

KINGSTON

SHAFFED BY WIND

2027 CANADIAN OPTIMIST DINGHY CHAMPIONSHIPS

CORK Sail Kingston & Tourism Kingston



WHY CORK AND KINGSTON?



Kingston, Ontario and CORK / Sail Kingston offer the perfect hosting experience for the 2027 Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships, with a rich maritime heritage, world-class freshwater sailing conditions, and an accessible location for competitors across the country. CORK's home on Lake Ontario, and it's proximity to Kingston's walkable historic downtown, plus outstanding hospitality create an unforgettable experience. As a welcoming and reliable destination for international sport, Canada offers competitors a smooth, stress-free travel experience, making Kingston an especially attractive choice for global sailors. With a passionate sailing community and proven record of hosting major regattas, CORK is ready to deliver an exceptional event that celebrates tradition, excellence, and the future of competitive sailing.



2027 Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships

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A TRADITION OF SAILING

Kingston, Ontario—known as the “freshwater sailing capital of the world”—has a storied history of hosting premier sailing events, anchored by CORK / Sail Kingston. Since its founding in 1969, CORK has been a cornerstone of competitive sailing in North America, attracting elite sailors and fostering Olympic-level talent. “The facility is fantastic,” says Canadian Olympian Sarah Douglas, “it’s something that often gets overlooked at other regattas. And the volunteers at CORK are always incredible. They’re so committed to hosting a fun, competitive regatta.”

Over the past decade, CORK has delivered an impressive slate of international and national championships, including the ILCA World Championships, the 49er and 49erFX North American Championships, reinforcing Kingston’s reputation for excellence. This summer, Kingston welcomed the I14 Worlds, J80 Worlds and J80 North Americans, further cementing its position as a trusted venue for world-class regattas. “There’s something special about CORK’s mix of grassroots and high-level racing,” says Olympian Georgia Lewin-LaFrance. “You see sailors of all levels on the same water, which creates a cool sense of community,”



Founded in 1969, CORK hosted the Sailing events at the 1976 Summer Olympics and continues to host international events.





2027 CANADIAN OPTIMIST DINGHY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Proposed dates	August 2–8, 2027
Venue	CORK / Sail Kingston, Portsmouth Olympic Harbour
Host destination	Kingston, Ontario, Canada
Transportation	Located close to the downtown, Portsmouth Olympic Harbour is easily accessible by foot, cycle, vehicle or public transit. To get to Kingston, transportation options are available from VIA Rail, Flixbus, Megabus, and Air Canada's luxury motorcoach service from Pearson Airport.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Championship Fleet

August 2 & 3	Measurement and check in
August 2 & 3	Optional pre-regatta OPTI clinic
August 3	Opening welcome
August 4 & 5	Fleet racing
August 6	Team racing & dinner
August 7	Fleet racing
August 8	Fleet racing



PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Green Fleet

August 2 & 3	Measurement and check in
August 3	Opening welcome
August 4	Orientation & first race
August 5	Racing
August 6	Fun day & dinner
August 7	Racing
August 8	Racing & presentation of event souvenirs





VENUE

CORK / SAIL CANADA AT PORTSMOUTH OLYMPIC HARBOUR

Portsmouth Olympic Harbour in Kingston, Ontario, is a world-class sailing venue with a storied Olympic legacy. Originally constructed for the 1976 Montreal Summer Olympics, it remains one of North America's premier freshwater sailing destinations. Located at the east end of Lake Ontario where the Great Lakes meet the Rideau Canal and the St. Lawrence River, the harbour offers ideal conditions for competitive sailing, including steady thermal breezes and a spacious, protected basin. Its proximity to Kingston's historic waterfront and vibrant downtown ensures an exceptional experience for athletes, officials, and visitors. Today, CORK / Sail Kingston continues to host major international regattas, reinforcing Kingston's reputation as Canada's freshwater sailing capital. It has also been the home of Sail Canada for the last 25 years.

- // On-site facilities: Indoor spaces include a 5,000 sq. ft. sail measurement room, meeting rooms, press rooms, washrooms, showers, Wi-Fi, ample outdoor space for rigging.
- // Utilities & services: Fuel dock (gasoline and diesel), pump-out stations, shore power (15/30/50 amp)
- // Coast Guard office and boats
- // Free parking during events (200+) with overflow options, Two Level 2 EV charging stations (paid)
- // Nighttime security
- // Hoses for daily boat rinsing



WATER BASED DETAILS

RACE AREA

The racing area will be a 10 minute sail from the launching ramps. There is no commercial traffic other than a tour boat that avoids the race areas. Below is a chart of the proposed course using Buoy Zone from the prevailing wind direction which happens during thermal conditions.





