

# 2024 TORONTO BOAT SHOW EDITION



WATER SKI  
WAKEBOARD  
ONTARIO

# WAKES

WATER SKI WAKEBOARD ONTARIO NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024

Athlete: Eddie Silverberg  
Photo Credits: Rob Baxter

## Your Season Recap!







## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As the sun sets on another amazing summer on the water in Ontario, I am left extremely grateful for every sunny day and calm lake, river and waterway that all of us are able to enjoy. This summer I was much more aware of the influence that our shared joy for towed watersports has on our neighbours, those we share docks with or those we share a small conversation with as we fill up our gas cans for a weekend on the water. Every lake I pass there are more families and friends experimenting with a wakeboard, waterski or even just a piece of lumber left over from a building project to see how long someone can ride without falling. The passion and dedication of our membership here in Ontario is incredible and I couldn't be prouder of the way that our community carries themselves and encourages others to participate in our favourite lifestyle!

2023 was a year that saw a revamped initiative to begin creating a fundamental relationship with the many overnight camps around Ontario. WSWO secretary, Laz Klein worked to create a fantastic day on the water for a number of these interested camps and we are hopeful that we can begin to grow and support towed watersports for the many kids attending these camps in a much more active way moving into 2024 and beyond. Additionally, WSWO is extremely fortunate to be able to continue working with our adaptive athletes. Each year we are able to provide better clinics and coaching opportunities for these athletes through a developing network of volunteers and sites invested in meeting the needs of these skiers. These are just a couple of the different programs WSWO has been working on building since the end of the COVID-19 Pandemic but these, as well as many other initiatives would not be possible without the support of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. We are extremely grateful for their continued commitment to our organization and I personally cannot thank Wendy Durigon and Erika Langman on our Executive Board for their constant communication with the Ministry. In the years since I have become president, I have also had the pleasure of watching the WSWO executive board, along with guidance from the discipline chairs, grow WSWO into a more efficient and deliberate organization with Tom Wheeler as our Treasurer being instrumental in leading all of us at WSWO towards a more sustainable future for the organization. Lastly, I cannot forget a simple thank you to our office administrator, Jaclyn Cavin, who has been with us for many years! Without her this magazine would not be put together and she does an incredible job keeping all of us volunteering for WSWO organized and on top of our necessary objectives.

I know that the discipline chairs will have much more to say in their reports and I hope you enjoy the rest of this issue of WAKES magazine. I ask all of our WSWO members that as we move into 2024 we continue to be ambassadors for the sports we all hold close to our hearts, that we encourage people to try new things even if at first they seem scary or unsettling, and that we respect our neighbours, our surroundings and the beautiful ecosystems that we are so fortunate to continue to enjoy. That's all from me, enjoy these winter months and think warm thoughts!

Sincerely

Andrew Bergman  
Waterski Wakeboard Ontario President



## WSWO WATER SKI REPORT

WSWO's Traditional group continues to lead the country in staging high quality tournaments, generating great results and high levels of participation. 2023 saw sixteen sanctioned events spread over eight quality tournament sites. The future has never looked brighter!

With seven RC/WRL tournaments, many of our skiers were able to earn the scores necessary for participation in many international tournaments, and once again Ontario skiers did us proud on the world stage. 2023 also saw an emphasis on holding more C class tournaments, which helped in our efforts to develop more officials necessary to handle the workload which comes with holding so many events. Our thanks to all of those who stepped up, and a welcome to all those who want to join the officials list moving forward. Without your commitment we could not continue.

2023 saw continued growth of the Junior Development program, skillfully managed by Jason and Jaime McClintock. The skill development at all levels is amazing to witness and the enthusiasm shown by the young skiers is exciting and motivating. The weekly achievements of personal bests by these young athletes is very gratifying to all those who plan, organize and stage our development and tournament programs. As important to the skills development is the mental attitude and social skills these young skiers are learning. They are a true Team, with exceptional work ethic both on and off the water.







