

MASTERS MATTERS

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President’s Message

Hello Canadian Masters,

Looking back on 2025, it’s clear that our sport is changing for the better. We’ve embraced new formats and gear, making our events more inclusive and ensuring everyone gets the most out of every breeze.

After such a successful run of events this year, I’m even more excited for what’s ahead. We’re heading into 2026 with renewed energy, thanks in part to our newest Board members. A huge thank you to Victor Bondarev, Simon Rickard and Keith Whiston for stepping up and joining the ranks! Their energy and perspectives are exactly what we need to keep growing.

Thanks to every one of you for making this community what it is. See you on the water in the new year

Ian Matthews

Fall Get-Together 2025

By Stephanie Todd

Clifton House in Waupoos, Prince Edward Country is the ideal location for our CMWA social wind events since losing the Burgess Enclave.

This fall was no exception. The group was small but the fun level was high. Despite the low winds the sun shone so we were all able to get out on various pieces of equipment to enjoy the last of our windsurfing/paddling together. The water was still warm enough for swimming.

Friday there was enough wind to head out on a 7.2 and my paddle board while Nick went out on his race board. Friday night we had some great snacks and beverage and the best pizza's with thanks to the help of my sous chefs and Bob who cooked them to perfection. Clean up after is easy because many hands make easier work. We spent a lot of time at the long dining room table having some interesting conversations and laughter.

Saturday the winds were almost non-existent in the morning but filled in a bit later. So with my Sou Chefs we prepped the home made soup for luncheon the morning then went out either sailing, paddling, walking or swimming. After lunch a few of us continued our light wind activities on the water. We enjoyed the sunshine on the deck after. Dinner was prepped and as usual we had more food than there were people but somehow we managed to put a pretty big dent in it along with delicious desserts thanks to Steve's wife!

Sunday was a bit of a lazy day with some swimming, paddling and tidying up the cottages. Everyone pitched in so again it was super helpful. Thanks Steve, Bob, Nick, Keith, Natalya and Artem. Steve's cousin offered that Steve and I could stay the night which was great for me since Lauri wasn't there to help with the drive home. Another fantastic weekend.

Consensus was that despite the increasing cost, those there felt it is still worth it to continue with the Spring and the Fall Social Wind events. The place sleeps 10 comfortably but there is a bunkie available as well.

Mark your Calendars for next year! **June 12-14, 2026** and **September 25-27, 2026**

Contact: Stephanie Todd,
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Bob and Nick surveying the wind situation!



Stephanie out for a paddle...



Bob heading out.

Irene McNeill Appointed to the Order of Canada

We are absolutely thrilled to share that Irene McNeill, a long-time pillar of the sailing community has been appointed to the Order of Canada! This prestigious honour recognizes Irene's outstanding achievement, her lifelong dedication to the community, and her extraordinary service to our nation.

For many of us, Irene is the face of excellence in race management. Whether serving as Regatta Chair for various Masters Championships, CORK, or OSA windsurfing events, her energy is legendary. She has been a tireless promoter of windsurfing for as long as we can remember, including her standout work running the **2013 KONA Worlds in Trois-Rivières**.

In 2012, Irene made history as Canada's first female **International Race Officer** appointed by World Sailing. Since then, she has brought her expertise to international regattas across Canada, the U.S., the Caribbean, and Europe.

Beyond the finish line, Irene's legacy is built on mentorship. Alongside Sail Canada, she has championed initiatives to get more women into race management and has been a driving force on committees for Ontario Sailing and CORK. Most notably, she served as Chair of the Race Management Committee and currently lends her expertise to the Sail Canada Appeals Committee.

Please join us in congratulating Irene on this well-deserved and prestigious appointment. We couldn't be prouder!



Irene in action at one of our regattas!



Irene with her right hand man Neil and Bob Shuttleworth, August 2, 2009.

2025 Mammoth Marathon

By Ian Matthews

Every year, the Toronto Windsurfing Club hosts the Mammoth Marathon, a legendary race around Toronto Island. The 2025 edition once again proved why this is the biggest windsurfing event in Canada and the second largest in North America. With nearly 100 registrants, the event featured three distinct courses: the full "Around the Island" marathon, the Inner Harbour course and a short course specifically for members of our Learn to Windsurf (LTW) program.

The Mammoth Marathon is truly a community-driven event. It's all about getting everyone out on the water, regardless of their gear. The fleet was a beautiful mix of traditional longboards, shortboards, foils (both wing and wind), and even tandems! This has been my favorite event since I was nine years old, and this year's energy was better than ever.

In what has become a regular occurrence for race day, Saturday brought a strong easterly wind. Just before the start, it settled into a tricky 6–10 knots, leaving rolling swells on the far side of the island.

Because of the wind direction, the race committee made the tactical call to go counter-clockwise. This allowed the fleet to start through the Inner Harbour, avoiding a grueling upwind battle through the Western Gap.

The race kicked off with a traditional *Le Mans start*, where competitors sprint from the club across the beach to their gear at the sound of the gun. About 70 boards charged into the water for the first start, encompassing the two longer courses.

The conditions were ideal for the first leg: 7–9 knots and flat water. Racers navigated three marks toward the opening of the Outer Harbour, where the courses diverged. From there, the "Around the Island" fleet headed into the tricky Inner Harbour.