WATER BASED DETAILS

RACE ORGANIZATION BOATS

CORK has all the necessary race management, safety and jury boats.

The Tim Irwin	Sportcraft 300	Hard 9.1 m, 3m beam	Signal boat
CORK Gee	Triumph 19	Hard, open soft top - GPS trolling motor for anchoreless positioning	Start pin & Mark 4
CORK Bee	Sisu 23	Hard, hard top, tiny cabin	Finish boat
CORK Eh!	Shamrock 23	Hard, closed cabin	Mark 1
Le Pecheur	Le Pecheur 19?	Hard, open soft top	Mark 2
Marvac	Triumph 19 type	Hard, open soft top - GPS trolling motor for anchoreless positioning	Mark 3
Carole	Highfield	RIB 5.9m	Jury 1
Elsbeth	Highfield	RIB 5.9m	Jury 2
Ila	Manta - 50HP	RIB 15' = 4.6m	Jury 3
CORK Oh (ON sailing)	Highfield 540	RIB 5.4m	Jury 4
Laurel	Highfield	RIB 5.9m	Safety 1
CORK Tee	Highfield 590	RIB 5.9m	Safety 2
Manta 3	40HP	RIB 15' = 4.6m	Safety 3
Elsie	Highfield	RIB 5,4m	Safety 4

WATER BASED DETAILS

the 2027 Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships will be organized by an experienced host committee. **Rae-Marie Holmberg**, full time General Manager of CORK / Sail Kingston, with 20 years of sports management experience, will oversee all operational and logistical aspects of the event. IRO **Paul Clissold** is responsible for race management and ensuring world-class on-water competition standards. CORK also employs two full time summer staff who are fully dedicated to the organization of the regatta experience and calls upon an active volunteer base.

CORK's Co-Planning Chair and IRO, **Peter Van Muyden** is available to consult on race operations, assuring global best practices. He served on the World Sailing Race Management Sub-Committee, shaping international standards. As well, CORK works with four additional Canadian International Race Officers to assemble the best Race Management Team possible for each event.

CORK has adopted advanced race-management technology for its high-level events. Six Gipsy autonomous race marks, the same system used during the 2024 Olympic Games, will be deployed.

The start pin boat is fitted with a GPS-based dynamic positioning system, eliminating the need for anchoring. This

enables rapid and precise establishment and adjustment of the start line, ensuring correct line length for all starts.

The Race Officer and mark-laying team will utilize Buoy Zone software to support accurate, efficient mark placement and course adjustments.

BOATS and EQUIPMENT

- // Six GPS/GNSS robotic Gipsy marks for fast, accurate and efficient course changes
- // Three signal/finish boats
- // Two start pin boats with GPS/GNSS station-keeping equipment for rapid response to changing start line needs
- // Eight RIBS for jury, safety or marksetting
- // Experienced measurement team
- // Some of the race management vessels are equipped with real-time ultrasonic weather stations to provide the race officer with current course wind conditions.
- // Beat length target time system will be used to set and adjust the course to meet the IODA target time.
- // [RacingRulesOfSailing.org](https://www.RacingRulesOfSailing.org) will be used as the electronic Official Notice Board

