

Ontario Sailing 2022 Director Candidate Bio's

(All bio's were provided and written by the candidates and appear alphabetically)

STEPHEN BRICKELL

I am the most unlikely Ontario Sailing Board Member. Unlike most who grew up sailing and going to summer camps, I did not have that opportunity and had never stepped on a sailboat before I was 30. At that point, I knew what I had been missing. My mission was to help share that amazing experience with my family and as many people as I could. All three of our children, ages 31, 24, 17, started camp at age 5 and progressed to race teams. They caught my same passion! My son was on the OS Laser Development Team, then went on to coach and is now a Sail Canada LF training other coaches. My 17-year-old daughter has been on the OS Laser Development Team continuing to develop her passion in the sport and hopes to go on to become a coach in the following years!

At a club level, I stepped up to be the Director of Boating Education at Whitby Yacht Club 10 years ago. The program had been in trouble for several years and it was at the risk of ending permanently. Low enrollment, deteriorating equipment, and a disenfranchised membership saw this closure all but eminent.

As part of our new direction, we clarified our mission: "Our mission is to inspire, educate, and encourage the next generation of sailors and watersport enthusiasts to pursue their passions while finding the love for life on the water."

As a very involved Director for the past 10 years, I helped lead our program to now be one of the largest in Canada with very high satisfaction results, low program cost to parents, and 90+% repeat attendance. When I started, we had 4 instructors, this year we had 20. We are very proud of our instructor development and innovation to programs like our watersports program with paddleboards, kayaks and sailing, which then draws youth into our sailing programs.

I have served my first 3-year term on the board mainly focused on helping OS, Clubs and the sport survive the pandemic. Now that I retired from IBM after 35 years, I am beyond excited about continuing to lead the sailing education program at Whitby and would be happy to continue serving on the Ontario Sailing board, bringing that same passion and eagerness for a second term.

SUMIT JHAS

Dr. Sumit Jhas is a Staff Neurosurgeon and the Head of Neurosurgery at Trillium Health Partners in Mississauga. His education includes an undergraduate degree in Biology from the University of Calgary, followed by a Master's degree in Neurosciences from McGill University and a medical degree from Queen's University. He graduated from the University of Toronto Division

of Neurosurgery in May 2015. He also has additional executive education in Healthcare Management from Yale University and Artificial Intelligence from MIT.

In addition to working at the hospital, Dr. Jhas is also the owner and Medical Director of the Trillium Spine Center in Mississauga. The clinic is a multidisciplinary facility providing all aspects of care for spinal disorders including surgery. Dr. Jhas has also worked with various levels of government to help his organization achieve their goals.

Dr. Jhas was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta. He is happiest with his wife Sonia and their two children, Arya and Niam, living in midtown Toronto. Dr. Jhas is an avid sailor having learned to sail in Kingston while at Queen's University. He is the co-owner of a 40' sailboat in Toronto and has a passion for education and the sport of sailing.

ERIC KAVECKAS

Serving as the Treasurer on the Board of Ontario Sailing over the past year, my primary role is to monitor the financial health of the organization. With more than 10 years of experience in treasury roles in the financial services industry and an MBA from the University of Toronto – Rotman School of Management, my transition into the Treasurer role has been seamless – reviewing financial results, approving budgets and expenses, and ensuring that we have the capability to achieve the goals set out in the Strategic Plan.

Sailing has always been a big part of my life. I benefited a lot in my youth learning to sail at the Barrie Yacht Club and later went on to coach for 6 years at the Midland Bay Sailing Club. These opportunities not only allowed me to further my skills in the sport, but also gave me the confidence and platform to progress as a coach and as a person. Community pride, excellence with integrity, fairness, respect & equality, safety, and stewardship became my core values through these experiences.

Looking back at the program administrators at the time who worked tirelessly to ensure the programs could operate at the highest level, I want to ensure that future generations can have the same opportunities I had. That is how I became involved with Ontario Sailing and I am happy to have been able to help and support all of the member organizations in furthering their programs and initiatives and I am excited to continue to do so in the future.

