



Chester Race Week 2018

AUGUST 15-18, 2018

4 days, 5 courses, 15 fleets, 120 boats, 1,200 sailors

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MEDIA RELEASE

Day 1 boasts “Champagne” conditions, competitive fleets

Appearance of 25 new skippers bodes well for future

CHESTER, NOVA SCOTIA (August 15, 2018) – The fog lifted and winds picked up just in time for 121 boats to start their races and kick off Chester Race Week 2018 in excellent form. Twenty five new skippers registered this year and boats came from as far away as Germany, New England, Ontario and Quebec which is a great bellwether for the future of keel boat racing. Many of the one design fleets were larger and more competitive than ever, especially the Bluenose class.

[See Day 1 drone footage here.](#)



PHOTO: IOD *Bella*, skippered by Halifax’s Evan Petley-Jones, enjoying “Champagne” conditions on their way to first place at the end of day 1 of sailing at 2018 Helly Hansen Chester Race Week in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia. (Credit: © 2018 Tim Wilkes / www.timwilkes.com, high-res image available on request)

Helly Hansen Chester Race Week 2018 media release

August 15, 2018: day 1 results

“There’s a great energy for the first day. The fog moved offshore and wind freshened just in time for the start. Conditions were classic Chester - ideal, with sunny skies, winds of 8 to a peak of 15-knots and minimal waves. Most sailors were off the water in time to avoid a late afternoon thunderstorm,” said Pat Nelder, chair of on-water activity for Chester Race Week. “This year we’re seeing a lot of new boats joining the regatta - a sign that Chester Race Week is reaching even more people in the sailing community across the region, the country, and internationally.”

Twenty five new skippers registered for the regatta this year, adding fresh perspectives and new boats to the fleets. Halifax housing contractor Andrew Watts has participated in Chester Race Week as a crew member for several years, but this is his first year skippering his new C&C 99 *Demon’s Dance*.

“This was my first time skippering in a regatta this large so steering through that crowd was new for me. My new boat is much more technical, so we were working hard to master the technical details. There was a huge learning curve, but the best part was that we nailed all our spinnaker jibes. That made my day,” Watts said.

21 Bluenoses competed in Chester’s front harbour. The fleet has grown in recent years to become the largest, most competitive gathering of Bluenose-class keel boats in Canada - perhaps fitting as the home province of the design.

Some one-design fleets expanded this year, including International One Designs (10) and Farr 30s (7) .

“Oh man, it was Champagne sailing conditions out there today,” said a beaming Evan Petley-Jones, today’s winning helmsman aboard the International One Design *Bella*. “Great, steady wind and a really tight fleet - as good as you can get for IOD racing, and we made it in before the rains,” added the Halifax-based Petley-Jones who usually races J/24s internationally but wanted to give his IOD a go at Chester this year.

As title sponsor, foul-weather gear company Helly Hansen expanded its pop-up store offerings at the Chester Yacht Club this year, doing brisk sales and running a contest on-site for a chance to win a trip on a Volvo Ocean Race Yacht with Atlas Ocean Racing.

DAY 1 RESULTS

Place, Yacht Name, Type, Owner/Skipper, Hometown, Results, Total Points

Bluenose (One Design - 21 Boats)

1. Wahoo, Bluenose 23, Henry Demone , Chester, NS, CAN - 9 -1 -1 ; 11
2. Shaken Knot Stirred, Bluenose 22, Malcolm Fraser , Chester, NS, CAN - 4 -4 -5 ; 13
3. Long shot , Bluenose 23, Jim Beatty, Chester, NS, CAN - 2 -8 -4 ; 14

Distance 1 (PHRF_ToT - 9 Boats)

1. Deviation, J 120 40, Stu McCrea , Halifax, NS, CAN - 1 ; 1
2. Brilliance, J 120 40, Richard Calder , Dartmouth, NS, CAN - 2 ; 2
3. Climax, 1D35 35, Nathan Reece , Dartmouth, NS, CAN - 3 ; 3

Distance 2 (PHRF_ToT - 7 Boats)

1. Young Blood, J 100 32', Larry Creaser , Chester, NS, CAN - 1 ; 1
2. J'ai Tu, J 35 35, Rodney Johnstone / Gary Bennett , Storrs, CT, USA - 2 ; 2
3. HELOC, J 35 35, Andrew Childs , Halifax, NS, CAN - 3 ; 3

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Distance 3 (PHRF_ToT - 5 Boats)

1. Wildthing VI, Beneteau 42s7 42, Greg/Liz Hammond , Glen Margaret, NS, CAN - 1 ; 1
2. Persistence, Frers 33 33.25, Mike / Heather Hoyt , Herring Cove, NS, CAN - 2 ; 2
3. Sail La Vie, Jeanneau 409 40, louis bourget , bedford, NS, CAN - 3 ; 3

Distance 4 (PHRF_ToT - 7 Boats)