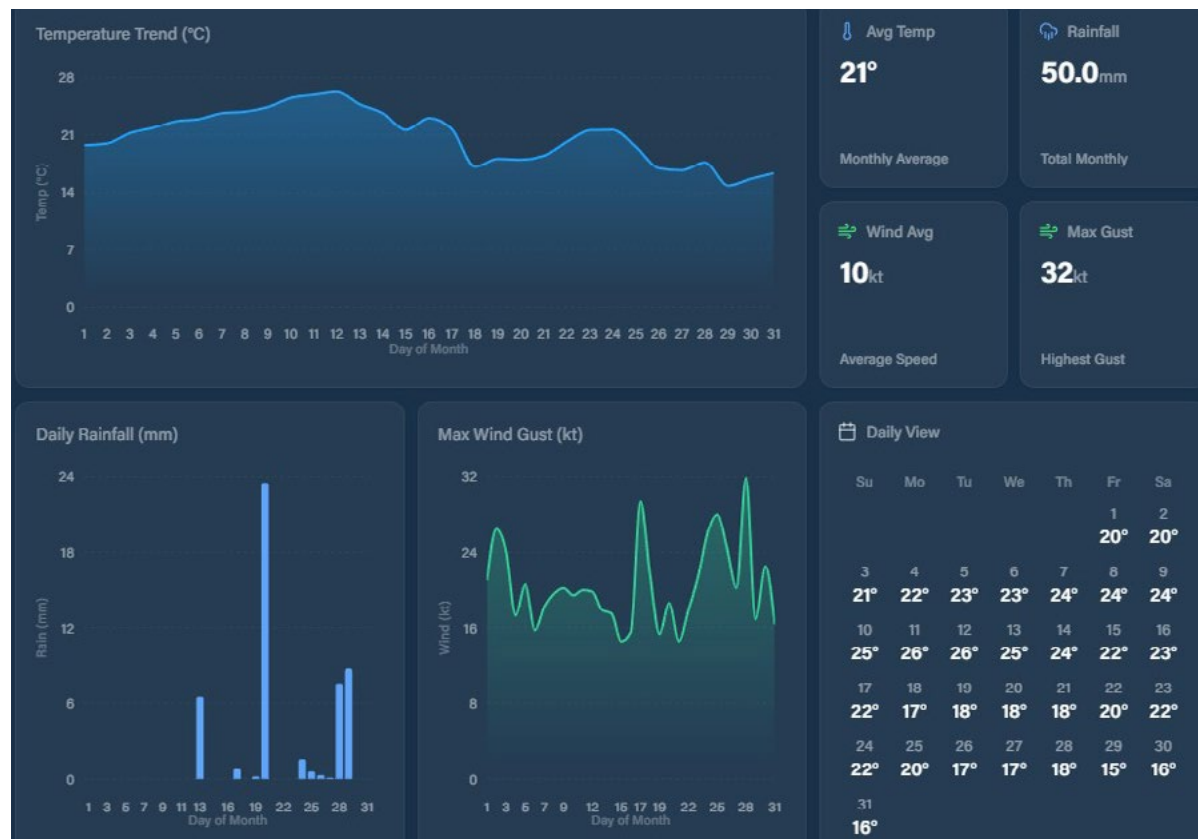
prevailing



WEATHER & TIDAL CONDITIONS

Kingston offers one of the most reliable and dynamic sailing environments in North America. Situated at the eastern end of Lake Ontario where it meets the St. Lawrence River, the city provides deep, unobstructed waterways and expansive racecourses ideal for championship-level competition. Historically, August offers steady west to southwest winds creating consistent conditions for fair racing. Combined with Kingston's afternoon thermal breezes and minimal tidal influence, these conditions make it a premier venue for world-class regattas.