2023 saw Traditional invest in some of the latest technical support equipment available to support our tournaments. Two complete sets of IP cameras, Network Video Recorders and wireless transmitters and receivers were purchased to support our tournament sites and attending officials. Many thanks to our Traditional “A-Team” of Ted Collins, Jeff McClintock and Terry Jones who navigated the sometimes confusing and demanding set-up of this new Tech. And a special hats-off to Marshall Mednick. Without his skills the Ontario Championships would still be waiting to start!

An expanded Traditional Committee was formed in early 2023 and participation is much appreciated. The next generation of planners and organizers is shaping up, again ensuring that a bright future is ahead for Traditional Water Skiing. The additional players will be tested severely as we move into 2024, as Ontario has been named as host of the 2024 Canadian Water Ski Championships. Planning, organizing, fund raising and managing all of the on-water and peripheral activities that go into hosting a National championship will demand the best efforts from all of these new volunteers. 2024 will be a very busy season.

As always, a special thank you to the WSWO Board of Directors who have supported Traditional unconditionally. Ours is a very focused and hard working BoD and their efforts are key to our growth and success. Behind the scenes, but never to be forgotten is the tireless support and expertise of the WSWO Office Administrator Jaclyn Cavašin. Jaclyn is quite simply the best and without her we just might be lost!

To all of the athletes, the parents, the officials and the hosts, thank you for another great year. 2024 should be another exceptional year and I look forward to working with everyone.

On behalf of the Traditional Committee,

Stephen Collins,  
WSWO Committee Chair – Water Ski



## Team Canada and Voltari Electric Set World Record

Source: BoatBlurb.com – your weekly newsletter subscription! Check them out today!

A world record between two Canadian figureheads might change the future of electric boating and watersports.

Voltari Marine Electric, the makers of the ultra sleek carbon fiber Voltari 260 Electric, partnered with the Canadian National Waterski Show Team to set a unique world record that’s unlikely to be broken any time soon.

The premium electric boat was used by the ski team to execute the world’s first waterskiing pyramid behind an electric boat. The team is based out of the well-known boating hotbed of Muskoka, Ontario and is led by SWS Muskoka.

“It’s always great to be the first at something innovative, and especially when it’s green, and Canadian,” team captain Geordie Newlands told BoatBlurb. “I was very surprised with how well it performed. It’s great to see a Canadian company being the leader in electrification of marine power.”

For Voltari, “it was a chance to showcase the power of our new 260 model, which handled the eight-skier load beautifully,” says CEO Cam Heaps in a press release. “We loved the combination of Canadian tech and Canadian athletic talent – it was an exhilarating moment.”

The boat, a boutique high-performance 26-foot hull packs an impressive 740 horsepower. The 142 kW lithium battery bank also pumps out an astounding 1000 lb-ft of torque, which puts the Voltari 260 in elite company among electric boats. For waterskiiers, it provides a unique ride thanks to the increased torque at launch, not to mention an emissions-free ride that allows riders to maneuver in near total silence rather than behind a loud gas-powered engine.



The feat also proved to be a full-circle moment for Voltari Chief Technology Officer, Bruno Tellier. The company’s breakthrough in marine EV started when Tellier bet a friend that he could engineer an electric boat with enough speed and power to waterski behind. Industry attempts at electric recreational boats had so far been underpowered and disappointing.

Voltari had to start from scratch, developing optimal hull and battery designs, new carbon fibre materials and power train systems. The result is a craft that’s designed from the hull up to be fully electric.

Voltari has also been riding major momentum in recent months. They recently set another world record for longest distance on a single charge by crossing the Gulf Stream from Key Largo to Bimini in less than 20 hours. The 91 mile journey not only set the record for the longest and first-ever overseas trip in an electric vehicle, it also cemented them as a leading contender in the emerging market.

As for waterskiers, the high performance EV boat is a game-changer.

“It’s so powerful – it pulled us all off the dock with such ease,” said Newlands. “We breathe a lot of exhaust behind the boats and there was none of that at all. And it’s so quiet – makes for easy communication between the driver, the spotter and the skiers. It was a totally different experience and we loved it.”

