



2027 Canadian Optimist Championships

Host Club Proposal



Ashbridge's Bay Yacht Club



Why We Want to Host

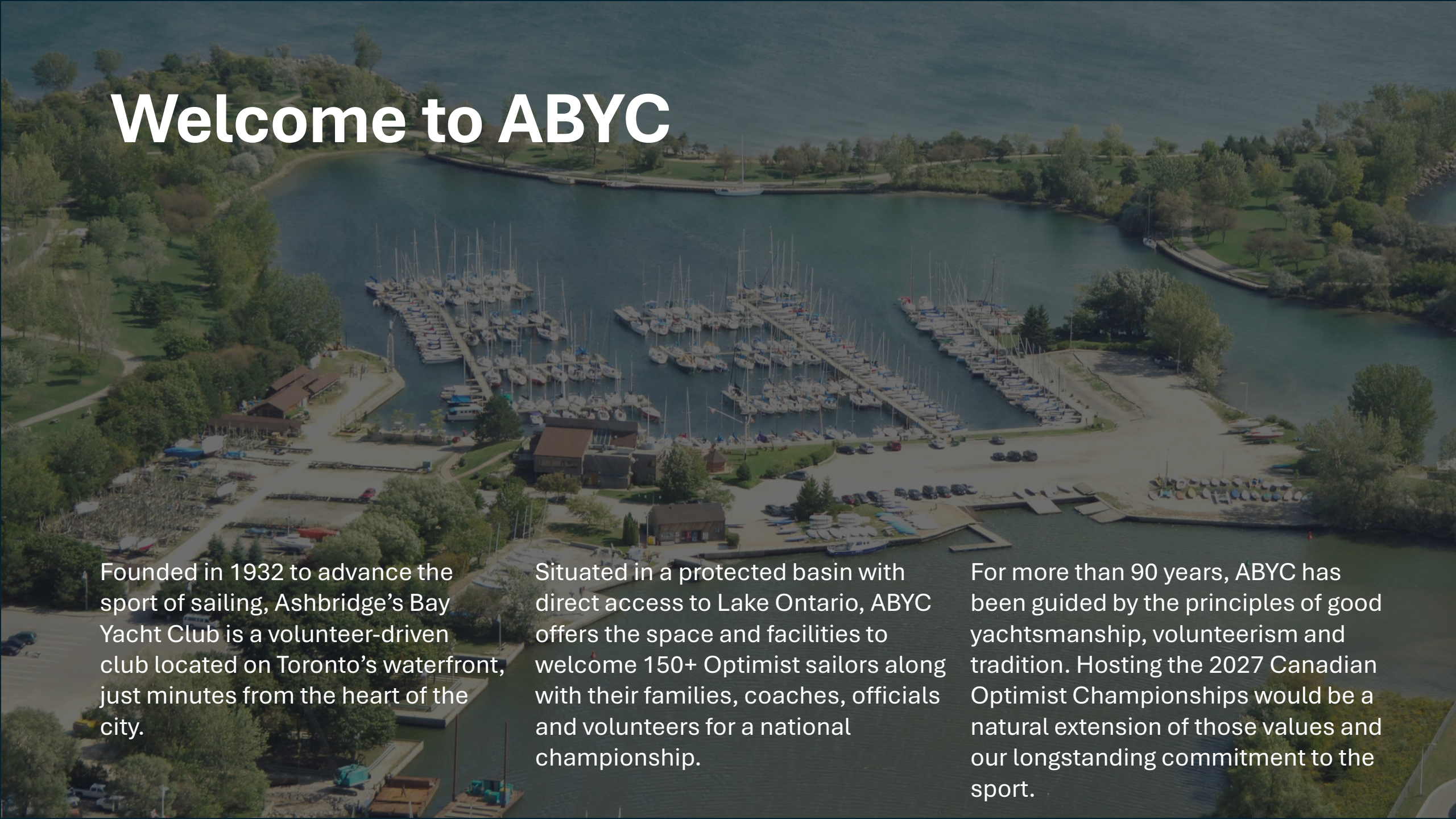
We believe that by giving young sailors opportunities to race, develop and build a lifelong love of the sport, we help ensure sailing's future.

Hosting the Canadian Optimist Championships in 2016 helped inspire a renewed commitment to youth sailing at our club –one that led to the creation of what would become the annual Seahorse Youth Regatta two years later.

ABYC would be proud to once again host a championship that combines outstanding racing with the fun, sense of belonging and opportunities to learn and grow that keep young sailors and their families engaged in the sport.