AUGUST 2025

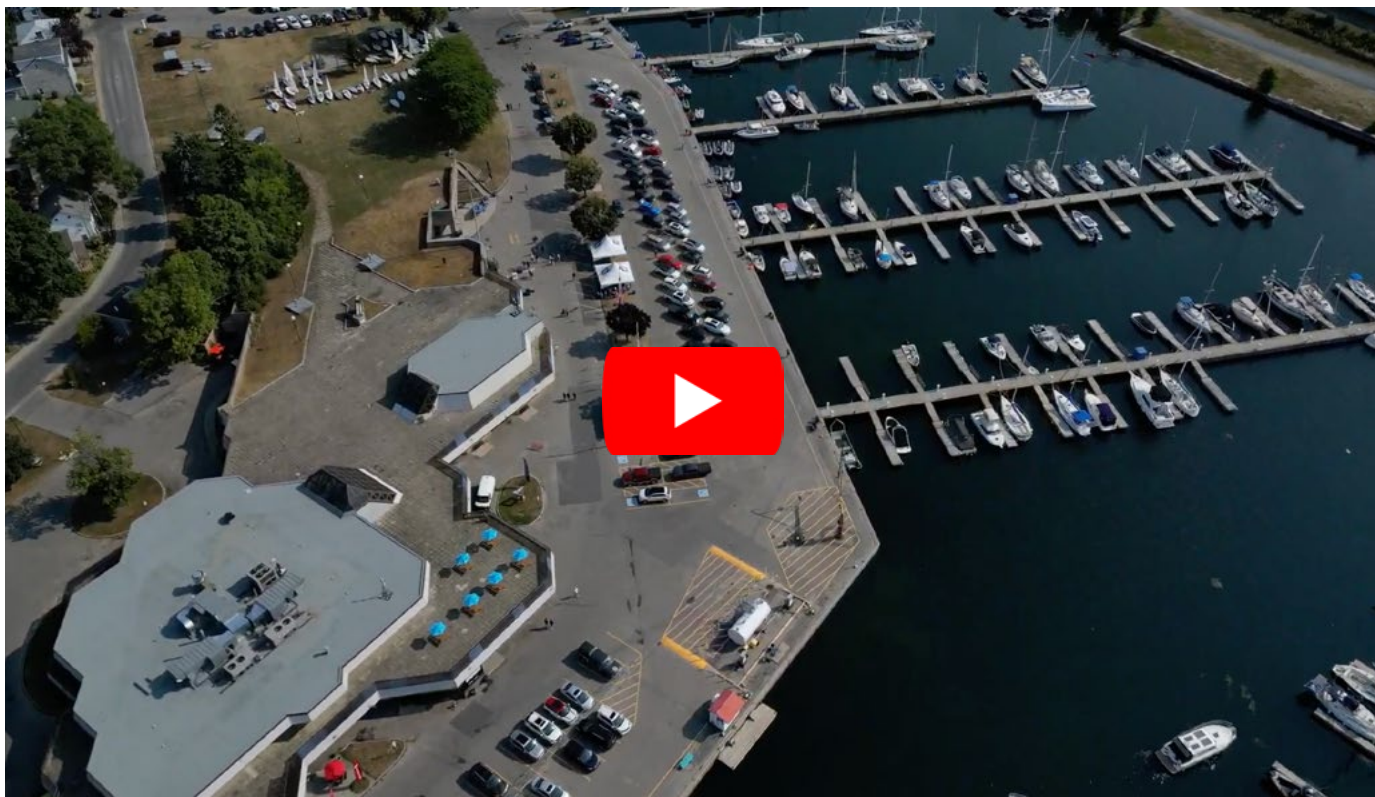


With the racing area close to CORK and Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, athletes will be set right into the action without long tows and waiting. The racing area lies just 0.5 nautical miles from Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, a 10 minute sail from the launching ramps ensuring quick access for competitors and support boats. There is no commercial traffic other than a tour boat that avoids the race areas.

Its open water and low-lying shoreline provide steady wind conditions, ideal for fair racing. Lake Ontario's eastern basin is non-tidal, and currents are typically less than 1 knot, which simplifies course management.

enduring

SHORE BASED DETAILS



- // Launching / landing sites
- // Onsite boat storage
- // Onsite spares shop; [Marine Outfitters](#) or [Fogh Marine](#)
- // Charter boat space and helpers to unload and offload
- // Onsite food truck

CAR PARK

Competitors can park at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour during regattas for no charge. Outside of regattas, overnight parking on marina property is charged by the City.

Overflow parking can be found a 2 min walk away at the Kingston Penitentiary (a former maximum security prison, now a popular tourist attraction).