Both teams have plans to put Canada on the world stage in months to come; the Waterski Show Team at the upcoming world championships in Australia, and Voltari in a global marine market that’s hungry for zero-emission, low-maintenance EV watercraft.



2023 Water Ski Teams



## 2023 WSWO Water Ski Team

The year 2023 marked a significant chapter in the story of the WSWO (Water Ski Wakeboard Ontario) Water Ski Team, characterized by fresh beginnings, remarkable achievements, and a passionate commitment to the sport. With the addition of new talent and new events taken on by current team members, the team welcomed eager and aspiring water ski enthusiasts who brought new energy to training and competition. Some of these newcomers not only joined the team but also made their presence felt with outstanding performances at various tournaments, including the prestigious Canadian Nationals.

Competing at the Canadian Nationals was a milestone for many team members, especially those who were participating in events for the first time. Their tenacity and competitive spirit shone brightly on this grand stage. Throughout the season, nearly every team member achieved new personal best scores, demonstrating their dedication to improvement and their ability to reach new heights in their water skiing careers.

In addition to setting personal records, the team members embraced versatility by exploring and competing in new events. This willingness to challenge themselves showcased their passion for water skiing and their desire to expand their skill sets.

What truly defines the WSWO Water Ski Team, however, is the strong sense of community and support that binds them together. Their collective love for the sport fosters an environment that prioritizes growth and camaraderie, making every training session and competition a memorable and enjoyable experience. As the 2023 season concludes, the WSWO Water Ski Team leaves a lasting mark, driven by their determination, unity, and unwavering love for the sport. With a bright future ahead, this team is poised to achieve even greater heights, both on and off of the water.

**Jason McClintock**  
**WSWO Water Ski Coach**  
**WSWO Committee Chair - Coaching**





# DARE TO GET BARE

## 2023 ONTARIO BAREFOOT SEASON



By Mike Spence (WSWO Committee Chair – Barefoot) & Terry Jones

The 2023 season started off with the Junior & Senior Barefoot World Championships in Mulwala, Australia, February 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. The Canadian team consisted of Gordie Croteau skiing in the Elite Men's division & Simon Sickinger, Alex Sickinger and Alexander Medina in the Boys division. Also notable was one of the event drivers, Richard Gray, long time Canadian team coach and official. This was the first world championships for Simon, Alex and Alex. Watch for them as up and comers on the world stage.

Locally, the Ontario Barefoot Council (OBC) organized a series of fun, sanctioned events for the 2023 season.

### ICEBREAKER

The season kicked off on June 24<sup>th</sup> with a fun slalom, boom trick, trick and jump tournament at Pine Lake in Gravenhurst. Special thanks to the Spence, Henry, and Goddard families for the use of their boats and facilities.

### WEEK LONG DREAM LAKE CLINIC & PINE LAKE JUMP CLINICS

Paul Macdonald came out of retirement and coached a 5-day clinic leading up to the Dream Lake Barefoot Reunion tournament on July 29<sup>th</sup>. This clinic filled up quickly as Paul is one of the most experienced and respected coaches Canada has to offer and Dream Lake, site of the 2018 World Barefoot Championships, delivered great conditions for the clinic and the tournament. The entire barefoot community was glad to have Paul back on the scene. He elevated the performances of everyone who attended the clinic and showed he still has the skills when he competed on Saturday!

Two barefoot jump clinics were held at Pine Lake this summer to continue to develop new jumpers and improve our existing jumpers. The opportunity to barefoot jump is limited due to site & driver availability. These clinics paid big dividends at Nationals with several of the footers posting jump scores for the first time in their career or increasing their existing scores.



