



## **2011 Report to the Community**

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# The DSAO's Mission

The DSAO is dedicated to providing people with disabilities opportunities to enjoy both recreational and competitive sailing. The association was created by people with disabilities, and is organized and run by both disabled and able-bodied sailors. As a result, it is attuned to the needs and desires of its participants. The DSAO provides a unique opportunity for individuals, regardless of ability, to enjoy independent sailing and its therapeutic benefits.

# The DSAO Board of Directors

Commodore	Bryan Doehler
Past Commodore	Nigist Sewnnet
Rear Commodore	Stuart Chan
Vice Commodore 1	Joan Lewis
Vice Commodore 2	Sarai Demers
Treasurer	Bryan Doehler
Secretary	Ann Kennedy
Fundraising	Michael Van Deusen
QQDSP Operations	Endrick Kreuter
QQDSP Staff Operations	Marcel Deurvorst
Director at Large 1	Christopher Lytle
Director at Large 2	Craig Brown
Director at Large 3	Goran Bulut
Director at Large 4	Larry Huibers

# QQDSP Staff

Monica Sze	Program Manager and Administrator
Jenny Saundercock	Program Administrator
Joseph Paolone	Sailing Instructor
Devin Stephanian	Sailing Instructor
Diana Paolone	Dock Coordinator

# Commodore's Message



**The role of the commodore is** to manage Board operations and administration of the Association in discharging the Board's responsibilities, chair DSAO board meetings and the Annual General Meeting, and provide leadership to the Board of Directors, which sets policy for the organization. The commodore also encourages the Board's role in strategic planning and appoints the chairpersons of committees, in consultation with other Board members.

## 2011 Highlights

- Maintained cautious growth while balancing our budget.
- Extended DSAO membership beyond the GTA with the addition of a program in Burlington.
- Developed new services for our clients (particularly the Integrated Youth Program and regatta transportation)

One of the DSAO's goals for 2011 was to become a truly province-wide organization, and I must regretfully report that in this we have not been successful. Financial difficulties required the DSAO to refocus effort on maintaining our current programs while balancing the budget. The good news is that we were successful in meeting our modified objectives. We were able to both keep costs down and increase revenues. The DSAO thus maintained the high quality of the services we are known for, and simultaneously increased membership numbers.

While we were required to refocus our efforts elsewhere, we did not abandon our goal of expanding the organization to serve additional clubs. In 2010 we had developed a relationship with Burlington Able Sail which we cautiously fostered this past year. Since current members receive both a QQDSP and DSAO membership when they join, we decided to grant Burlington Able Sail the right to issue DSAO memberships. This pilot program worked well, and the same approach can be used for other clubs in the future. It also means that, while we did not become a province-wide organization in 2011, our membership has expanded beyond the GTA.

We also continued to work on improving the services we provide to our current members while developing new programs at Queens Quay. In 2011 we began serving youth once more, launching a pilot program for both disabled and at-risk youth. This program was very successful, allowing young participants to learn both about sailing and one another. Funding was provided by a grant from the Healthy Communities fund, and the program will be expanded in 2012. Another service we offered was transportation to major regattas, specifically the 2011 Mobility Cup in Hamilton. While use of the shuttle was limited, it allowed more members to take part in

Mobility Cup, and was a learning experience that will give us the ability to provide more effective services in the future.

### **In Closing**

2011 was a challenging year for the DSAO, as we struggled to keep a balanced budget while accommodating increased membership and a rising demand for services. Thanks to our highly experienced staff and dedicated volunteers, we were able to meet both these challenges and make 2011 our best year yet.

Bryan Doehler

# Highlights for the Queens Quay Disabled Sailing Program

2011 was our most successful season ever: We had the highest number of both members and volunteers on record.

Participation in courses, events, and outreach programs all increased.

Members took 1,047 recreational sails throughout the season.

The DSAO participated in a number of events to promote awareness about the QQDSP and BAS, establishing relations with other groups and potential members at the International Boat Show, and People in Motion.

## By the numbers:

Revenue increased by 15% over the previous year, the result of

- a 20% increase in course enrollment, with 49 members graduating from the White Sail program);

- a 12% increase in event participation (round the island sails, race nights, and regattas);

- a record number of members: 189, up from 159 in 2010;

- a record number of volunteers: 96, logging 1,488 hours in companion sails alone
- an increase in Outreach program sails, up 20% from 2010

As part of our plan to expand the DSAO's scope beyond the GTA, we successfully organized the second annual Michael Townsend Able Sailing Event in Peterborough, and received a great deal of positive attention from the local community and media. We hope this trend will continue for this and all our other endeavours in 2012!