**Thank you for considering our bid to
bring that journey full circle.
We would be honoured to host again.**

Welcome to ABYC



Founded in 1932 to advance the sport of sailing, Ashbridge's Bay Yacht Club is a volunteer-driven club located on Toronto's waterfront, just minutes from the heart of the city.

Situated in a protected basin with direct access to Lake Ontario, ABYC offers the space and facilities to welcome 150+ Optimist sailors along with their families, coaches, officials and volunteers for a national championship.

For more than 90 years, ABYC has been guided by the principles of good yachtsmanship, volunteerism and tradition. Hosting the 2027 Canadian Optimist Championships would be a natural extension of those values and our longstanding commitment to the sport.

It Takes a Crew

A regatta of this magnitude doesn't happen by itself – it takes a dedicated village of volunteers. The ABYC team has been working together for years.

From the inaugural Ashbridge's Bay Optimist Regatta in 2018 to the newly renamed Seahorse Youth Regatta in 2020 – the first Ontario regatta successfully held during COVID – to the 2024 and 2026 Sail Central Championships, this Organizing Committee has worked side-by-side through it all to deliver successful youth sailing events.

And for 2027, this experienced crew is ready to do it again.



From Left to Right: Angie Law, Jillian Ruch, Sjoerd Hoogland, Melanie Bruce, Chris Ruch

Championship Race Leadership

ABYC's proposed race leadership brings extensive national and international experience to the 2027 Canadian Optimist Championships.

Paul Brennan

Principal Race Officer

- World Sailing International Race Officer
- PRO, 2016 Canadian Optimist Championships
- DRO, 2024 Canadian Optimist Championships
- Race Officer, 2019 Optimist Worlds – Team Racing



Wendy Loat

Chief Judge

- Sail Canada National Judge
- Chief Judge, 2024 Canadian Optimist Championships
- Judge, 2017 Optimist North American Championships – International Jury
- Facilitator, Rule 42 sailor development session, 2026 Sail Central Championships