1. Highlander, Dehler DB1 33, Dan Pride , Halifax, NS, CAN - 1 ; 1
2. Flux, J 30 30, Jordan MacNeil , Halifax, NS, CAN - 2 ; 2
3. Just Add Water, J 30 30, Jesleine Baker , Halifax, NS, CAN - 3 ; 3

Distance 5 (PHRF_ToT - 12 Boats)

1. Patience, Nonsuch 30 Ultra 30, Bruce Flinn , Halifax, NS, CAN - 1 ; 1
2. Tempus Fugit, Alberg 37 37.17', David McVay , Markham, Ont, CAN - 2 ; 2
3. Foxy Lady, Chaser 29 29, Bob Cragg , Chester , NS, CAN - 3 ; 3

Inshore 2 - J105 (PHRF_ToT - 5 Boats)

1. McMac, J 105 10.5m, Sean McDermott / Rory MacDonald , Dartmouth, NS, CAN - 2 -1 ; 3
2. MOJO, J 105 35, James Mosher , Lunenburg, NS, CAN - 1 -3 ; 4
3. Buzz, J 105 35, Barry Eisener , lunenburg, NS, CAN - 3 -2 ; 5

Inshore 1 (PHRF_ToT - 9 Boats)

1. Painkiller, J 29 29.5, jane filbee , Halifax, NS, CAN - 1 -1 -1 ; 3
2. Scotch Mist IV, J 29 29, Chris MacDonald , Halifax, NS, CAN - 4 -2 -2 ; 8
3. Head Games, J 29 29.5, Terry Schnare , Chester Basin, NS, CAN - 2 -3 -3 ; 8

Inshore 3 (PHRF_ToT - 9 Boats)

1. Hummin, Soling 26, Bill Haliburton , Halifax, NS, can - 1 -2 ; 3
2. Hoonigan, Soling 27, Ivan Fitch , Chester, NS, CAN - 4 -1 ; 5
3. Apres Ski, Laser 28 28, Tony Thompson , Bedford , NS, CAN - 2 -3 ; 5

Distance (Starting on the Inshore Course) - C&C99 (PHRF_ToT - 4 Boats)

1. Agent 99, C&C 99 33, Rob Crutcher , Bedford, NS, CAN - 1 -1 ; 2
2. Equinox 99, C&C 99 33, Rod Stright , Halifax, NS, CAN - 2 -2 ; 4
3. Demons Dance, C&C 99 32.5, Andrew Watts , Halifax, NS, CAN - 3 -4 ; 7

Sonar (One Design - 8 Boats)

1. Ping, Sonar 23, Andreas Josenhans , Lunenburg , NS, CAN - 1 -2 -1 ; 4
2. Barbarian, Sonar 23, Rob Barbara , Halifax, NS, CAN - 2 -1 -2 ; 5
3. Bleep, Sonar 23, Paul Rafuse , Halifax, NS, CAN - 3 -4 -3 ; 10

Farr 30 (One Design - 7 Boats)

1. Head First 3, Farr 30 30, Peter Toombs , Charlottetown, PEI, CAN - 1 -1 -1 ; 3
2. Goose, Farr 30 30, Ben Maloney , Bedford, NS, CAN - 3 -3 -3 ; 9
3. One More Time, Farr 30 30, Rob Gale , Halifax, NS, CAN - 2 -2 -6 ; 10

International One Design (One Design - 10 Boats)

1. Bella, IOD 30, Evan Petley-Jones , Halifax, NS, CAN - 2 -1 -1 ; 4
2. Piper, IOD 33, Shawn Mulrooney , Chester Basin, NS, CAN - 5 -2 -2 ; 9
3. Enigma, IOD 33, Steve Bush , Los Ranchos, NM, USA - 4 -3 -3 ; 10

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Classics

1. Seneca, Universal P, David Creighton, Chester, NS, CAN (no other details as of printing)

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About Helly Hansen Chester Race Week

Hosted by the Chester Yacht Club in the picturesque South-Shore Nova Scotia village of Chester in mid August each year, Helly Hansen Chester Race Week is North America's largest annual keel boat race week (4 days of sailing) and plays host to more than 130 boats from near and far.

Named one of *Sailing World* magazine's 14 greatest sailing events in North America, each August, 1,200-plus sailors arrive in Mahone Bay on Nova Scotia's scenic South Shore to compete in one of 15 fleets racing simultaneously on five different race courses - from a 0.5 nautical mile windward-leeward course for the Bluenose class in front of the Chester Yacht Club, to the 20-plus-nautical-mile-long, offshore distance course for big boats. The fleets can accommodate everyone from competitive one-design hulls to classic wooden boats and cruising boats racing without spinnakers.

Chester's sailing regattas were first documented in 1856 and, since then, tourists and locals alike have taken in the natural beauty of the area by both land and sea. A community-based, volunteer-driven event, Helly Hansen Chester Race Week boasts a full schedule of public-friendly events with live music, great food, yacht races, plus racing seminars from internationally renowned sailors, tacticians, boat builders and sailmakers. Visit www.ChesterRaceWeek.com

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