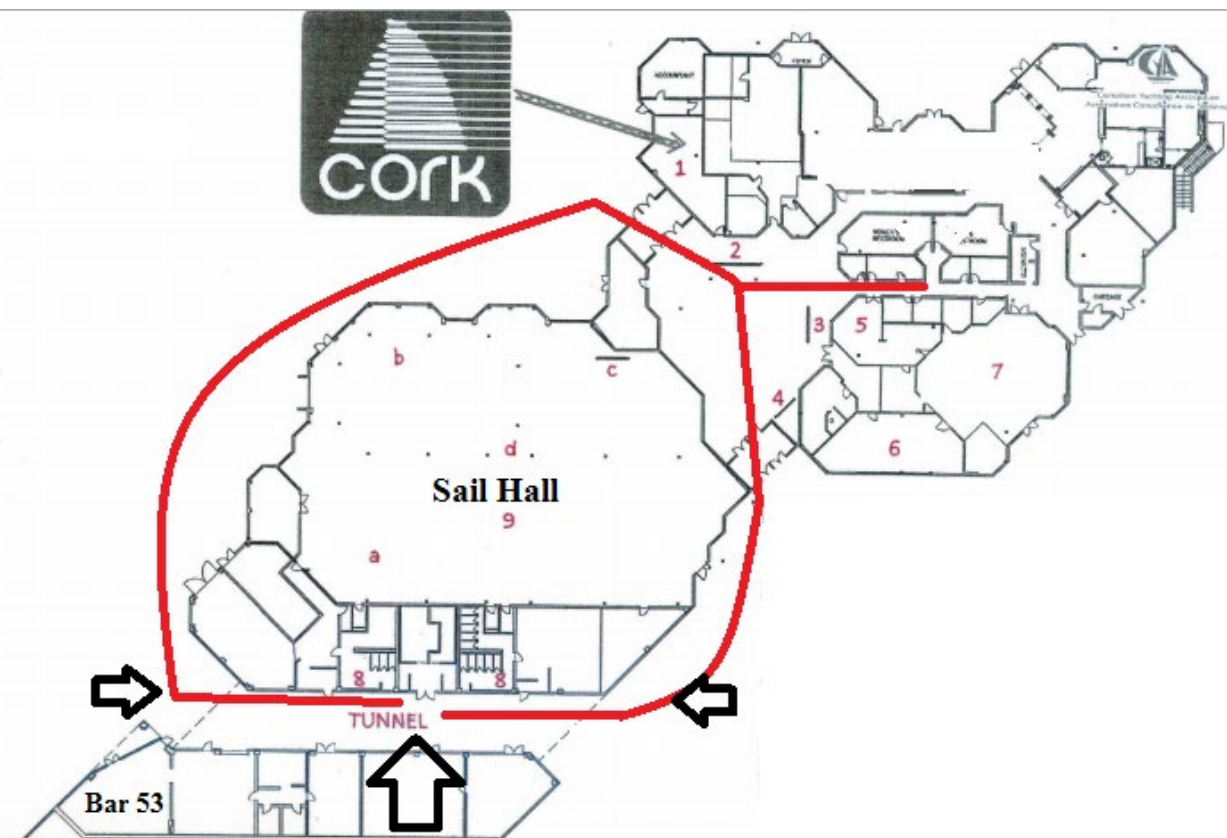
Two camp grounds are approximately a 20-23 min drive from Portsmouth Olympic Harbour:

[Rideau Acres Campground](#)

[1000 Islands/Kingston KOA Holiday](#)



SITE PLAN



Changing Rooms and Showers,
Located in Tunnel

LAUNCHING / LANDING SITES



Top left: North ramp. Top right and bottom: South ramp

GETTING TO KINGSTON

BY AIR: Through an Air Canada/Landline partnership, Kingston is seamlessly connected to all of Air Canada's destinations. Book one ticket with Air Canada from your origin city and transfer onto Landline Canada's luxury ground transportation to take you between Toronto's Pearson International Airport and Kingston Airport. Landline coaches are also available for \$49 CAD for travellers using other airlines.

BY CAR: Kingston is only a two-hour drive from Ottawa, a two-and-a-half-hour drive from Toronto, and a three-hour drive from Montreal.

BY RAIL: VIA Rail offers multiple daily departures and arrivals connecting Kingston to Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal. The station is only 15 minutes away from downtown by taxi or Uber. The Kingston Transit Route 2 (Division St.) will deliver travellers directly to the doorstep of Portsmouth Olympic Harbour for \$3.50 CAD per far. Visit viarail.ca for schedules.

BY BUS: Megabus and Flixbus both offer service to Kingston from multiple locations. Visit ca.megabus.com or flixbus.com.

VENUE LOCATION	ACCOMMODATIONS	PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
Portsmouth Olympic Harbour	1 Delta Hotels by Kingston 2 St. Lawrence College Residences 3 Quality Inn & Conference Centre 4 Comfort Inn & Suites 5 Residence Inn by Marriott Kingston Water's Edge	5 VIA Rail Train Station 6 Kingston Bus Terminal - Megabus Pick Up / Drop Off 7 Flixbus & Megabus Pick Up / Drop Off Queen's University 8 Flixbus Pick Up / Drop Off Downtown - Kingston Transit Route 2 Division St. – Train Station