### CANADIAN NATIONAL BAREFOOT CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

The 2023 Canadian Barefoot Championships were held on August 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Canal Soulanges in Les Cedres, Quebec. This site has hosted numerous events over the years. The organizing team led by Daniel Lariviere with the help of the Ontario organizers, once again delivered a world class event. Daniel (with help and support from his wife Chantel, family and parents) worked diligently with the municipality of Les Cedres and local sponsors to gain access to the site and pull together a successful event. Special thanks to the Lariviere and Brunet families for providing their personal Sanger towboats. The format was adjusted to include clinic time on Friday with Canadian Team members Becky Meyer, Brem Allen, Marcel Burnet, Duane Godfrey, Gordie Croteau and Richard Gray providing coaching to many of the competitors. Also included was a boom division for up-and-coming competitors, a kneeboard challenge, as well as a "Boom Freestyle Event". The Boom Freestyle event was judged by spectators that were completely unencumbered by any knowledge of barefoot rules and just looking for the wow factor. The gold medal winners were:

Division	Competitor
Boys	Tristan Lariviere
Men's 1	Nolan Goddard
Men's 2	Taylor Nullmeyer
Men's 3	Phillipe Malouin
Men's 4	Daniel Lariviere
Men's 5	Bennett Pearl
Men's 6	Mike Spence
Men's 7	Andre Berthiaume
Open Women	Becky Meyer
Open Men	Brem Allen

These events never run on their own. The strong volunteer base in the barefooting community really came through. Thanks to Richard Gray for his world class boat driving and our world class judging crew, Al Moynes, Duane Godfrey, Becky Meyer, Terry Jones, Mike Spence, Gordie Croteau and Brem Allen. This also included judging training with some of the newer skiers getting in the boat to learn from the experienced judges. This year we once again opted to make our events World Ranking List events for all the barefooters. We used the IWWF Event Management System as well as the IWWF (Lion) scoring program. Both the IWWF EMS and the scoring program worked extremely well for us after continued numerous challenges





# DARE TO GET BARE

## 2023 ONTARIO BAREFOOT SEASON



By Mike Spence (WSWO Committee Chair – Barefoot) & Terry Jones

with the barefoot element of the WSWC Event Management System. Results were immediately posted on the IWWF site and automatically integrated into the Barefoot World Ranking List which was a huge hit with the skiers seeing where they place among the best in the world!!

### 2024 SEASON PLANS

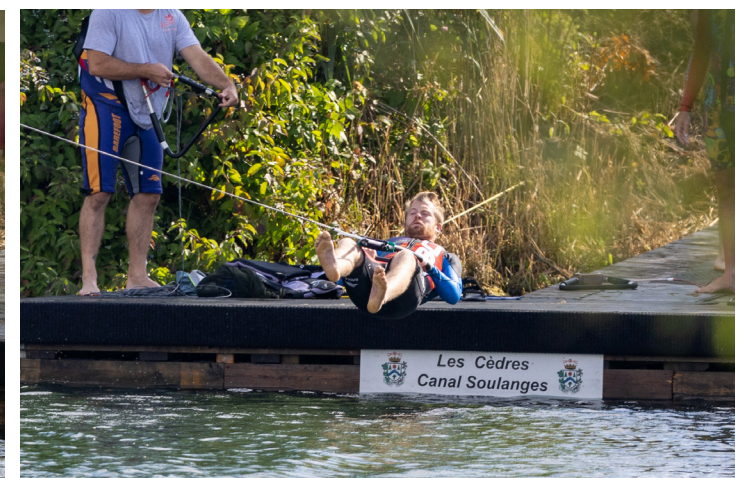
While the final dates are still to be confirmed, we are planning the following:

- A judging clinic in early 2024 to increase our pool of judges.
- The Icebreaker in late June at a potential new site north of Napanee.
- Another weeklong training clinic with Paul Macdonald in mid-July
- Two jump clinics at Pine Lake in July
- 2024 Barefoot National Championships at Dream Lake in late August

Watch WSWO.ca for final details.



