

Canadian Open Championship
Buffalo Canoe Club – Fleet 12
Point Abino, Ontario, Canada
June 24–25, 2006

Pos	Sail#	Helm	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	19 - 15252	David Starck	6	2	3		11
2	10 - 15246	Larry MacDonald	2	9	2		13
3	12 - 15082	Jamie Allan	3	8	9		20
4	32 - 15232	Allan Terhune Jr.	1	15	4		21
5	15 - 14957	Ryan Ruhlman	5	10	6		21
6	24 - 15298	Ian Jones	13	4	8		25
7	22 - 15202	Neal Fowler	10	5	11		26
8	25 - 15125	Tom Starck	9	1	17		27
9	16 - 15164	Jed Dodge	7	3	18		28
10	09	Thomas Allen Jr.	4	19	5		29
11	06 - 14901	Ian Schillebeeckx	18	11	1		30
12	08 - 15257	Rob Ruhlman	12	7	12		31
13	11 - 15272	Mark Grinder	11	6	15		32
14	05 - 15206	Bill Faude	14	12	10		36
15	28 - 14768	Peter Hall	20	16	7		44
16	21 - 15251	Deb Probst	8	14	22		45
17	07 - 14261	Ed Roseberry Jr.	15	18	16		50
18	14 - 15064	Richard Walsh	24	17	13		54
19	26 - 15075	Macgan Ruhlman	23	20	14		57
20	13 - 14479	Kevin Robinson	26	13	23		61
21	03 - 15015	John Werley	19	13	DNF		63
22	23 - 14580	Carissa Cox	17	25	21		64
23	04 - 14811	Tom Allen	16	22	28		67
24	27 - 15125X	Bill Neal	28	23	20		71
25	02 - 14502	Tom Ward	25	29	19		73
26	20 - 14612	Ross Bailey	22	26	26		74
27	31 - 14174	David Sprague	27	24	24		75
28	17 - 14268	Warren Emblidge	30	21	27		78
29	01 - 14410	Pat Buckley	29	27	25		81
30	18 - 15284	Dick Aubrecht	OCS	28	29		89

Family Fun in Canada

When Marc talked about going to Canada for a weekend, I thought that was pretty crazy, but decided to accompany him anyway ,so he would not drive by himself, and I could watch the kids sail. We left Friday morning at 6 AM, with the boat in tow. Twelve hours later, we were at the [south] shore of Lake Erie, just on time for a nice dinner outside in the sunset. That gave us plenty of time to still get to Buffalo (New York) airport to pickup Ian and his two crews (Beth Ward and Lucas Hofmeister) who flew from Nashville, where they are in charge of the children's sailing camp during the month of June.

We then crossed the bridge over Niagara river, i.e. the border to Canada, and stayed at a local motel for the night. Saturday [very] early morning we headed to Crystal Beach, on the North side of lake Erie, to Buffalo Canoe Club, a very fancy sailing club, to participate at the Canadian open championship. The weather was quite cold, with a big fog on the entire lake and NO WIND (or very little). Traffic was intense to get all the boats in the water: 32 Lightnings (our class)+ 43 Thistles (pretty similar to our class boat in terms of size), + multiple Lasers and Optimists (smaller 1 person-boats).

The water is very shallow way into the lake, so boats were "walked" into the water and left their on anchor. With an hour delay, everybody finally got onto the water. Marc and I were on a motor boat and saw how the fog was slowly dissipating, at the same time that the wind was coming. We could really see on the water the line created by the shade of the clouds, and the same line where the wind was touching the water.

It was 2 PM by the time there was enough wind to start the first race. Ian, with a 18th and a 11th place that day ended up 15th, still very honorable, considering he was the only junior skippering, and many of the other sailors are in the top 20 in the US and are world class sailors! As one of the sailors had to go back to shore, I jumped into one of the Lightnings for the 2nd race, in which my skipper ended up 6th.

Saturday night was the usual "cook out" on the lawn in front of the club, and chat with the participants: after 10 years in the class, we are beginning to know quite a few of them. Marc and I then had a nice walk on the beach and looked at the gorgeous houses around.

Sunday morning, the wind was very good and we all headed out, wishing the kids good luck. We were thrilled to realize that Ian had had an excellent start, and was actually dominating the entire fleet! He was first at the first mark, and maintained his first place through the 4 legs, finishing in front of all the "big guys" (# 2 world champion etc...). On the following race, Ian had a good start and was again far forward in 5th position, but unfortunately the wind died completely and all boats had to be towed to shore.

Anyway, the kids got what Marc wanted them to have: a huge boast of self confidence to face the Lightning Youth World Championships in three weeks in Finland! Back on shore everyone was busy getting the boat out of the water, on their trailers, and ready to leave. After "packing" the boat, and after distribution of the trophies, as a storm was about to drench everyone, we rushed back to the bridge and the border, leaving the boat behind.

Already the traffic was heavy with the crowd heading back to Buffalo from the beach. After getting lost in Buffalo, we luckily got the kids on time at the airport for their flight back to Nashville. Later on we heard from the kids that they finally arrived at 4:30 AM the next day in Nashville .. what a delay!

Marc and I wanted to enjoy a few more hours of vacation, so we headed back again to the bridge to Canada. Surprise: the ramp to the bridge was closed because of the rain! After another detour, we finally headed back to the club to pick up the boat. By then, everyone had left, it was almost ghost town, big contrast compared to the febrile activity of earlier in the day. Marc decided to show me Niagara On the Lake, a small Victorian town on lake Ontario, on the north end of Niagara river. There was an amazing huge Victorian Hotel with the floor of the entire first floor in wood with "parquetries" designs. Still I was anxious to see the other town: where the Niagara falls are, about mid way between lake Erie and lake Ontario, so we headed back south and arrived just as it was starting to get dark. Well the falls are pretty impressive. The mist created by the falls keeps the immediate area wet all the time (including us!). At night they are illuminated (in colors!). Turning our back to the falls, the town is like another Las Vegas, with the casinos and all the lights fighting for attention. There even was some fireworks to entertain the many tourists. Back to reality, we thought it might be wise to drive a few miles that day, so we left and drove until midnight. On Monday we left early and drove about 12 hours to St Louis , parked on 2 parking spots on Lindell, and had dinner with our son Maxime, who lives there in the Moolah building while doing his summer internship. The long drive was pretty nice and peaceful; Marc and I caught up on conversation and reading, in between Marc's business phone calls as usual. Next weekend, we go to Carlyle Lake, it's "only" 1 3/4 hour from home where Ian will be doing another US Sailing Laser regatta to keep his sailing skills up! Roselyne Schillebeeckx