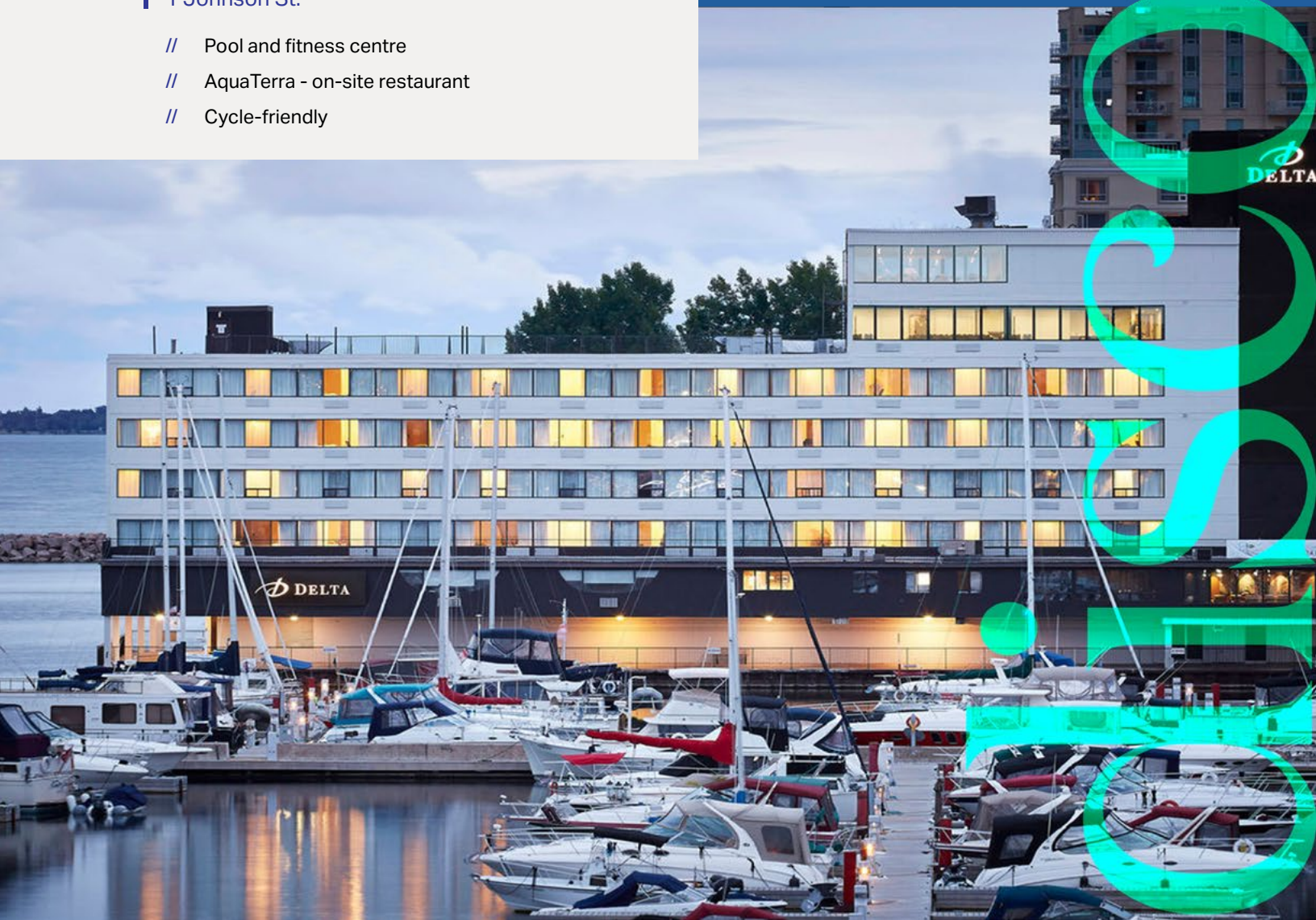
STAY IN KINGSTON

CORK works with local accommodation partners to provide discounted rates for participants enjoying short or longer term stays.

Delta Hotels by Marriott Kingston Waterfront

1 Johnson St.

- // Pool and fitness centre
- // AquaTerra - on-site restaurant
- // Cycle-friendly



ACCOMMODATIONS

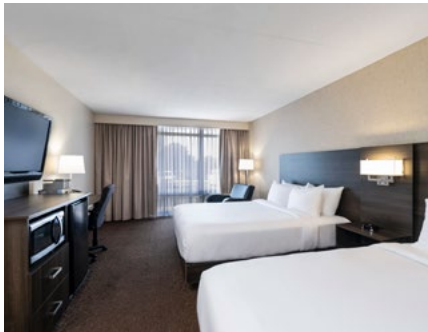
A sample of accommodations within a five-minute drive