## DSAO Contact Information:

[www.disabledsailing.on.ca](http://www.disabledsailing.on.ca)

[info@disabledsailing.on.ca](mailto:info@disabledsailing.on.ca)

1 Stadium Road, Toronto, Ontario M5V 3H4

Tel: 416-214-0358

# 2011 Financial Report

## Revenue

<b>Membership dues</b>	QQDSP @ \$30/person/year	\$5,460.00
	Total Sailing fees & Unallocated	\$12,475.00
<b>Courses</b>	QQDSP White Sail 1-2-3 @\$140/course	\$5,880.00
<b>Community programs</b>	Outreach (Martins and Keelboats)	\$4,790.00
<b>Special Events</b>	Sail-around-the-island & Race Nights	\$1,371.00
<b>Regattas</b>	Registration, transport, etc.	\$928.00
<b>Other</b>	HRDC funding	\$4,305.00
	Interest on investments & HST rebate	\$2,790.83
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$37,999.83</b>

## Donations

<b>Fundraising</b>	Corporate (MLSE, Foundations)	\$17,079.73
	Individuals, Canada Helps & Misc.	\$27,945.78
	HRF Youth Sailing program	\$5,656.00
	<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$50,681.51</b>
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$88,681.34</b>

## Non-salary Operating Expenses

## **Expenses**

QQDSP Harbourfront Trailer & Storage rent, Utilities	\$7,700.47
Transportation	\$1,494.20
Marine Licensing & CYA Fees	\$540.00
Insurance	\$6,000.00

Phone & Website Maintenance	\$2,122.01
Bank & Credit Card charges, Payroll	\$1,484.35
	<b>\$19,341.03</b>

**Salaries and Benefits**

Total Salary	\$54,364.06
WCB Expenses	\$611.74
	<b>QQDSP Salary &amp; Benefits \$54,975.80</b>

**On Water operations**

Fuel for the QQDSP	\$364.99
Sailboat repairs and maintenance for QQDSP	\$6,309.95
	<b>On-water operations \$6,674.94</b>

**Administration**

Office supplies, postage, etc.	\$1,238.15
Marketing	\$1,225.92
Regattas, Opening Day, Volunteer appreciation	\$650.00
	<b>Administration \$3,114.07</b>

**Total Income: \$88,681.34**

**Total Expenses: \$84,105.84**

# About the Disabled Sailing Association of Ontario

## Our Goals

- To provide safe sailing opportunities for people with disabilities;
- To facilitate rehabilitation and social integration for children and adults with disabilities;
- To provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities to develop sailing skills and attain personal goals.
- To enable high-level quadriplegics and others with severe mobility impairments to sail independently.
- Above all, to help members strive for greater independence and quality of life.

## Programs

Currently, the DSAO has two programs under its jurisdiction: the Queens Quay Disabled Sailing Program (QQDSP) based in the Toronto Harbour, and Burlington Able Sail (BAS), based in Burlington. The programs listed here are affiliated with the QQDSP. For more information of Burlington's programs, read the description on page 10.

### Recreation Sailing

The QQDSP offers leisure sails five days a week. Members can book a Martin 16 sloop to sail for a period of 1 hour and 45 minutes. Those with advanced skills may sail on their own in a Martin 16 or Liberty, but a qualified sailing companion must accompany members who do not have independent sailing qualifications. The QQDSP provides fully accessible equipment, facilities, and support services for a safe and enjoyable sailing experience.

### Weeknight Racing

For members who have a need for speed, we offer weekly race nights. The QQDSP sets its own course in the harbour, and members take out the entire fleet for an evening of exciting competition. Our weekly races are great for members who are serious about competitive racing, and for those who want to test their skills while having fun.

### Special Events

The QQDSP offers much more than daily recreation sails. Our "Around the Island" sails are definitely very popular highlights of the season.



Once a month, members sail the entire QQDSP fleet around Toronto Island and return to the harbour, hungry for a well-deserved BBQ feast.

Some members also participate in regattas hosted by affiliated yacht clubs, and the QQDSP occasionally hosts regattas during the season. Several DSAO members who sail at the QQDSP participated in Mobility Cup 2011, which took place in Hamilton, Ontario.

The QQDSP also hosts special events for agencies and associations that provide services to people with disabilities to introduce them to sailing. These events last about four hours, including orientation, sailing in a Martin 16, on-shore training, and a picnic.

## **Outreach Program**

The QQDSP is honoured to work with organizations serving people with disabilities throughout the city and surrounding area. We provide them with the opportunity to bring groups to Toronto's waterfront for a sail in the Martin 16s or the two keelboats. A transferable membership is available for community organizations, which allows several people in a group access to membership privileges. Our Outreach Program is the highlight of the QQDSP, and we are proud to work with groups including Bloorview Kids Rehab, Community Living, and the Adult Disabled Downhill Ski Club, among many others. This year, the Outreach Program served 20 percent more organizations than in 2010.

## **Our Fleet**

The QQDSP's fleet consists of

Six Martin 16' sloops (capacity: 2)

Three "Access Liberty" dinghies (capacity: 1)

Two Edel 670 22-foot keelboats (capacity: 5, including skipper)

The unique design of the Martin 16 allows one person to control both the rudder and sails in either the main or companion seat. Both are designed specifically for use by people with disabilities, including a weighted keel that prevents capsizing.