Barefoot Jump Course at Pine Lake







# ADAPTIVE ARTICLE

Each season we try to get as many new disabled skiers on the water as possible. As more equipment and coaching becomes available, foundations are being laid for a sustainable adaptive water ski program here in Ontario. For the 2nd summer in a row, we hosted the Spinal Cord Injury Ontario “give it a go” day which once again was a huge success. We had perfect weather and a great crew on board with national team coaches Dave Wassill and Lisa Williams, as well as Skiability Ottawa’s Chris Holden. Also on board were volunteers Jim Gardiner and Jeff Barnes who I ran a traveling show ski and ski school with back in the day. The clinic was hosted at Paul Roberts’ Summer Ski lake which provided near perfect conditions for the camp.

We pulled 10 new skiers off the dock and had members of the national adaptive water ski team training at the site all week. It was a great opportunity for people to see the full spectrum of adaptive water skiing skills. A few of this year’s participants shared how they had never been in the water swimming for a long time or were, in some cases, reluctant even to consider trying water skiing. But those thoughts changed when the freedom to try something new allowed them to explore a unique opportunity without limitations.

This camp not only provided an amazing experience for the new skiers, it’s helped propel the national team to their silver medal podium finish at the world disabled water ski championships held in California in September. This was the highest team score Canada has ever received. If you think about it, we Canadians have a very short water ski season compared to our friends in the south. So these victories are huge accomplishments putting Canada on the world water ski stage. Saskatchewan’s Blake Lamontagne managed to hit a PB in trick which was also a world record in his division.

There were some great new additions to the team as well as advancements in our equipment set up which will hopefully keep our country on the podium for years to come. Next season we plan to expand the camp to multiple locations across Ontario so keep an eye out in the spring for adaptive water ski programs.

Jake Thomas  
WSWO Committee Chair – Adaptive







Sisterhood Sessions, Ontario’s largest women’s only wakeboard clinic took the water this year for their 16th season. With main operations run out of Railyard Wakepark in Mt Albert and a visit for a full day at Bluestone Wakepark in Clinton, the 2023 summer was packed full of progress and good times.