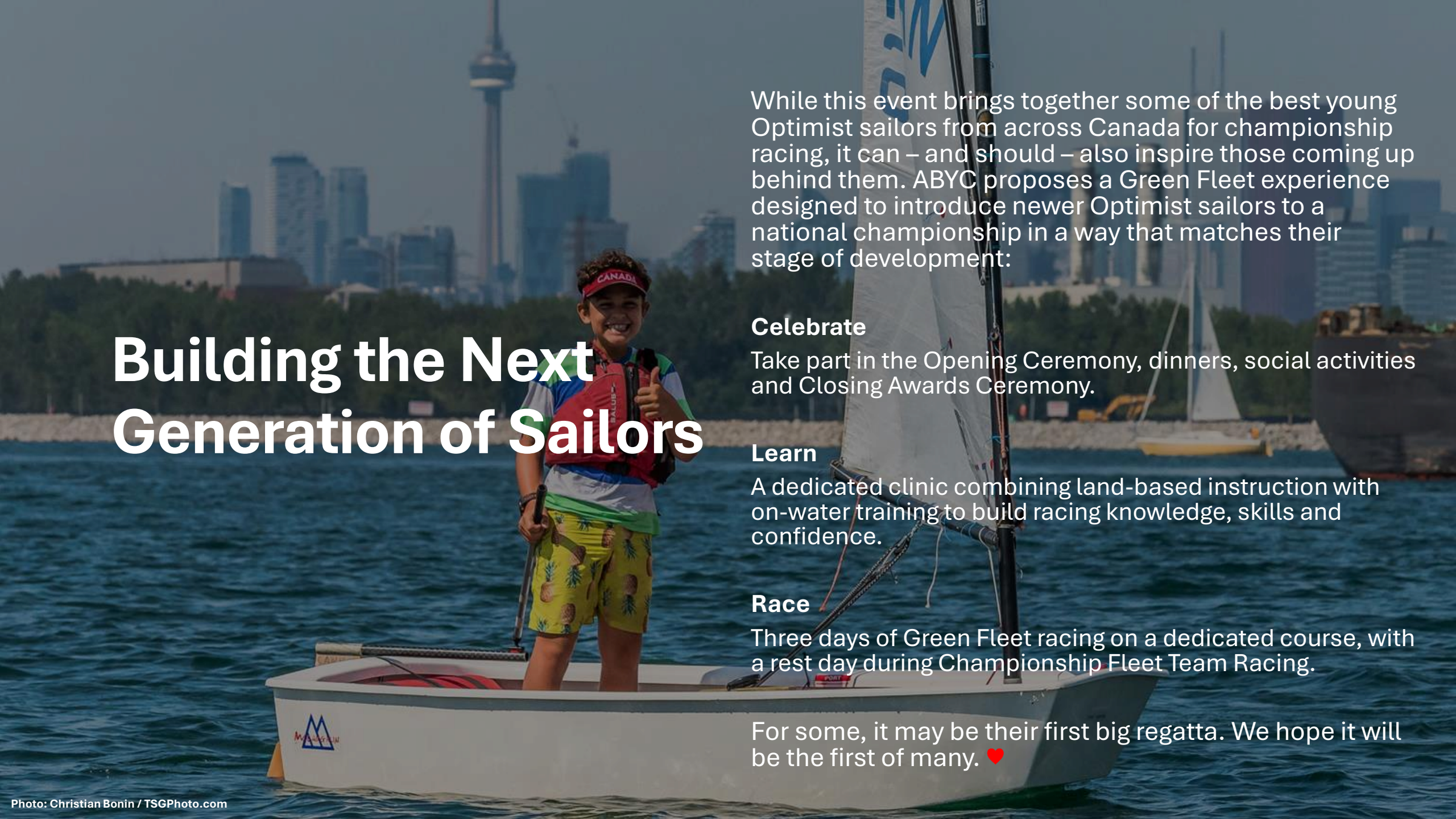


Photos: Christian Bonin / TSGPhoto.com

Serious on the Water. Fun on Land.

On the water, these sailors deserve the very best: expertly managed, fair, and competitive racing worthy of a Canadian championship.

We also know that they are kids – incredibly skilled, decisive and confident kids – but kids nonetheless. On the shore, we want them to wind down, have fun, and enjoy experiences that will make this championship memorable – whether it's a movie on the point, mobile treats, or a chance to experience sailing in a whole new way.



Building the Next Generation of Sailors

While this event brings together some of the best young Optimist sailors from across Canada for championship racing, it can – and should – also inspire those coming up behind them. ABYC proposes a Green Fleet experience designed to introduce newer Optimist sailors to a national championship in a way that matches their stage of development:

Celebrate

Take part in the Opening Ceremony, dinners, social activities and Closing Awards Ceremony.

Learn

A dedicated clinic combining land-based instruction with on-water training to build racing knowledge, skills and confidence.

Race

Three days of Green Fleet racing on a dedicated course, with a rest day during Championship Fleet Team Racing.

For some, it may be their first big regatta. We hope it will be the first of many. ❤️



Eastern Beaches Boardwalk



Woodbine Park



Spectators, 2025 Seahorse Regatta



Toronto at Your Doorstep

A national championship is a big commitment for families – especially when it means travelling and spending a week away from home. We want to make that week worth the trip.

Family members are very welcome to be part of the championship experience, joining their racers for dinners (with additional tickets available for purchase) and family-friendly activities throughout the week. We also intend to offer spectator boat opportunities, giving families the chance to get closer to the racing – with the Toronto skyline as the backdrop.

And for those family members who aren't quite as fascinated by Optimist racing as the rest of us? There's plenty for you, too! Downtown Toronto and its world-class attractions are only a short drive away. And just steps from ABYC, families can explore Toronto's Eastern Beaches and waterfront boardwalk, Woodbine Park, and the shops and restaurants of Little India.



Sail Canada | Voile Canada

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Canada K7M 6G4
613.545.3044
www.sailing.ca

Dear CODA,

Sail Canada Endorses ABYC's Bid for the 2027 Optimist Canadians

Sail Canada is pleased to endorse the bid submitted by **Ashbridge's Bay Yacht Club (ABYC)** to host the **2027 Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championship** in Toronto.

ABYC's dedicated volunteer team consistently goes above and beyond to deliver exceptional, fun regattas for youth competitors. Led by some of the country's top race officials and judges, ABYC has the proven expertise to run championship-level racing while prioritizing a memorable experience for young sailors and their families.

The Optimist class is vital to sailor development across Canada. Designed for youth up to 15 years old, it represents the foundational first step on Canada's high-performance pathway.

Kind regards,

Kim Garrett
Events and Competitive Development Coordinator

A man wearing a hat, sunglasses, and a life vest stands on the deck of a sailboat. He is surrounded by several white racing flags with red and blue symbols. An orange flag is visible on the mast above him. The background is a clear blue sky.

We Would
Love
To Do This
Again