

2022 TORONTO BOAT SHOW EDITION

# WAKES

WATER SKI WAKEBOARD ONTARIO NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022

Riders: Kat Shirriff & Kelsey Chiappa  
Photo: Bailey McLean

## WAKE SPORTS TAKE OFF!

Wakeboard-Wake Park-Wakesurf-Wakeskate

## WATER SKI SEASON HIGHLIGHTS





## INTRODUCTION FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for checking out Waterski Wakeboard Ontario's 2021 edition of Wake's Magazine! Everyone at WSWO appreciates our membership checking in on what each of the disciplines have been up too, especially in this year of reestablishing what we call a normal sporting experience!

Every year the winter season is bittersweet as lakes are frozen, cottages winterized and boats left on their trailers waiting for the spring time. But it is always encouraging to look back at the summer we have had as well as looking forward to the excitement of that first time jumping back in the water once the ice thaws! Looking back on 2021 there were so many critical decisions and actions made by the WSWO Board of directors to make sure that it was the one of the best summers on the water in recent memory. The tireless efforts of Wendy Durigon, Jaime McClintock and Laz Klein to ensure that our clubs, camps, and schools were able to operate within the guidelines and restrictions of the Ontario and Federal Government cannot be overstated. The constant progress towards making sure that WSWO is equipped to fulfill the needs of our Adaptive athletes by Jake Thomas is another contribution that must be recognized, specifically in acquiring the specialized equipment necessary for the program over the last 2 seasons.

We have seen an increase in willingness to volunteer on the board level, which for the first time since I have been involved in the sport, resulted in creating new positions to attempt to better fulfill the needs of the membership community. This has allowed for more hands on deck in revamping programs that have been reignited as well as working towards better engagement with the community. Additionally the introduction of the WS.Connect platform in conjunction with Waterski Wakeboard Canada is working to simplify the membership process while allowing for all members to easily search for events or clinics to participate in or simply to go and see a different perspective of Ontario Watersports.

As we move into 2022, WSWO is extremely excited to have the Canadian Wakeboard National Championships back on Ontario Soil, any opportunity to showcase the elite levels of Watersport in Ontario is always welcome! There is so much more to cover from the summer of 2021 and beyond but I will allow each discipline chair to fill you in on that! I would however like to mention the incredible performances of our athletes on the international stage and formally acknowledge just a few of these amazing performances. Congratulations to Jaime Bull - 2021 IWWF Open Womens Slalom World Champion; Neilly Ross - 2021 IWWF Open Womens Trick Silver medalist and IWWF under 21 Womens Trick World Champion; Jamie Calhoun - 2021 IWWF under 21 Mens Slalom Silver medalist; and Charlie Ross - IWWF Junior World Record holder with 2@10.25 metres!

I greatly appreciate every time I see a boat out on the water with a new skier or a cable park running with a group of kids all learning together for the first time. I hope the WSWO community can continue to show willingness too introduce new individuals to the sports that we love so much! I will see you all on the water in 2022.

Sincerely

Waterski Wakeboard Ontario President  
Andrew Bergman



## 2021 WSWO Traditional Report

Another year that began with great uncertainty ended as a significant success. Despite the concerns and restrictions resulting from the ongoing COVID crisis, WSWO Traditional had a remarkable season.

COVID lockdowns forced cancellation of the June tournaments – the Ibuprofen Open, the Season Opener and the McClintock Open. The government roll-back of restrictions for the end of June meant the Canada's Capital Extravaganza could go ahead, and a great three days of RC tournaments went ahead as scheduled. From then on, it was a steady schedule of well organized and well attended events.

The continuing demand for Record Capability/World Ranking List tournaments gave many of our athletes the opportunities to get scores required to be considered for the U17, U21 the Open World Championships and the PanAms, all held in the fall, as well as the CanAm challenge held in August. The number and quality of our tournaments has paid great dividends, as seen by our Ontario athletes delivering extraordinary results in all of these world class events. Thanks to the continuing efforts of the Traditional "A Team" – led by Jeff McClintock and Ted Collins, we have been able to continue delivering so many RC events to our athletes. Their continuing commitment behind the scenes and on the water is appreciated beyond words.