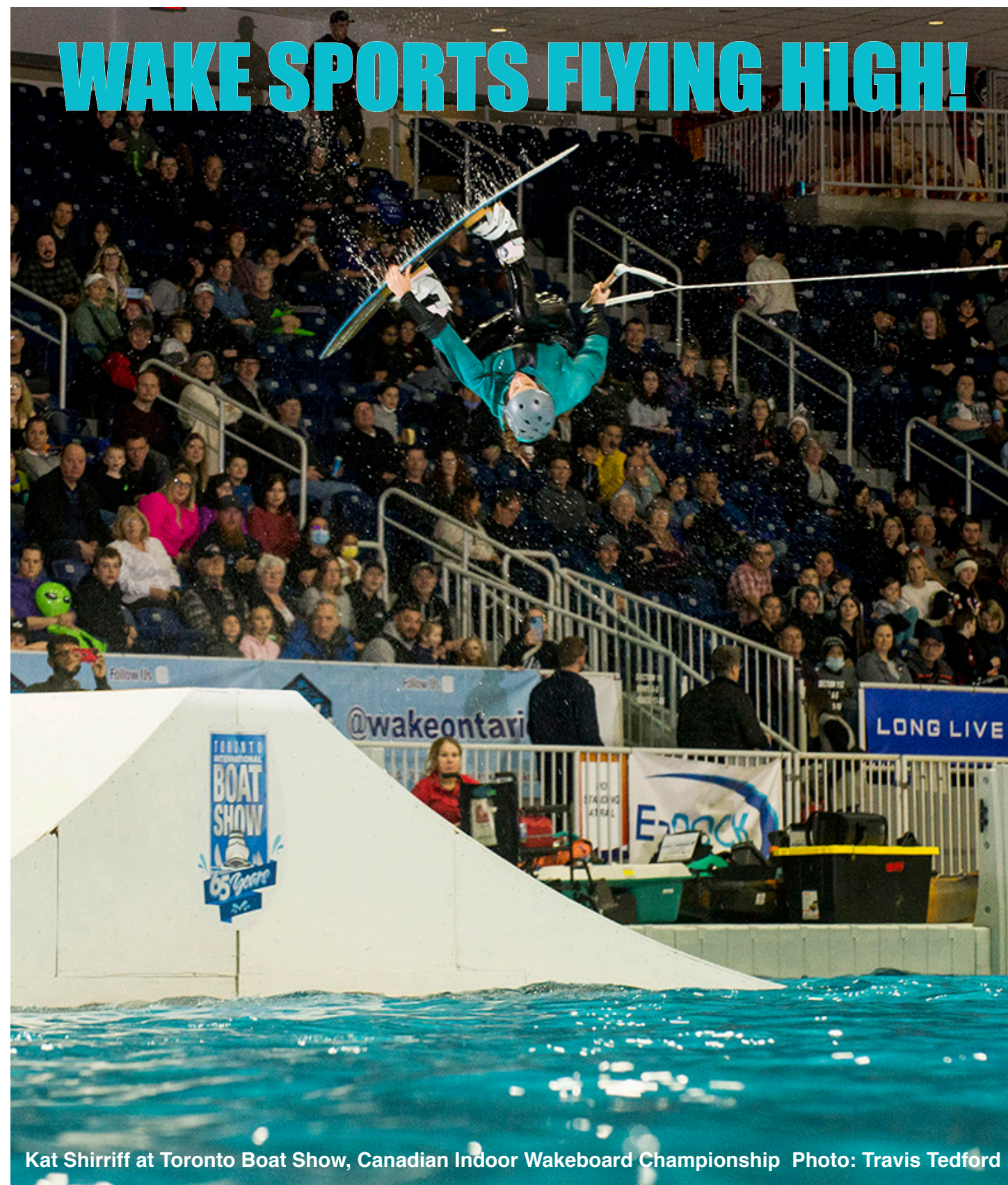
Switching to the Railyard Wakepark for the main Thursday night sessions did not disappoint! With the newly built bi-level pool setups and coaches Leslie Sparkes and Kori Gorra on deck for that extra push, the girls achieved so many great goals and progression. Prior to Provincials weekend the Sessions made it’s way out to the mystical bright blue playground at Bluestone Wakepark, with Coaches Kori Gorra and Kat Shirriff to help put together runs and nail those last tricks before the competition. To say our girls enhanced their skills this season would be an understatement, with at least one of our girls on each division podium this year including impressive First Place finishes by Olivia Watson, Ayden Swan, Amy Longhurst and Kori Gorra, Sisterhood couldn’t be prouder.

Thanks to Slingshot Wake for supporting the clinics with great gear, Andy Oke and Nick Frankruyter for hosting us at your amazing places and all the park staff, drivers, Mom’s and lady’s for making this year another great success. See you next season!

Leslie Sparkes,  
WSWO Committee Chair – Wakeboard





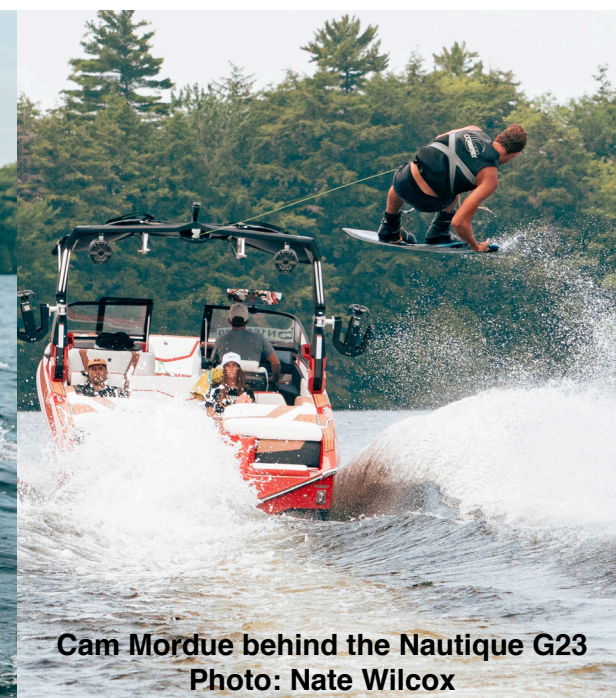


Kat Shirriff at Toronto Boat Show, Canadian Indoor Wakeboard Championship Photo: Travis Tedford

