



INTERNATIONAL SAIL TRAINING ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR!

WE DID IT!

Bytown Brigantine Inc. is honored to receive the Sail Training Organisation of the Year – Small Vessel award at the 2024 Sail Training International Conference in A Coruña, Spain! This prestigious recognition celebrates BBI's dedication to excellence in sail training. This award is a testament to the collective efforts of all those involved in our programs and the positive impact we have on young people's lives.

For over 40 years, BBI has provided adventure for youth through its diverse and innovative sailing programs, including voyages on SV Fair Jeanne, SV Black Jack, and its Montagu whalers. These programs foster leadership, confidence, and personal growth in a challenging yet supportive environment. With a strong focus on inclusivity, BBI ensures that no youth is left behind due to

Read the full article here: <https://sailtraininginternational.org/sailtraining/news/sail-training-international-conference-2024-annual-awards/>



financial constraints, enabling them to experience life-changing opportunities. The organization's impact extends far beyond our decks, with numerous alumni pursuing successful careers in the Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Coast Guard, the wider marine sector, and society generally as citizen leaders.

We are grateful to Sail Training International for this recognition, which highlights the dedication and hard work of our team, volunteers, and youth participants. Sail Training International plays a vital role in promoting the value of sail training programs worldwide, creating opportunities for organizations like ours to connect, collaborate, and innovate in the pursuit of youth development through sailing.

AWARD SIGNIFICANCE

We are grateful to STI for this recognition. The [Sail Training Organization of the Year](#) is awarded to the sail training organization that *has demonstrated excellence in 'innovation' and 'best practice' in sail training for young people.* STI, is the global voice of sail training, for almost 70 years, representing national sail training organizations from 23 nations including Canada. STI is dedicated *"to delivering truly unique opportunities for young people, worldwide, helping them grow in confidence, discover who they are, unlock hidden strengths and develop the key skills needed to succeed in their adult lives."*

BBI's achievement places it among a select group of organizations that have made enduring contributions to this mission. View past winners of STI's Sail Training Organization of the Year [here](#).

THE BACKSTORY: SIMON'S VISION

This milestone is a testament to the vision and dedication of BBI's founder, Simon Fuller.

Simon's journey began growing up sailing with his siblings aboard these brigantines under the mentorship of their father Capt. Thomas G Fuller DSC** RCNVR (Pirate of the Adriatic), designer and builder of the vessels and their mother Jeanne Fuller (Patron of BBI for 33 years, and namesake for the Fair Jeanne). It was the wonderful, unique and formative experiences gained aboard these little ships that culminated in Simon's vision to want to share such opportunities with others.

Forty years ago, as the youngest captain, he led a crew of teenagers aboard the Black Jack to the largest gathering of sail training vessel on the globe, Tall Ships Rendezvous '84, in Quebec City.

That bold voyage, and exposure to sail training programs from around the world, laid the foundation for BBI's mission: inspiring young people to achieve their potential through maritime adventures.

Bytown Brigantine's first board of directors was established by volunteer members from the Britannia Yacht Club. The charity is sponsored by the Fuller Group of Companies and is supported by grants, and donations from the community and enthusiastic individuals within our volunteer auxiliary.

"Winning this award is an honour that belongs to all of the volunteers, donors, community partners, crew, alumni and parents over the years who have contributed to this success." said Simon Fuller, chair of BBI. *"We are thrilled, this international recognition from our peers, validates the effectiveness of our programs and the positive impact that our local charity has had and is having on the lives and future of youth as citizen leaders for our community".*



ABOUT BYTOWN BRIGANTINE AND ITS PROGRAMS

Bytown Brigantine is a registered charity that operates Tall Ships Adventure voyages and camps for youth aboard the two tall ships (brigantines), *Fair Jeanne* and *Black Jack* (Ottawa's official 'Signature Vessel') along with our two Montagu whalers. For over 40 years, thousands of young trainees from all walks of life have sailed, built pride through purpose and made lasting friendships through their experiences within BBI's programs. The organization is dedicated to providing education and training in a demanding and rewarding environment fostering leadership skills, confidence, self-reliance through the medium of sailing vessels and shore-based programs. There is no prior sailing experience required for trainees and the majority of crew are under 21 years, many of whom are alumni of the program. BBI is committed to never leaving a young person ashore for want of funds. Annual fundraising activities ensure the organization meets this commitment.

BBI is also an Ontario inspected private school, offering high school credits as part of the sailing experience on the *Fair Jeanne*; a Duke of Edinburgh Award Center; and a founding member of the Tall Ships Canada Association.

Our organization's impact extends far beyond our decks with alumni "spring boarding" to sail on international voyages, pursuing successful careers in the Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Coast Guard, the wider marine sector and society generally, as citizen leaders.

For more information about Bytown Brigantine, registration, or volunteering as an adult member of our auxiliary, visit <https://www.tallshipsadventure.org>, or call 613-596-6258.