St. Lawrence College Residences

23 Country Club Dr.

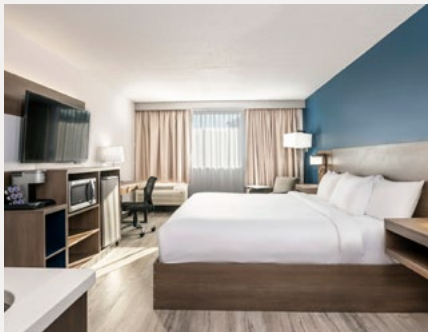
- // Affordable and convenient
- // Wifi
- // Private bathrooms



Quality Inn & Conference Centre

33 Benson St Bldg 2

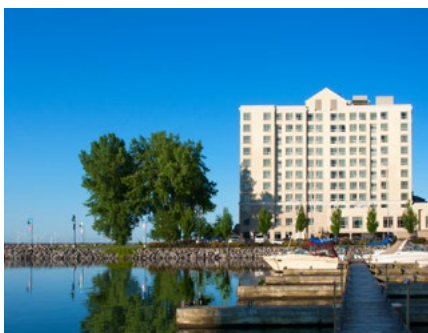
- // Indoor pool and fitness centre
- // Outdoor patio
- // On-site parking



Comfort Inn & Suites

2467 Princess St

- // Fitness centre
- // Kitchen / kitchenette
- // Pet-friendly



Residence Inn by Water's Edge

7 Earl St.

- // Pool and fitness centre
- // Whirlpool
- // In-room kitchens
- // On-site parking



ATTRACTIONS

Take a Thousand Islands boat cruise or join a guided tour of Kingston's most iconic historic sites. Step inside the imposing limestone walls of Kingston Penitentiary for a fascinating look at Canada's oldest maximum-security prison, and explore Fort Henry National Historic Site, where costumed interpreters bring 19th-century military life to life with drills and demonstrations. Stroll along the waterfront and discover unique institutions like the Great Lakes Museum, browse local galleries and boutiques, and experience Kingston's vibrant maker spaces and live music venues. With patios bustling and cultural attractions in full swing, August is the perfect time to enjoy Kingston's rich heritage and scenic beauty.

Experience them all with a K-Pass. Visit kpass.ca



DISCOVER KINGSTON

1/

Kingston Pen Tours

Go behind the walls of Canada's oldest prison, now decommissioned. This National Historic Site offers daily guided tours from May through October, ideal for groups interested in Canadian history and architecture.

2/

The Haunted Walk

Join a storyteller for a guided evening tour exploring Kingston's haunted streets, historic sites, and thrilling tales by lanternlight. Perfect for groups seeking a memorable, immersive experience.

3/

Fort Henry

Step back in time at this UNESCO World Heritage Site and experience 19th-century military life. Guided tours, rifle demonstrations, Victorian schoolrooms, and sunset military ceremonies are available for groups of any size.

4/

S.S. Keewatin

Step aboard the fully restored Titanic era 1907 Great Lakes steamship. Explore its original fixtures, artifacts, and working technology on daily guided tours from May through November. The Great Lakes Museum, home of the S.S. Keewatin, is open year-round.

5/

Kingston 1000 Islands Cruises

Explore Kingston's waterfront and the stunning Thousand Islands with daily sightseeing, dining, and private charter cruises, perfect for groups and customizable itineraries.

6/

Kingston Trolley Tours

Enjoy live-guided hop-on, hop-off tours of historic Kingston on a 75-minute loop, or take a full city tour — flexible and fun for groups of all sizes.



DINE IN KINGSTON

A world of dining options

Whatever you're craving, from bāo to roti, casual to haute cuisine, Kingston has it all. Kingston's restaurants showcase local and regional food and beverage products.

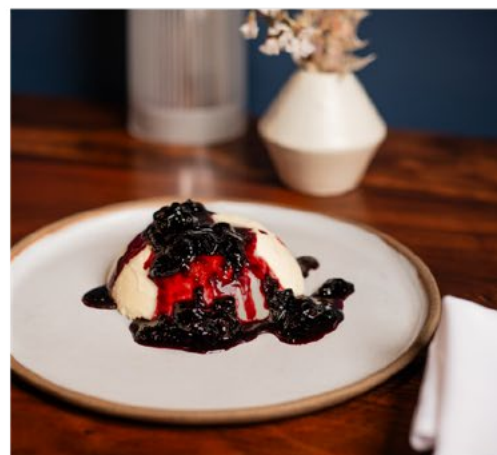
Several Kingston restaurants welcome large groups who want to dine together.