Putting it into perspective, WSWC lists 13 RC traditional tournaments sanctioned in Canada over the 2021 season. Ontario held 7 RC tournaments and assisted our Quebec friends with an 8th. We had to downgrade two tournaments planned as RC to Class 1 sanctions due to a lack of necessary officials. While we are well equipped to run RC events, we are lacking in RC rated officials in all capacities. The workload required to organize and stage RC tournaments is exhausting. It is time for us to reconsider the number of RC/WRL tournaments Ontario schedules, and add more open Class 1 events annually. Many skiers do not realize that C1 events count for Canadian ratings, and are the primary avenue in developing new officials and providing the experience required for level 2 rated officials to move to RC status. The importance of C1 sanctioned tournaments to our future cannot be understated.

2021 saw the introduction of the SurePath boat path monitoring system, and Ontario was quick to purchase and use this new hi-tech equipment. SurePath makes good drivers better, ensures all skiers get quality passes, and takes the guess-work out of end-course video monitoring. A significant addition to our technical support package, SurePath is leading edge technology and Ontario Traditional is proud to have it.

The athlete development program run by Jason and Jaime McClintock continues to flourish, with over 20 young athletes now engaged in the program. Ontario's juniors are producing exceptional results in all age divisions, and their enthusiasm, as seen at our tournaments, is inspiring. This program is a model for Canadian skier development and the future is very bright.

The success of WSWO Traditional would not be possible without the continued support of the WSWO Board of Directors. This BoD is an inspired and dedicated team who love our sport and do everything possible to ensure our success. To our Board – THANK YOU!!

To all of the athletes, the parents, the officials and the hosts, thank you for a great year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2022.

On behalf of the Traditional Committee,

Steph Collins,  
Chair, WSWO Traditional





By Todd Hounsone

There is one thing for certain about Show Skiing in Canada, our athletes are incredibly passionate about our sport.

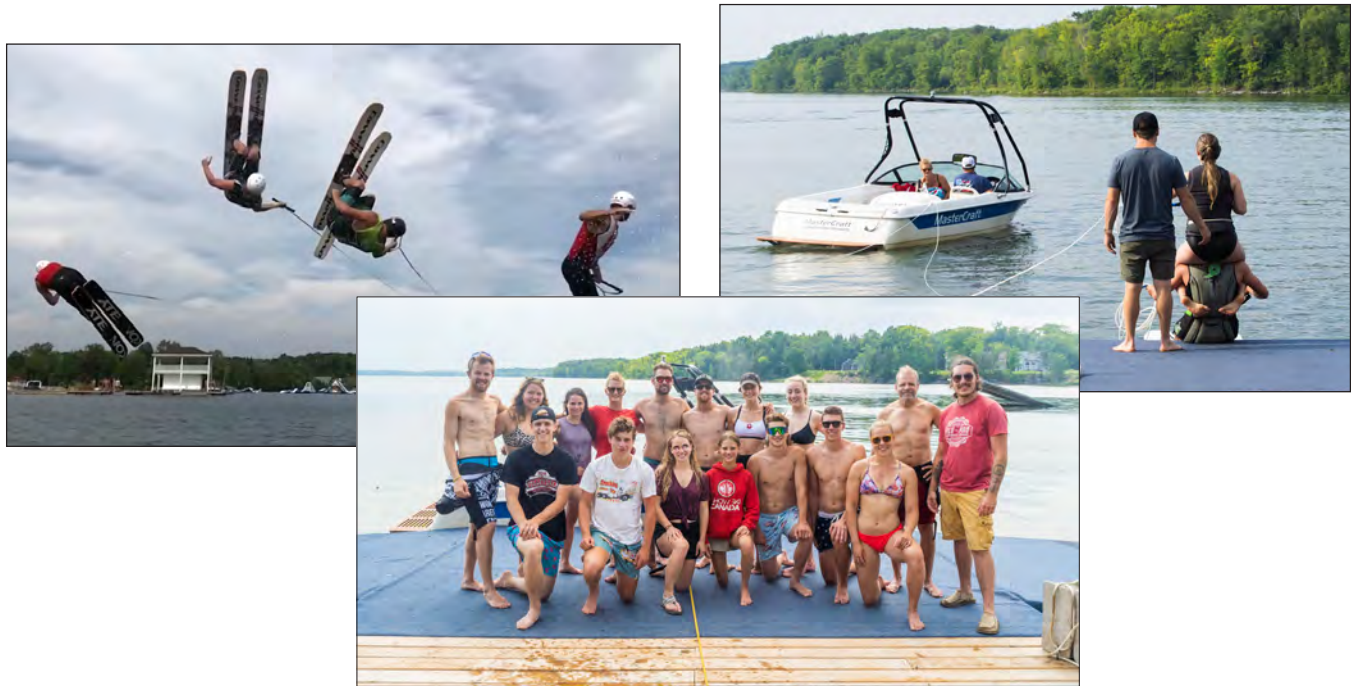
The last twenty-two months have been a roller coaster of emotion for most people and the same can be said for the Canadian Show Ski team. In March of 2020, our team was in Mulwala, New South Wales, Australia, practicing and preparing to compete at the World Show Ski Tournament. The competition was cancelled 5 days prior to the opening ceremonies and our team was forced to scramble home to a new pandemic reality of lockdowns, masks and social distancing.

