



Securing the
Future of Sailing in
Western
New York





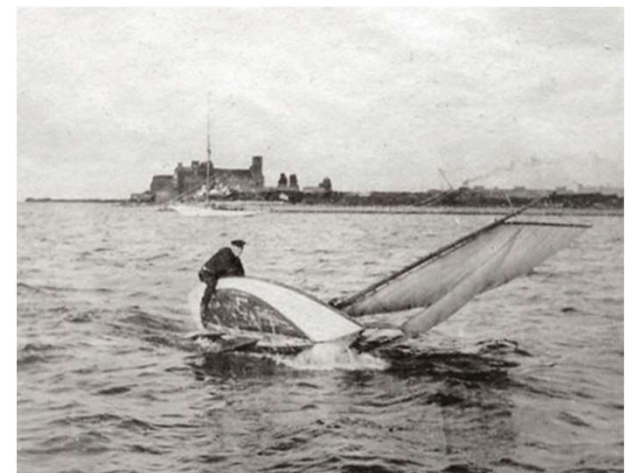


The Buffalo Yacht Club (BYC) established in 1860 following the growth Buffalo had spurred by the opening of the Erie Canal, has always held a strong passion for promoting community sailing and boating. After hosting its first regatta in August of our first year, the club quickly became the hub for recreational sailing in Western New York.

In 1956, the BYC held its first year of Junior Sailing with 12 kids. The first youth participants had to build their sailboats for the program in the attic of the building located at the foot of Porter Avenue, during the winter before setting sail in the summer. Throughout the years Junior Sailing evolved into Boating Education expanding its programs from just youths to individuals of all ages.

In the late 1990s, a group of passionate sailors and BYC members were looking for a way to have sailing and boating education become more involved in community activities. November 2001, the BYC Foundation became a reality.

As originally conceived, the BYC Foundation allowed individuals to donate tax-free dollars to either an endowment plan or to a specific project designated by the Foundation trustees. Both funds were to be administered by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo (CFGB) who assured that monies collected would only be directed to entities entitled by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service to receive tax-deductible donations.





In 2009 the trustees of the BYC Foundation started serious investigation into creating their own Not-For-Profit Corporation in conjunction with working through CFGB.

The result was the not-for-profit corporation, Buffalo Yacht Club Foundation, Inc (BYCF) which received its 501 (c) 3 status on July 27, 2010.

The BYC Foundation included both the traditional Junior Sailing program and the new Buffalo-based high school, collegiate, women, and adult sailing programs and made these programs open and available for all community members in Western New York.



The 40 sailboats/8 safety boats owned by the BYC Foundation are housed at the BYC located at One Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY, 14201, where they are maintained by the BYCF. In 2010, the Boating Education programs functioned out of the BYC parking lot at the foot of Porter Avenue. Although happy to have a home, the young sailors were required to launch and retrieve boats after each sail by means of a 25' hoist.

In 2011, BYCF, through a fundraising campaign, acquired \$25,000, enough donations to buy supplies to build docks for the program. This enabled youth to store boats in the water thus eliminating the need for manual launch and retrieval, thus increasing valuable time on the water for teaching, education and fun.







Over the past 20 years the BYCF's Boating Education programs have continued to expand and grow. The BYCF strongly believes cost should not be a barrier to having the opportunity to be educated about water safety, safe boating and sailing, so the BYCF established a scholarship program. This scholarship program earmarks donations to maintain an abundant scholarship fund to ensure program costs will never hinder student participation.

This year, the Junior Sailing Program ran for eight weeks in July and August and had 198 young sailors (6 to 18 year olds) fill 357 spots in the program. And throughout the summer, 10 participants set sail each Saturday for our Adult Sailing Lessons. The High School Sailing Program had 60 sailors participate in the spring and fall seasons. The sailors represented 14 Western New York schools including Buffalo Seminary, Canisius HS, City Honors HS, Hamburg HS, Kenmore West HS, Nardin Academy, Orchard Park HS, Nichols School, Amherst HS, Clarence HS, Home School, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, Starpoint HS, Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, Williamsville North HS, and Williamsville East HS.

In fall of 2023, the BYCF hosted the Mid-Atlantic Scholastic Sailing Association (MASSA) Silver Fleet Championship in which teams from Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia came to compete in Buffalo. We look forward to hosting the MASSA All-Girls Championship in May 2024.

In addition, the BYCF continues to support the WNY Maritime Charter School's objectives by providing an on-water experience for their students. Fourteen Maritime students spend their afternoons in the fall and spring learning how to sail.



The boating education program is dedicated to introducing youth and adults to Buffalo's waterfront through safe boating, weather, and sailing education. Throughout these programs participants will develop confidence, independence, a lifelong passion for the water, and friendships throughout the WNY community. Current Programs:

1. Youth Boys and Girls (6 - 8 year olds) Never Evers
2. Youth Boys and Girls (9 - 14 year olds) Beginner Non-Competitive
3. Youth Boys and Girls (9 – 14 years old) Intermediate Competitive
4. Youth Boys and Girls (11 – 14 years old) Beginner/Intermediate Competitive
5. Youth Boys and Girls (13 – 17 years old) Advanced Competitive

Our vision is to expand the sport of sailing to WNY and increase the sport's accessibility to the public, promoting self expression through the sport, taking pride in leadership and team building, all in a diverse and inclusive environment. We engage the use of social media for marketing, have an ever-changing website, and transmit a monthly newsletter. Our logo and website favor sailing and are distinctive to Buffalo and its sailing heritage.