I am still actively racing today. For the past 5 years, I have been racing a Melges 24 and Melges 32 at National Yacht Club, which has re-ignited my passion for the sport and for realizing Ontario Sailing's vision of enabling it to flourish and grow, and become the leading, lifelong recreational and competitive sport in Ontario. With my treasury experience and drive for the sport, I am confident that I am a great fit for the Board at Ontario Sailing and can add value for all member organizations. I look forward to the opportunity to continue giving back to the community for another term.

CAITLIN MURRAY

As a lifelong participant in sailing sport, I am passionate about all aspects of sailing. It is a personal hobby, an opportunity to teach others, and something that I am committed to seeing grow as a popular and sustainable activity, accessible to all Canadians. I am excited to be considered for the opportunity to participate in the sport in a way that can influence change and create an impact by way of serving as a board member.

I was born and raised in Caledonia, Ontario, where I still live today. My summers were spent primarily in Port Dover, Ontario, where my parents have owned a variety of keelboats and helped to foster my love of the sport. My formal education includes an Honours B.A. in English in 2008 through the University of Waterloo and McMaster University and an M.A. in Cultural Studies & Critical Theory in 2009 at McMaster University. I later obtained my J.D. in law at the University of Windsor in 2012.

My sailing experience includes both recreational and competitive sailing activities aboard dinghies and keelboats. I have also had the opportunity to charter multiple keelboats in international locations, including the USA and the British Virgin Islands. I am a club member with the Port Dover Yacht Club, and an active participant within the Port Dover Racing Fleet. I grew up in an environment where sailing was a way of life – my parents provided me with the opportunity for a formalized sailing education through summers spent acquiring my learn-to-sail levels up to Bronze V, and I also obtained my Basic & Intermediate Cruising levels this way. As a young adult, I spent summers instructing at the Burlington Sailing & Boating Club and the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club.

While my primary occupation is working as a lawyer in a small firm, I am also a reservist with the Canadian Armed Forces as a member of the Cadet Instructors Cadre. In this role, I work primarily with youth aged 12-18 to deliver dynamic leadership training in a safe, challenging and meaningful way. I have experience in working with multiple organizations that rely on boards to govern their organizations, including the Army Cadet League of Ontario, my home yacht club, and through some of my work as a lawyer representing small and medium-sized corporations.

I am excited to be offered the opportunity to serve as a board member within an organization that aligns with a lifelong passion of mine. Thank you for taking the time to learn a little bit about me.

CAROL TRUPKE

In high school, I learned to sail Albacores and Lasers while at Bark Lake outdoor education camp. My skills lay fallow until I met my husband in the 90s. Together, we have owned and sailed an Alberg 30, a Hunter Vision 32, and now a Hunter 380.

In the 90s, we joined a small club called Harbour City YC on the Toronto islands. We moved to Port Credit YC (PCYC) in 2006 and have been happy Senior (boating) members ever since. We served as PCYC cruising fleet captains for 4 years following which we received the Commodore's Award for Outstanding Contribution. We remain active cruisers today. I participated in club racing for several years, and our grandchildren all learned to sail at PCYC.

I joined the PCYC Board as a Director in 2013 and served for 8 years including 2 years as Commodore, where the Board was successful in securing member support for a \$5M investment in our facilities.

No longer on the PCYC Board, I currently Chair the PCYC Bylaw Review Committee where we are planning our transition to ONCA. I also Chair a committee called The Navigators whose goal is to enrich the PCYC member experience. Additionally, I Chair the Council of Commodores who meet quarterly to hear updates from Ontario Sailing (OS), and to discuss club challenges and opportunities.

In my day job, I serve as Executive Director of the Tire & Rubber Association of Canada (TRAC). Prior to TRAC I held senior leadership roles with several associations and non-profits, you can read more here: <https://bit.ly/3RigvVI>.

The skill set I bring to OS from my volunteer work and career includes developing relationships and building partnerships with multiple stakeholders, finance, strategy, marketing/communications, lobbying/advocacy, and building consensus/achieving results.

As a lifelong volunteer, my interest in joining the OS board is to meaningfully contribute to a relevant, worthy, and successful organization that develops lifelong sailors through leadership and programming. I have come to know and respect Glenn Lethbridge and his team and appreciate all they have done to assist clubs (especially during COVID) and to promote the advancement of the sport of sailing. I am passionate about sailing and believe I can add value and contribute to the OS mission, vision, and values, while learning and growing as a result of OS Board service.