The team lost the entire 2020 summer season and like the rest of the country, the organizing committee was now navigating covid protocols, pandemic waivers, screening processes and gathering limits for the 2021 season. Our time in Australia, although cut short; was an incredible experience for the tight knit group of teammates and from this experience a new idea was born.

The pandemic gave us the time necessary to plan and create the new Show Ski Development Team.

Thousands of people enjoy watching waterski shows in Ontario and throughout Canada and the team thought this would be a great way to attract new skiers to the sport of Show Skiing. In the summer of 2021, the team sent out an application by social media to allow any interested parties to apply for the Show Ski Development Team and from these applications, 35 new skiers were invited to join. Lindsay McKenzie, a show ski veteran and committee member; was given the monumental task of organizing and hosting five development sessions with new team members varying in ages from 11 to 28. Lindsay enlisted the help of some of Canada's best show skiers who volunteered their time and energy to coach at these clinics culminating in a final Development Team Ski Show.

The development team clinics were hosted at the Longford Mills Ski Club, at the home of Tim and Kirsten Artichuk on Lake St. John.



### Show Ski Award Winners

This past spring two team members were honored by being named male and female show ski athlete of the year.

Congratulations to Dez Bisschops on being named as the inaugural Female Show Ski Athlete of the Year and to Todd Hounsone on being named the Male Show Ski Athlete of the Year.

Todd Hounsone also had the honor of being named the WSWC Volunteer of the Year.



### Team Canada 2022

Team Canada had over 60 applications in 2021 and these applications resulted in 47 skiers being invited to try out for the Canadian National Show Ski Team that will be competing at the World Show Ski Tournament in Florida in October of 2022. This initial roster will be shortened to a final roster of 35 and 5 alternates made up of 29 skiers, an announcer, sound person, 3 drivers and a dedicated pick-up boat driver.

After the summer lockdown, the team was able to host its first of two successful practices since March 2020 hosted by the Downing family at Fern Resort near Orillia. A second full team practice was hosted by Summer Water Sports at Windsor Park in Bala in September.

There were some tremendous achievements made at practice including: the first 4 tier pyramid since 2018, a 17-woman ballet line with standing dock start and a triple barefoot train line (a barefooter towing a barefooter, towing a barefooter one behind the other on full length ropes). Charlie Newlands, our resident hydrofoil expert; recently participated in the Chain of Records event in Florida helping set a pending world record for the largest invert (flip) line behind one boat.

The team plans on hosting multiple practices in 2022 with a few special Team Canada Shows. Keep up with the team on social meeting as we will be making announcements on our future fundraising efforts and when to catch the team in action. The team would like to thank Tim and Kirsten Artichuk from The Longford Mills Ski Club, The Downing Family at Fern Resort and the Newlands Family of Summer water Sports for the unwavering support and generosity for Show Ski Canada.

As we move into the 2022, the team looks forward at continuing to grow the discipline of Show Ski and to building a successful team and show for the World Show Ski Championships.

Ski you later!







By Mike Spence & Terry Jones  
Photo Credits: Taylor Nullmeyer

With the 2020 paused season behind us the barefooting community was very happy to get back together on the water in 2021. Planning early in the year was contingent on the relaxation of Covid controls. We were able to hold 2 national level world ranking list events as the barefooting community pulled together to make them happen.

