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Title of world champ comes down to one foot

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Points are awarded based on a boat's finish in each race and the Crunch ended the regatta with 57 to Rampant's 58, a razor-thin margin.

Third place overall, with 69 points, was Rocket Appliance and the team of Dave Castle, Dane Broe and Jessica Broe-Vayda from the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club.

And the Amicus, crewed by NOTL sailors Mark Schantz, Dave Schantz and Ken Greer won the regatta's 25-kilometre long-distance race and received the Bill Metzger Trophy.

The George Hinterhoeller Award, named for the man who invented the Shark in NOTL, was presented to Jinnie Gordon for her commitment to promoting women's sailing and for her dedication to the Shark class.

"The trophy has not been awarded since 2014," Wiwcharyk told The Lake Report.

Crews from the host Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club performed well all week, regatta chair Rod Gardner said.

In all, 48 crews participated in the 56th world championships, coming from Austria, Germany, the United States and Canada.

Thirteen different Sharks were raced by 43 members of the NOTL Sailing Club, Gardner said.

As well, "there were over 50 volunteers needed to run the daily program," he said.

Sharks, which were first built by George Hinterhoeller in NOTL in 1959, "remain the most prolific keel boat in Canada," Wiwcharyk said.

"The boats have proven highly durable and are highly scrutinized to ensure 'level' racing and fair competition according to World Sailing specifications," he added.

"The class continues to attract high-quality veteran and youth sailors looking for great racing and a great community," he said.



PHOTO GALLERY
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Top: Regatta chair Rod Gardner, with world champions Chris Clarke, Alex Letchford and skipper Josh Wiwcharyk. Bottom left: Jinnie Gordon, honoured for helping boost women's involvement in sailing, celebrates receiving the Hinterhoeller award. Middle: Members of NOTL's world champion team, sailors Alex Letchford, Josh Wiwcharyk and Chris Clarke, arrive back on shore Friday. Right: NOTL's Harper brothers, Levi, Jacob and Malcolm, celebrate their second-place finish in the world championships. DAVE VAN DE LAAR/JIM SCHACHT

Minimal waste for world shark sailing tournament

Julia Sacco
The Lake Report

One week, 48 boats and only two bags of garbage.

Thanks to Sailor for the Sea's Clean Regatta protocols, this year's Shark World Championship in Niagara-on-the-Lake was able to be as eco-friendly as possible.

Laurel Gordon, who

spearhead this initiative on behalf of the NOTL Sailing Club, said that she had been wanting to implement more eco-friendly behaviours when she came across Sailor for the Sea.

Gordon explained that as sailors, they don't use a lot of fuel in their boats and rely on the wind – so, why not go as green as possible?

"My goal was just to have everything reusable, recyclable or compostable. So, when Sailor for the Sea came to light, I thought, 'This is the perfect program. Let's just adopt all the measures that we possibly can,'" she said.

The most vital step was securing compostable containers for meals, she said,

which they served two of each day.

"Border City Papers in Niagara Falls carries a wonderful line of compostable dishes and cutlery, so that was a natural choice to go with them," she said.

Along with compostable dishes, cutlery and cups, the sailing club also provided filtered water with the "wa-

ter wagon," reusable drinking vessels and an increased number of compost bins in the surrounding area.

"We let all the competitors know ahead of time so that they didn't come unprepared," she said.

Gordon said that for big events, the sailing club hopes to continue to follow the protocols.



Laurel Gordon holds one of the bags of compost.



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