Explore Kingston's walkable downtown, which boasts many of the city's finest restaurants. Several Kingston restaurants welcome larger groups.

Explore our downtown and west end group dining guides online.



*Find your perfect meal in
Kingston: [visitkingston.ca/
things-to-do](https://www.visitkingston.ca/things-to-do)*



SOCIAL EVENTS

A SUMMERTIME SCENE

CORK delivers a focused social program that complements racing with well-chosen events highlighting Kingston's waterfront, cultural attractions, and welcoming community atmosphere. Opening ceremonies naturally align with landmark locations such as the Great Lakes Museum or Confederation Park, each offering an engaging setting for sailors, families, and coaches. During regatta week, social activities can include a mid-week waterfront celebration at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour featuring buffet dining, entertainment, lawn games, and family-friendly activities supported by coordinated transportation and a relaxed festival atmosphere.

Kingston's walkable waterfront, downtown attractions, ice cream shops, parks, beaches, and museums provide additional opportunities for visiting athletes and families to connect and explore between races.

This summer, CORK offered a number of activities during Sail Canada Youthfest including an opening ceremony at Confederation Park, outdoor movie nights, barbecue social and a discounted admission for an historic tour of the neighbouring Kingston Penitentiary.

The social events schedule includes:

- // Opening welcome with the Mayor of Kingston and the Town Crier.
- // Mid week dinner/social event at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour with buffet and entertainment
- // Closing ceremony with prizes and awards in the Portsmouth Olympic Harbour Sailroom.
- // Daily after racing snack for all registered sailors.



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

For most international events, CORK uses one race course. Provincial and National events often have several classes and we will have up to 3 race courses. In addition to many North American and Canadian Championships, annual events such as Opti International/Team Racing , Sail Canada Youth Fest, Great Lakes Championships, Ontario Sailing Provincials and Grand Prix Finals, and Olympic Classes Regattas, CORK hosts:

2026	J80 North Americans + World Championships	140 participants
2026	114 World Championships	80 participants
2026	ILCA Canadian Championships	100 participants
2025 & 2026	CORK OCR/ Sail Canada Sr Championships ILCA 6/7	40–60 participants
2025 & 2026	Sail Canada Youthfest	300+ participants
2019	ILCA Laser Radial Youth World Championships	208 participants, 32 countries
2019	ILCA Laser 4.7 Youth World Championships	180 participants, 35 countries



LETTERS OF SUPPORT

— Tourism —
KINGSTON

177 Wellington Street, Suite 200
Kingston, ON K7L 3E3

visitkingston.ca

August 24, 2026

Dear Members of the Bid Committee,

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Support for CORK Sail Kingston's Bid to Host the 2027 Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships

On behalf of Tourism Kingston, I am pleased to offer our strong support for CORK Sail Kingston's bid to host the 2027 Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships in Kingston, Ontario.

Kingston is widely recognized as one of North America's premier freshwater sailing destinations, offering exceptional racing conditions, experienced event organizers, and a rich sailing tradition. Our community is also proud to support the next generation of sailing talent. Local sailor Will Keilty's emergence as a promising young competitor reflects the strength of Kingston's sailing community and the importance of events that inspire and develop young athletes.

The Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships would bring sailors and families from across Canada to experience Kingston's waterfront, attractions, and hospitality while generating important economic benefits for local businesses through accommodations, dining, and visitor spending.

CORK Sail Kingston has a proven track record of successfully hosting national and international sailing events. Their experienced team and dedicated volunteers are well positioned to deliver an outstanding championship experience for competitors, coaches, officials, and families.

Tourism Kingston looks forward to supporting CORK and our community partners in welcoming participants to Kingston. We strongly encourage the selection committee to give favourable consideration to Kingston's bid to host the 2027 Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships.

Sincerely,



Megan Knott
CEO
Tourism Kingston

THANK YOU

On behalf of CORK / Sail Kingston and Tourism Kingston, we are proud to present Kingston as the host city for the the 2027 Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships. With Portsmouth Olympic Harbour's Olympic legacy, world-class sailing conditions, and CORK's proven capacity to deliver major regattas, our community offers unmatched expertise and hospitality. Together, CORK's decades of race management excellence and Tourism Kingston's commitment to creating memorable visitor experiences ensure a seamless, high-calibre event that celebrates the spirit of sailing and showcases Kingston as Canada's premier freshwater sailing destination. We look forward to welcoming the world to Kingston.

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