Racing through the Inner Harbour is always a game of "dodge the traffic." Competitors had to navigate around ferries, water taxis, and pleasure craft, all while staying clear of the airport buoys (to avoid a \$10,000 fine!) and the nasty backwash from the airport ferry.

Once we cleared the harbour and hit the waves on the far side of the island, the fleet began to spread out. The swell made the upwind leg a real test of endurance, leading to a few rescues for those struggling with the chop. It was here that our leaders, Anna Sagulenko and Keith Whiston, truly separated themselves from the pack, finishing a staggering six minutes ahead of third-place finisher Ian Matthews.

For the first time in the race's 45-year history, a woman has taken the overall title. A massive congratulations to Anna Sagulenko on this incredible achievement! The Around the Island

course saw some other impressive performances: Felipe Maia Lacerda de Melo caught the wind on the far side of the island to finish 5th overall on an iQFOiL rig (the first foil to cross). Josh John and Ethan Black wrestled a 17-foot tandem board from the 80s through the swells to finish 10th. While that board has won before, it definitely wasn't designed for those waves! Maxim Bondarev, our first youth finisher, came in 20th, just one spot behind his father, Victor (not sure he will be behind him next year).

The Outer Harbour course was also a nail-biter. Fifteen year-old Demir Coteli took the win in a close fight against Michael Keltz and George Eastman, with Alice Xu finishing as the first woman in a strong 4th place.

For the LTW course youth dominated. With the top three finishers R.P Roberts, Oscar Li and Ionica Ovidiu all under 18. It is great to see so many youth in the event with 10 registered this year! All in all the mammoth is a great event bringing people of all ages and skill levels out on the water!



OBX 2025

By Artem Lavrynenko

It was a great trip, even better than last year. The wind was favorable for the entire event. The biggest sail I used was 8.2 (one day) and the smallest 6.2. The event was organized on the highest level. There was a day when only few went out. It was stormy. The road to Food Lion was flooded.

Very good group came from Canada, but we can do better. Encourage everyone to come on the next event, possibly happening, last week of October 2026.

<https://oceanairsports.com/pages/obx-wind>

Here are the results:

Open long distance race:

Laszlo Csuka – 49th
Artem Lavrynenko – 55th
Vincent Gauthier – 60th

6.5 LTD Long distance:

Keith Whiston – 3rd
Simon Rickard – 16th

Mega Slalom:

Artem Lavrynenko – 36th

Mega Slalom: Men's 6.5 LTD

Keith Whiston – 4th

The Beer Race Men:

Artem Lavrynenko- 3rd
Keith Whiston – 10th
Vincent Gauthier – 12th

The Beer Race Women:

Andrée Gauthier – 7th



Our newest member Simon Rickard.



More on OBX Wind 2025 with Vincent Gauthier

Once again, the OBX Wind competition in Avon, North Carolina did not disappoint. This year, the week prior to the race offered light conditions suitable for big boards and big rigs. While there was plenty of sailing available, sails in the 7.8 to 8.5 range were required.

Things changed dramatically for the week of racing with winds cranking on the very first day of the week. The long distance race took place on day one and, as always, many sailors scrambled to get the right gear ready for the race. The first leg of the long distance race was done in shifty 15 to 20 knots of wind, and many of us ended up on gear that was just too small for the conditions. The wind then cranked up for the second leg, and many sailors hung on for dear life to finish the race. By the end of the race, the wind was well above 25 knots, and many exhausted sailors had to be rescued by the organizers in the strong wind. The second day of the week saw very little action as the wind was simply too strong. Some of the better sailors took the opportunity to pull out the small gear and go out on sails from 3.0 to 5.0. No racing took place on that day.

Day 3 was also very windy and time for the Mega slalom which was completed under excellent conditions for this type of event.

Finally, day 4 saw lighter winds perfect for the beer race and a bit of fun around the triangle course. I took the opportunity to take my old Mistral Malibu around the course and had a blast in the light wind conditions.

All in all, it was a blast in terms of sailing, hanging out with fellow sailors, and the shared meals with folks in the house.

Our group did a little postmortem and here are the key lessons from our discussion.

Prior to going to Hatteras:

- Make sure you have the right weed fins for the event.
- Make sure any new fin fits into the fin box (sand before the event).
- Bring sails bigger than 8.0 for lighter wind days.
- Rig the sails you will use in Hatteras at least once prior to the week (some of us do not rig smaller sails often).
- Get your training routine fine tuned months before the event.



Vincent (CAN88) in action!

2025-2026 Board of Directors

President – Ian Matthews
Vice-President – Nick Cox
Treasurer – Michael Keltz
Membership – Artem Lavrynenko
Secretary – Suzanne Roberge
Social Director – Stephanie Todd
Website & Newsletter – Suzanne Roberge
Ontario Director – Bob Shuttleworth
Québec Director – Vincent Gauthier
Past President – Mike Tindall

Upcoming Events 2026

Spring Windsurfing Weekend - June 12-14

Annual Championships - TBD

Fall Windsurfing Weekend - September 25-27

Visit windsurf.ca for updated news on upcoming events.

The next newsletter should be published in the Spring/Summer 2026. We welcome all contributions. Please e-mail your articles and pertinent pictures to roberge811@sympatico.ca.

Sponsors



SPORTS
www.windforce.ca

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