

## Thank you to all who helped make the 2023 Okanagan Charity Regatta a Success:

Thank you to all the racers and friends for coming out to our regatta! It feels like walking into my family when I see all of you gathered here at our yacht club. Yes we take time to learn the rules and get the details right but, I think what makes these events special for many of us is showing up for each other, getting out on the water to play and celebrating together. I see this time and time again in the sailing community and I'm honoured to be part of it.

The Okanagan Charity Regatta was started by Dave Ellis whose efforts resulted in the regatta being the largest annual fundraiser for United Way in our community for 10 years. I put my hand up to do this regatta if we brought it back as a charity regatta and have had great support from Dave with notes from past regattas and in his donation towards his own boat "Butler".

THANK YOU to our sponsors and donors to our regatta: **Gold Sponsor - North Sails** and all of the sailors who donated to attend the live "Sail Trim" webinar and who donated at the regatta! **Bronze Sponsors - Hagemann Jewellers, Burton Marine, Fresh Attitude! Boat Sponsors - Evolution Sails, Dave Ellis and Andrew Mather!** Darren Vipond and the **Penticton Yacht Club!**

This year all funds raised go towards Community Foundation North Okanagan and United Way BC for the many organizations that support food security in our valley.

The organizers of this regatta are a dedicated team of committee members. I am very grateful for this team and I'd like to thank:

Robert M our regatta committee secretary who took up so much of the slack on the home front and left jam sessions early to make it to the meetings.

Mike N our Treasurer for keeping us on track and sharing loads of wisdom

Kate S our registration chair who took on many hats along the way and I'm sure was up late the last weeks

Liam for doing dock operations and everything tech

John H of the North Okanagan Sailing Association, for taking on the challenging role of Race Committee Chair and for doing a great job.

Bob A who began as a past regatta chair and ended up being a vital part of operations and our MC

Sarah K for approaching sponsors like she'd done it for decades

Del W for organizing the decorations and awards

Peter W for offering up his pristine pontoon boat in the middle of a race course of wild sailors

Lyle E for making our beautiful awards in line with the food security theme

Thank you also to Bill T of KYC for being our protest chair!

Thank you Anny G for sewing beautiful pennants for decorations!

Thank you Terry R for sorting out our keycards!

Others who made this regatta happen are people like Pam St P who not only stepped up at the beginning of the regatta to donate 1000 dollars from Hagemann Jewellers but who also put together a team of volunteers and coordinate with the kitchen to organize both breakfasts and the lunch station. In addition to this she found a boat sponsor Andrew Mather and has been huge support to me along the way, Thank you so much Pam and thank you to Hagemann Jewellers!

Our favourite power boater, Darren Vipond of the Penticton Yacht Club not only called me up to tell me PYC was going to pay 100 dollars for each Penticton boat that comes to our regatta, he came up yesterday to cheer on our regatta! Thank you, we love you Darren!

Last and most importantly, thank you to our wonderful staff, board members, Commodore Fred H. and volunteer members at the Vernon Yacht Club who we rely on heavily to make this and other events happen. We couldn't do it without you!!

~ Pamela M