

DISABLED SAILING ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

Have you ever been walking or riding your bicycle along the pathways and wondered who the sailors on Glenmore Reservoir are? Many of you may be unaware of a dedicated group of sailors who are involved with the Disabled Sailing Association of Alberta (DSA-Alberta).

DSA – Alberta’s humble beginnings were conceived in the fall of 1994, when twelve new sailors had a vision of establishing permanent sailing programs for children and adults with disabilities in Alberta. DSA-Alberta’s largely volunteer organization has grown into a recognized community service, partnering with more than 35 local agencies providing unique, enjoyable experiences for its participants which include opportunities for social, recreational, rehabilitative and competitive activities. In 2004 our Community Partnership Program delivered 658 sailing sessions to children, adults and seniors. 507 sailing sessions were enjoyed through our Independent Sailing Program, Learn to Sail lessons and regattas.

The boats used by disabled sailing programs are the Martin 16 sailboat, two Access Dinghies and a Sonar keelboat. The Martin 16 is unsinkable, maneuverable and fast. It can easily be equipped with a “Sip ‘n’ Puff” system, that allow even “high quads” – those with little or no upper body mobility, to discover or return to the world of sailing.

In recognition of Alberta’s Centennial DSA-Alberta will be hosting Mobility Cup 2005 from August 22 to 27, 2005 at the Glenmore Reservoir. The Mobility Cup, held annually, is Canada’s international regatta for sailors with disabilities. The event includes participants from across Canada, the USA, UK, Australia and Japan.

A fundraising campaign is underway to identify sponsors and raise funds in support of Mobility Cup 2005. If you are aware of interested individuals or companies, please contact our Mobility Cup fundraising chair Dave Fulton at 237-5924.

Volunteers will be required to assist prior to and during the event. People are needed to assist with food preparation, rigging of boats, loading and unloading of participants and various other duties. If you can volunteer, please contact Kathy Burns at 255-0094. For further information, check the website at www.MobilityCup.org.