompanied him to the ceremony: Greg Aldworth, Larry Barnes, Adrienne Kolbuc, Roger Kolbuc, Barry Laking, Sue Woodhouse, and Richard Woodhouse, as well as Brad Laking, from the racing team.

“Thanks to all of our volunteers, and thanks to you Tim, I’m pleased to accept this award for the Parry Sound Sailing School,” he concluded.

Sail Parry Sound president, Marianne King-Wilson noted, “Larry Woolner as Director of the Sailing School, has inspired volunteers, instructors, and students to excel. This is an honour richly deserved. The volunteers give thousands of hours of their time, and they all share in this prestigious national award for excellence.”

The award is named for William Abbott Senior, builder of Abbott Boats, based in Sarnia, an avid competitive sailor. Previous winners have included much larger clubs, such as the Royal Hamilton



David Sprague, president of the Canadian Yachting Association; Tim Searle, Parry Sound Sailing School's head instructor; Director Larry Woolner, who received the award; and Will Abbott, the grandson of William Abbott Senior, for whom the trophy is named.

Yacht Club in southern Ontario; Burrard Yacht Club in North Vancouver, B.C.; Royal Newfoundland Yacht Club; Bedford Basin Yacht Club in Nova Scotia and the Central Okanagan Sailing Association in British Columbia.

Parry Sound Sailing School is a division of Sail Parry Sound Inc., a not-for-profit volunteer group formed in 1997 for community improvement through sailing.

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