*Wake sports continues to soar with exciting levels of activity across the province! From **boat** and **cable** pulled **wakeboarding** and **wakeskating** – to **wakesurfing** and most recently a surge in **wake foiling**, the options for summer board sports fun on the water has never been greater! by Steve Jarrett*



Samantha Wilson Photo: Gerard Richardson



Cam Mordue behind the Nautique G23 Photo: Nate Wilcox

Ontario boasts the largest number of wake sports schools / wake parks in the country – over 55 at last count, offering a multitude of opportunities to get started and progress with expert guidance. Check the links @wakeontario on Instagram for a school or park near you!

## @WAKEONTARIO SERIES

Ontario has a long, proud history of producing many of the top wake sports riders in the world, from talented up-and-coming “grom” kids through to world champions. The one thing they all have in common is their participation in the Wake Ontario Event Series!

With skill categories from first timers to pros and age categories to accommodate everyone from 6 years old to 60+, the Ontario Series offers the chance for all levels to rub shoulders. If you’re looking to boost your riding to the next level, the encouragement and camaraderie of fellow riders, friends and families can’t be beat! Whether you ride or not, everyone is welcome to hang out on the beach, park, dock or boat. It’s an amazing opportunity to meet other enthusiasts in the wake sports community.

Last year the Wake Ontario Series enjoyed one of its biggest seasons to date with seven events. The Series kicked off the with the Canadian Indoor Wakeboard Championship at the Toronto International Boat Show in January, the largest indoor wake sports event of its kind in the world. Not to mention one of the coolest, featuring many of Canada’s and the world’s best! An amazing show, not to be missed! Ontario’s Kelsey Chiappa and Riley Dillon claimed the Pro Women and Men titles, respectively, in front of a crowd of thousands.



Connor Gilbert at Rail Yard Wake Park Photo: Brennan Grange



Katie Tsuyuki Photo: Gerard Richardson





Nick Frankruyter at Bluestone Wake Park Photo: Steve Jarrett



Braxton Clayton Photo: Nate Wilcox



Sierra Murray Photo: Brennan Grange

The summer portion of the Wake Ontario Series opened in July with the annual “Grasscutter Classic” at Planet Bayou Wake Park in Dufferin County featuring its legendary start pool. Standouts included Ayden Swan and Liam McLaughlin in Junior Girls and Boys respectively, Connor Gilbert in Wakeskate, Kat Shirriff in Pro Women and Liam Brearley in Pro Men.

Next up, the Series headed to Timmins Wake Park for the inaugural “So North It Hurts” hosted in conjunction with Rock On The River music festival featuring Papa Roach and Default. National Team riders Kelsey Chiappa and Liam Brearley dominated the field to take the Pro Women and Men titles, respectively. Local riders Brooke-Lynne McGuinn and Jamie Brain grabbed the Advanced Women and Men, respectively.

July wrapped up with “Muskoka Lakes Wake Championship” presented by Pride Marine and Nautique bringing the Series to Ontario’s wake sports mecca. It was the wake boat provincial championship for Wakeboarding, Wakesurfing and Wake Foiling behind the famed Nautique G23. Standouts included Samantha Wilson winning Pro Women Wakeboard, Wakesurf, Wake Foil and Overall Queen of the Wake. Cam Mordue grabbing Pro Men Wakeboard. Dan Herman taking Pro Men Wakesurf. Charlie Newlands snagging Pro Men Wake Foil. Jake Lamb scoring Overall King of the Wake. Shoutout to Muskoka Wake, Algonquin Outfitters, O’Brien, Hyperlite, Ronix and Follow for their support!