Our special events include hosting the New York Interscholastic Sailing Association – Northwest (NYISANW) Fleet Racing Qualifier (April & October), NYISA-NW All-Girls Qualifier (April), Spring High School Sailing Banquet (June), BYCF FJ Interclub (August), Summer Junior Sailing Banquet (August), NYISA-NW Keelboat Qualifier (September), The Great Pumpkin Regatta (October), Fall High School Sailing Banquet (November). These events bring teams from New York State and across the country to the Buffalo waterfront.

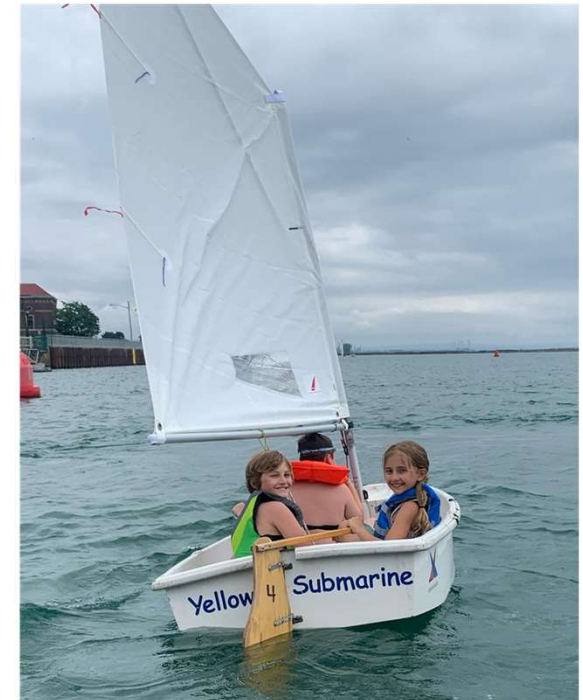




Innovative Scholarship Initiative

The primary barrier to most sailing programs is cost and program infrastructure sufficient to support the complexity and expenses related to sailing. The BYCF firmly believes cost should not be a barrier to having the opportunity to be educated about safe boating and sailing. The BYCF is dedicated to maintaining an abundant scholarship fund to ensure program costs will never hinder student participation for years to come.

This year, BYCF has received \$140,000 of donations earmarked for scholarships, kept in a restricted fund to use purely for program participant financial assistance. The BYCF is committed to using a minimum of between 5 to 10% of the scholarship fund each year, thus ensuring the boating education programs stay affordable for years to come.



BYCF 2024 Proposal Boating Education Youth

Our goal is to continue educating the Western New York Community about safe boating, water safety and sailing through hands-on experiences on the Buffalo waterfront. After participating, youth develop a lifelong passion for safe sailing, boating, and fun as well as competitive opportunities. Every youth exits the program with confidence, knowledge, leadership skills and peer to peer relationships.

Currently the program has 40 sailing dinghies and 8 safety boats. The longevity of the boats and sails is 5 to 8 years. Therefore, our capital goal is to update the youth sailing dinghies for the on-the-water youth education and training program.

We intend to establish a renewal cycle to replace the dinghies as they age out (which is where we currently stand), in order to keep the programs going for years to come.

Project Budget

1. Part One – Capital	\$203,580.00
2. Part Two - Program	\$36,056.98
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Budget Total	\$239,636.98



Community Support and Engagement Since 2010 the BYCF has secured over \$500,000 in private donations, in-kind donations, and grants (including West Marine Blue Future and Good Sports). The BYCF owes much of its success to the on-going efforts of its volunteers, dedicated participants, and community partners.

Continuing to educate today's youth about safe boating and sailing is essential to fostering a community that has a passion and comfortability around and on the Buffalo waterfront. Participation in sports has been shown to enhance quality of life, encourage independence, ward off depression, and increase self-esteem. Sailing is also a unique low impact and low risk of injury sport that can be done at all ages.



An Investment in Our Future

Your philanthropic investment in the Buffalo Yacht Foundation's campaign to secure our future will help ensure that future generations of sailors can experience the excitement, personal fulfillment and life lessons of our sport. We invite you to consider a special leadership commitment by becoming a member of our Admiral's Society with a gift of \$10,000 to our 2024 campaign.

Your generosity will be recognized with the unique commemorative naming opportunity to name one of our boats to honor your commitment to our efforts.

It gift also includes:

- A table of 8 at our June 1st Sailing Gala
- Recognition at the gala, on our web site and in the BYC Newsletter
- A framed burgee from the Foundation commemorating your support.

Your philanthropic commitment is fully tax deductible as allowed by law.

“Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than those you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from safe harbor. Catch the wind in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”

-Mark Twain



***THANK YOU TO ALL THAT SUPPORT
THE BUFFALO YACHT CLUB FOUNDATION!***



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