A mouth-controlled "sip-and-puff" interface is available for the Martin 16, which makes independent sailing possible for members with severe disabilities. All of these craft offer enjoyable and safe sailing opportunities.

## **Safety**

The QQDSP is dedicated to the safety of our members and volunteers. We ensure that all necessary safety equipment, including two-way radios, is onboard and up to date in every boat. In case of an emergency, the QQDSP has a rescue boat, and we are also fortunate to have the Toronto Police Marine Unit as our next-door neighbour.

The Toronto Islands act as a natural boundary for the harbour, and their protection makes sailing in that area much safer than out on the open lake.

We provide all safety and special aid equipment, including an electric Hoyer lift. We also monitor weather conditions closely and perform daily maintenance checks on the boats. Safety is our number one priority.

## **Burlington Able Sail (BAS)**

The DSAO currently has one other disabled sailing program as a member, Burlington Able Sail (BAS). The program offers recreational sailing to members at LaSalle Marina in Burlington, Ontario.

2011 Schedule:

June - Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

July & August - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

1 p.m. until dusk. Other times were available upon request.

**Fleet:** Martin 16s

**Format:** One-hour sessions, with 1 or 2 sailors per boat (depending on skill level).

**Cost:** The first session is free. Following sessions are available at a very reasonable rate. Season passes are also available. Contact BAS for more details.

If you are interested in getting more information about BAS, please go to [www.burlbay.com](http://www.burlbay.com) or call the Director, Jim Casey, at (905) 921-7245.

# In Memoriam



## **Nigist Sewnnet**

Nigist Sewnnet, a very involved member of the DSAO, passed away suddenly March 1, 2011. She was an active member of the DSAO Board of Directors at the time, as well as being a past Commodore, volunteer, and passionate disabled sailing proponent and spokesperson. Nigist belonged to the National Yacht Club as well, sailing in the 2.4mR fleet, and was a proud member of the Ontario Sailing Team in the 2.4mR class. Nigist loved the thrill of the race, and had competed in Martin16s, Challengers, and Hobie 16s. Given the chance, she would race anything that floated.

Nigist was known and loved, cherished and respected, and she spread her infectious zest for life to everyone around her. She is survived by four

brothers and many nephews, who all adored their aunt. Her presence at board meetings and on the water is sorely missed.



## **Vanessa Anderson**

Vanessa Anderson, one of the QQDSP and DSAO's founders, passed away September 11, 2011, at the age of 30. Her involvement with the QQDSP and DSAO began with Dianna Wiley, her mother, who was the organizer of Mobility Cup 1999 and a major supporter. As a result of that event, the DSAO was born. The first thing the association did was establish a flagship program, which resulted in the formation of the QQDSP. Then they had to hire

someone to design, implement, and coordinate this new program. Vanessa Anderson took on this challenge.

Vanessa was an integral staff member of the QQDSP for the first 7 years of its existence. At times, she practically ran the sailing program single-handedly. Early DSAO member Steve Alvey acted as her mentor, providing advice on the implementation of policies and procedures and program management. During the process, Steve and Vanessa became fast friends. Ultimately, Vanessa was whole-heartedly dedicated to the program and involved with every aspect of it, from fundraising to operations and annual reports.

Vanessa eventually moved on to a position with Toronto Parks and Recreation. As part of her role, she implemented a forum to support disabled sports in the city, now known as the Toronto Accessible Sports Council. She also created and ran the Toronto Sledge Hockey program, working with Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab. Vanessa was a passionate advocate for the disabled, dedicated to gaining equal rights and opportunities for disabled people to participate in sports. Her plan was to offer the disabled population of the city access a wide range of sports activities.

There was a tree-planting ceremony in honour of Vanessa on Ward's Island on October 14, 2011. From where her tree stands, you can watch the Toronto harbour that she loved so dearly.



### **Stuart Mazza**

Stuart Mazza, a member of the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club (RHYC) and Burlington Able Sail passed away on October 20, 2011, after living courageously with cancer for the past six years.

Stuart was an active member of Burlington Able Sail. Only a short time before his death he sailed in Mobility Cup 2011, finishing 12th and 16th in the Silver Fleet of 26 Martin 16s. It was a

great accomplishment; he had recently returned to racing after almost a decade, and was still adjusting to living with a physical disability. Stuart grew up in Hamilton, and learned to sail at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club.

Stuart was training to become a pilot when he was diagnosed with a brain tumour more than eight years ago. The surgery required to treat it affected the function of his right eye, forcing him to give up his pilot's license. Despite this obstacle, Stuart had always been passionate about flight, so he found a way to continue working with planes, retraining as an aircraft mechanic and

working for Air Canada. When signs that the tumour was growing returned, a second surgery was needed. This time, Stuart's motor function was affected. He became hemiplegic, losing movement on his left side, and feeling in his left arm. Nevertheless, he found a different way to fly: on the water in a Martin16. He enjoyed sailing and was looking forward to improving his best race time; he is remembered fondly at RHYC and Burlington Able Sail.