August kicked off the with Bluestone Wake Park’s “Own The Stone”, the provincial championship for Wake Park Wakeboarding and Wakeskating in Clinton. Canada’s largest wake park with three separate cable set-ups (novice, intermediate and advanced), Bluestone debuted its new multi-rail “road gap” feature on the advanced course. Standouts included Braxton Clayton in 9 & Under Boys; Bode Badger in 10-13 Super Grom Boys; Ayden Swan in Junior Girls; Kai Claussen



Coti Scaglia at Planet Bayou Wake Park Photo: Steve Jarrett

in Junior Boys, Shaine Edward in Pro Wakeskate; Kori Gorra in Pro Women; and Liam Brearley in Pro Men.

In Mount Albert, the Rail Yard Wake Park hosted the second edition of its fun-focused Extracurricular Contest featuring a pool jam on their new multi-pool set-up and a night lit freeride session. Topping the Pro Wakeboard podiums were Kori Gorra in Women, Riley Dillon in Men. Local legend Jordan Sullivan put on a masterclass in Pro Wakeskate!

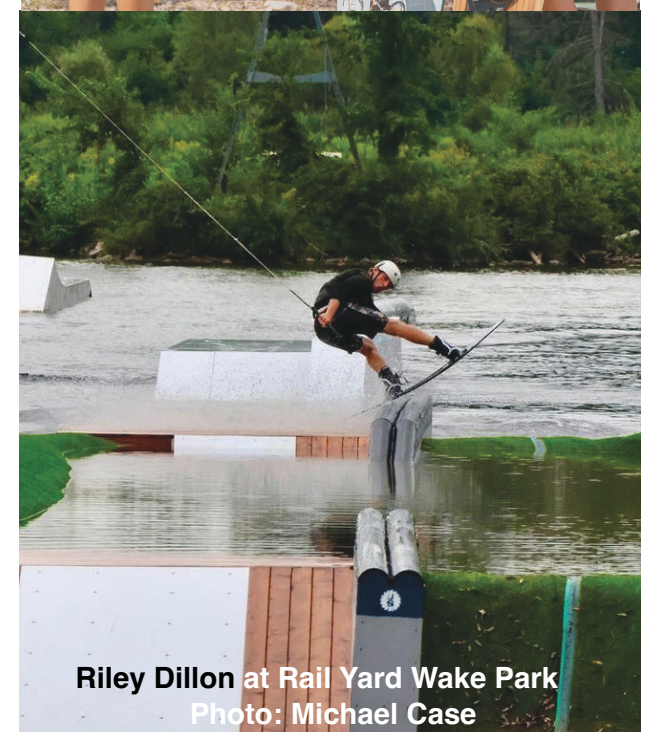
The Wake Ontario Series wrapped up with the Canadian Wake Park Championship at Planet Bayou Wake Park featuring the largest turnout on record for the Nationals. Several Ontario standouts from earlier season events capped off their season with national titles. Braxton Clayton – 9 & Under Boys. Olivia Watson – 9 & Under Girls. Bode Badger – 10-13 Super Grom Boys. Ayden Swan – 14-18 Junior Girls. Noah Waybrant – 14-18 Junior Boys. Jordan Sullivan – Pro Wakeskate. Coti Scaglia – Pro Women. Riley Dillon – Pro Men. Shoutout to Northline Sports for their support! Results and video highlights can be found at @wakeontario.

## ONTARIO ON THE WORLD STAGE

Ontario’s National Team riders, Jordan Sullivan, Dary Znebel, Riley Dillon, Coti Scaglia, Kelsey Chaippa and Shane Edward did Canada proud at the WWA Wake Park Worlds in England. Jordan scored 3rd in Pro Wakeskate. Dary and Riley tied for 5th in Pro Men. Coti and Kelsey made it through to Pro Women Quarter Finals. Shaine took 5th in Amateur Wakeskate. Ontario’s Canadian Team rider Harmony Meirik attended the WWA Wakeboard Boat Worlds in Portugal grabbing 3rd place in 14-18 Women! Harmony also took 2nd in Open Women at the Wakeboard Boat Nationals in BC. Ontario’s Billy Allen took 2nd in Open Men at the Boat Nationals!



Photo: Brennan Grange



Riley Dillon at Rail Yard Wake Park Photo: Michael Case



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