**Barefoot National Championships**

The 2021 Barefoot National Championships was held at Dream Lake on August 21 and 22. This is the site of the 2018 Barfoot Worlds, and it felt like coming home for many of the competitors and officials. The weather and conditions were perfect for the entire event. Special thanks to the Williams family for allowing us back to Dream Lake, the Brunet family for providing the Sanger towboat and everyone for pitching in for the Saturday night banquet. Our Dream Lake host and owner, Dwight Williams, had some medical issues two days before the event and was unable to attend. He was adamant the event carried on. It wasn't the same without Dwight's larger than life personality on site. The other sad note is that Dream Lake has been sold. In spite of our efforts to locate a barefooter or water skier that might be interested in becoming the new owner of this world class site, the new owners are not water skiers, and it is yet to be seen if the site will host any events in the future. Fingers crossed.

The actual Nationals competition resulted with the overall champions being Marcel Brunet in the Elite Men's division and Becky Meyer in the Elite Women's division Mathis Lariviere Boys, Taylor Nullmeyer, Men's 1, Christina Nadalin, Women's 1, Andrew Meyer, Men's 2. Carly Jones Women's 2, Daniel Lariviere, Men's 3, Morgan Allen, Men's 5, Mike Spence, Men's 6, Andre Berthiaume, Men's 7 and Ross Holden, Men's 9.



Taylor Nullmeyer finishing his run



Darby Paddon Flying Tower Start



Daniel Lariviere doing a backwards Flying Dock Start



Brem Allen Inverted Jumping

**Canadian Barefoot Weekend**

The 2021 Canadian Barefoot Weekend was held a few weeks after the National Barefoot Championships on September 10 to 12. The event was held on Canal Soulanges in Les Cedres, Quebec. This site had last hosted the Nationals in 2019. The organizing team led by Daniel Lariviere (with help and support from his wife Chantel, family and parents in a huge way) worked diligently with the municipality of Les Cedres and local sponsors to gain permission to use the site and pull together a successful event. Special thanks to the Lariviere and Brunet families for providing the Sanger towboats.

The format was adjusted to include clinic time on Friday with Canadian Team members Becky Meyer, Marcel Burnet and Duane Godfrey 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 was just looking for the wow factor.

These events never run on their own. The strong volunteer base in the barefooting community really came through. Thanks to Morgan Allen, Mike Spence and Marcel Brunet for their boat driving and our world class judging crew, Al Moynes, Duane Godfrey, Becky Meyer, Terry Jones. This also included judging training with some of the newer skiers getting in the boat to learn from the experienced judges. This year we opted to make our events World Ranking List events for Ontario and Quebec barefooters and as such 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 numerous challenges with the Barefoot element of the WSWC Event Management System. Results were immediately posted on the IWWF site and automatically were 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!! We are looking forward to another great season in 2022.





**Wake Sports in Ontario enjoyed strong growth prior to the pandemic, but over the past two summers it has accelerated further, thanks in part to the surge of interest in outdoor family recreation! by @ontariowake**

In sync with new growth of its sister board sports of Snowboarding, Skateboarding and Surfing, Wake Sports have been on a roll. Whether its Wakeboarding and Wakeskating behind the boat at the cottage or the cable at one of the growing number of wake parks in the province, or Wakesurfing or Wake Foiling, the expanding wake sports options and opportunities are fueling new growth.

Not surprisingly, in Ontario the number of “board shops” has enjoyed a boost, with wake sports gear experiencing sales numbers not seen in a decade! Likewise boat dealers are pressed to keep up with growing demand for “wake boats”. Wake schools and wake parks have never been busier or more plentiful. Ontario now offers over 40 dedicated wake schools and parks (check [www.wakecanada.ca](http://www.wakecanada.ca) for a full list). Taking a lesson is always the best way to get started and progress!



## ONTARIO WAKE SERIES

This past year the Ontario Wake Series coordinated five summer events culminating with the National Wake Park Championships. The Series kicked off at Planet Bayou Wake Park followed by Windmill Wake Park’s “Rule The Pool” contest, then the Rail Yard Wake Park’s “Team Challenge”, followed by the Provincial Championship at The Ranch Wake Park / Spray Lake, wrapping up at Planet Bayou for the National Championship! The Series featured categories for all ages and skill levels.

The Nationals boasted its largest participation to date and overall the Ontario Series enjoyed a 20% growth in youth numbers fueled by novice riders trying competition for their very first time! Huge thanks to all of the wake parks who hosted events and Ontario Wake, Wake Canada, Boardsports, Ronix and Follow Wake for their support of the Nationals and Provincials. You can watch video re-caps of all the events @ontariowake on Instagram!





