

April 2019

Sail Nova Scotia Statement regarding Metro Regatta

For many years Metro Regatta was a highlight of the Halifax Racing season held at a different club on a rotation basis over the Natal Day Weekend.

Approximately 10 years ago host clubs started to notice a decline in participation and lower than anticipated food and beverage sales at their club over the course of the event.

Metro Regatta then went on a hiatus in 2014 and 2015.

In 2016 Sail Nova Scotia took over the event and moved it to the Halifax Waterfront with the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic being the base for on-land activities. That year 25 boats competed. While the weather was great and the racing very well run, there were complaints about the lack of berthing space near the Museum despite Sail Nova Scotia's best efforts to work with Waterfront Development to secure enough space.

In 2017 only 15 boats participated.

In 2018 with only 4 boats registered five days before the event the decision was made to cancel the event as Sail Nova Scotia deemed the loss in revenue would be significant if Metro Regatta was held.

Since then Sail Nova Scotia has met with Rear Commodores and representatives from Metro Clubs to discuss the 2019 event.

After Board discussion, Sail Nova Scotia has decided that we are not in the business of running regattas and therefore will not be involved in 2019.

Given the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron has run the racing for Metro when Sail Nova Scotia organized it, we approached the Club about hosting in 2019.

RNSYS is very excited to be taking on a new path forward for what was traditionally Metro Regatta beginning in 2020. They will spend this year considering different race formats, getting feedback from Metro Clubs and planning to announce a refreshed version of Metro next year.

In 2019, RNSYS will be hosting a fun day of racing for the whole family on Saturday July 27, which is the day that was selected at a meeting with Metro Club reps. The Big Brothers Big Sisters Race 'Sail for Kids Sake' will take a similar format to the Sail Nova Scotia Harbour Race with participating clubs setting up a Bermuda start and then racing to the waterfront, all for a great cause. Stay tuned for the Notice of Race and more information on how your club can participate.

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Sincerely,

Jeff Nelson, President
Sail Nova Scotia

Erin Norwood, Vice Commodore, Sailing
Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron