



Have fun, meet new friends and learn a lifelong skill

History of the LJYC:

Our story started in 1966 with 4 young Lake Joe girls (Laurie & Jennifer Goad, Heather & Mary Dickie) traveling daily to Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club (MLG&CC) to take part in sailing lessons. When their wooden boat sunk on the way over to Lake Rosseau their Father John Lawrence Goad (Larry) called his friend and neighbor, Richard J. Boxer Sr. an avid sailor and hatched the plan to start a satellite sailing club on Lake Joseph with the support of the MLG&CC and fellow cottagers on Lake Joe. Thank you, Larry, for having the vision and passion to start the LJYC that has provided so much for our Lake Joe and surrounding area families!

Larry and Richard negotiated with the **Lake Joseph Church** to use their site and in the summer of **1967**, with the first Head Instructor George Elliot on loan from the MLG &CC, the **Lake Joseph Yacht Club (LJYC)** was founded. Over the next several years we added our own “Home Grown” instructors (Greg & Bill Deacon, John Thompkins, Munson McKinney, Jennifer & Martha Goad, Geoff Hogarth, Paul Osak. Shane Palmer and Evan Jennings) and added to our fleet of loaned Sailboats from generous cottagers

In **1971** the LJYC became its own entity and formalized a Board of Directors adding Dr. Thomas Ryley. Outgrowing the Lake Joseph Church site, the LJYC was moved to the back of **Laurie Island** (Goad Family island). In **1978** we were Incorporated adding further board members. Notably, Gregory Deacon an Instructor then Commodore from 1974-1987.

Sadly in **1987** the LJYC ceased operations until **1991** when a group of cottagers met to revive the club. An agreement was reached with the CNIB to operate partially on their property and adjacent railway access land starting a long-time relationship. With the help of Hamer Bay Marine and Gordon Bay Marine the LJYC was back in business! Simon Jennings was the First Instructor in the revived LJYC, followed by Mike Turnbull, Chris Teolis, Daphne Rodaway and Mary Nicholson.

In 2002, Carolyn Cross Gagnon (2002-2009) took over running the Sailing school along with an active board and started the journey to make the LJYC what it is today, a viable sailing school, increasing our students, instructors and fleet. Carolyn and the board secured our 2nd grant to purchase a fleet of Club 420's, expanding the volunteer program started in 1991 and Co-founded the “Big Sound Challenge” a training Regatta held in Georgian Bay with Sail Parry Sound, bringing back racing to the LJYC and introducing our sailors to local, regional and national regattas.

In 2010, Shelley O'Connor (2010-present) took the reins. Over the years, we have had many highlights, most notably: Volunteering with the CNIB from 1992, almost 100% "Homegrown Instructors" from the late 1960's, Grants to purchase our first fleet of Albacores then again for a fleet of Club 420's, Introduction then Reinstatement of the Aphrodite Cup with other MLA sailing clubs, Co-founding the "Big Sound Training Regatta" with Sail Parry Sound, travelling to attend Regional regattas and most recently sending our teenage sailors to attend the 2 day Cottage Club Regatta's. Introduction of Local community specials to increase accessibility and involvement of the permanent resident children in Sequin & Muskoka townships. Multi-generation sailing families. Nice to see the children and grandchildren of past LJYC sailors/Instructors!

Today, we are a Sail Canada/ Ontario Sailing training site and offer the full CanSail program from Wetfeet up to CanSail 6. Classes are offered weekly with half day or full day options for Ages 5-18. We also offer private or semi-private lessons for adults arranged by request. Lessons are delivered on our fleet consisting of Opti Prams, Pico's, Lasers and Club 420's, allowing for progression for our youngest sailors age 5 to adults.

Come out and join us for a day, a week or the summer!!! Have fun, make new friends and learn a lifetime sport!

What do you see as the Club's major function?

The main function of the club is to provide a safe, fun, inclusive community environment on the Lake where anyone can have fun learning the lifelong sport/skill of sailing while making new friends.

Why did you decide to get involved with the Club as a volunteer?

I personally became involved with the club 15 years ago when we started coming to Lake Joe. I was looking for somewhere that our girls could make friends on the Lake, but not go away to overnight camp for the entire summer. Friends and an activity that they could attend during the day. After a few years I joined the board to give back to the club as it had given so much to our kids. 15 years later, some of their closest friends are those they made at the Lake Joseph Yacht Club. I have been actively running the sailing school since 2010 and involved on the board since 2005 in varying roles to help ensure the club continues to operate. It would be great to have some of the younger parents volunteer their time, so we ensure that the LJYC continues to operate long into the future. Thanks to my fellow board members: Christopher Carl, Stephen Rodaway, Robert Hayhoe, Ben and Cindy Hatherley.

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