Sisterhood Sessions Photo: Brennan Grange

### WOMEN'S WAKE GROWTH!

For the first time ever, the number of female riders edged out the males in the youth categories at the National Wake Park Championship! While women's participation growth represents an exciting trend across all board sports, the uptick in Wake has been a direct beneficiary of expanded "Women's Wake" clinics in Ontario. Pro wakeboarder Leslie Sparks' "Sisterhood Sessions" and National Team Pro wakeboarder Kelsey Chiappa's "Women's Clinics" were hosted at several wake parks including The Ranch Park, Windmill Park, Timmins Park, Planet Bayou Park and What Park this past summer!

### PRODUCING CANADA'S BEST

Building on the trail blazing success of past champions, such as former world champ Jeremy Kovak, a 2021 inductee into the international Wake Sports Hall of Fame; Sean Fleming, Dave and Tiff Tsuyuki; Sunni Anne Ball; Ryan Doyle; Leslie Sparks, Erika Langman; Robby McMillan; Mackayla Petrie, Christian Primrose and Dary Znebel, to name a few, the number of Ontario riders breaking through on the world stage and comprising the lion's share of Canada's National Team has never been greater!

Ontario's "Elite" National Team riders include Dary Znebel (going stronger than ever) in Men's Wake Park, Wakeboard Boat and wake films; Kelsey Chiappa and Dani Brown in Women's Wake Park; Liam Brearley and Riley Dillon in Men's Wake Park; Jordan Sullivan in Men's Wakeskate and Billy Allen in Men's Wakeboard Boat.

"Development" National Team riders include Jesse Jarrett in Men's Wake Park, Wakeboard Boat and wake films; Cameron Spalding in Men's Wake Park and Wakeboard Boat; Callie Zellenrath and Avery Spalding in Women's Wake Park and Wakeboard Boat; Emma Brearley in Women's Wake Park; Harmony Meirik in Women's Wakeboard Boat; Ava and Grace Baker in Women's Wakesurf; and Wake Purdy, Ryan Zeltner and Maddox Matte in Men's Wake Park. Coming up fast are a new group of exciting, young riders pushing through to the top level in their age categories, including Bode Badger, Wyatt Spalding, Conner Gilbert, Shaine Edward, Brooke-Lynne McGinn, Jordyn Schoonings, Eden Jones, Isaac Nyenhuis, Jack Grieg, Gracie Gilbert, Lexi Noakes, Nate Wilcox and Bailey Mclean. Nate and Bailey are also establishing themselves as top photographers.



Lauren Ellis Photo: Brennan Grange



Ava Baker

**WAKES /// Wake Sports Take Off!**

### WAKE FILMS HOTBED

Ontario riders have figured prominently in some of the biggest wake films of the past few years, helping to put the Ontario wake scene on the map globally as a hotbed of wakeboard progression, especially in the realm of street riding (winch-pulled wakeboarding)!

Last year's world #1 wake film, "The Coalition-The Movie-The Trilogy" featured Ontario's Dary Znebel, Jesse Jarrett and Coti Scaglia with standout parts, much of it filmed in Ontario. You can check out the mind-blowing riding online at "www.spacemob.tv".

In early 2020, the "Outhouse Films" crew released the third of their full length movie series showcasing the best in Ontario park and street riding. Directed by Derek Brown, it featured Mickey Henry, Andy Oke, Brennan Grange, Dary Znebel, Jesse Jarrett, Riley Dillon, Liam Brearley, Kelsey Chiappa, Coti Scaglia, Erika Langman, Jordan Sullivan, Austin Farr, Dylan Cook, Jon McTavish, Justin La Rue, Dani Brown, Kurtis Spencer and Nick Nags! You can check it out at "www.vimeo.com/390476679". Rumour has it that Derek Brown is working on a follow up film.

In late 2020 Ontario's young gun crew of Jesse Jarrett, Liam Brearley, Austin Farr and Riley Dillon placed 2nd among 70 other teams in the global wake film contest "Space Tapes". You can check it out by googling: "Space Tapes 2020 - Feed The Dawgs".

### 2022 WAKE SEASON

Get ready for the return of the Ontario Wake Series, bigger and better, with inclusion of the 2022 National Wake Park Championship to cap it off! Stayed tuned to @ontariowake on Instagram this spring for all of the details, plus info on upcoming Women's Clinics!



Riley Dillon Photo: Mike Case



Jesse Jarrett Photo: Brennan Grange

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**Seeing You**  
*Virtually*



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