

**Peter Pan:**

## Quebec Yacht Races Lake Ontario's Finest and Wins!

by Stephen Jones

Nothing succeeds like success. Or, in the case of Pierre Begin, owner of Quebec-based yacht Peter Pan, nothing succeeds like a total commitment to continuous improvement in all aspects of boat performance.



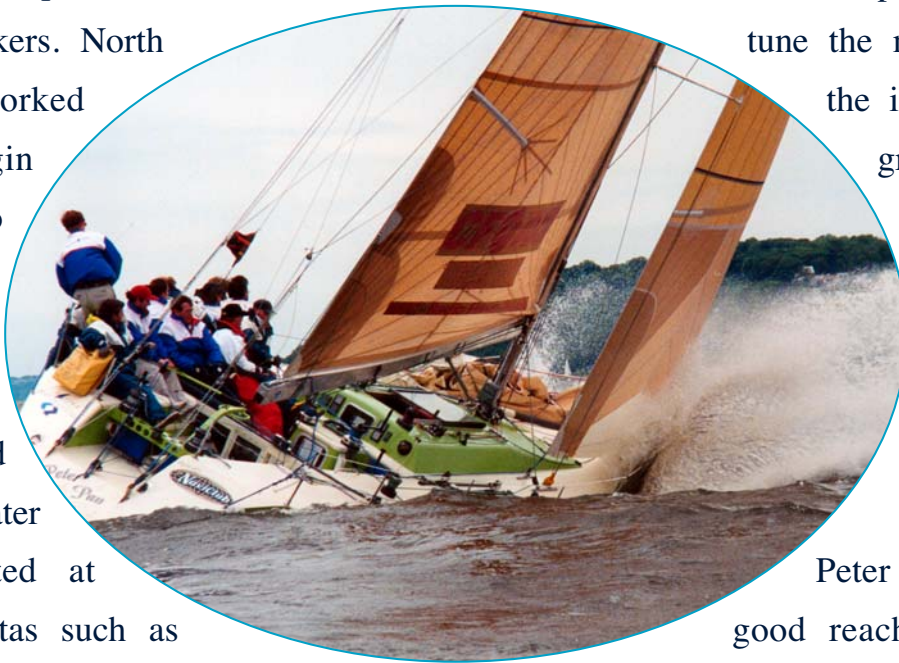
For Begin this commitment to improvement has paid dividends, culminating most recently in a convincing victory at LYRA, the premier regatta on Lake Ontario for IMS racing. Peter Pan won the City of Toronto Mayor's trophy for its dominant performance in the IMS II division in short course racing, and the Baldwin trophy for winning its division in the long-distance Freeman Cup race.



A former Admiral's Cup One-Tonner designed by Tony Castro, Peter Pan was acquired by Begin in 1998. The new owner immediately launched an ambitious project to overhaul the boat completely. Throughout the project, Philippe Oulhen of North Sails Quebec played an important role, outlining what it would take to meet the objectives of the campaign.

Modifications to the boat emphasized maximizing racing performance. Begin and his crew spent many hours wet-sanding the bottom to 600-grit smoothness. Changes to the deck hardware and layout focused on simplicity and ease of adjustment. Running rigging was replaced with high-tech, low-stretch line.

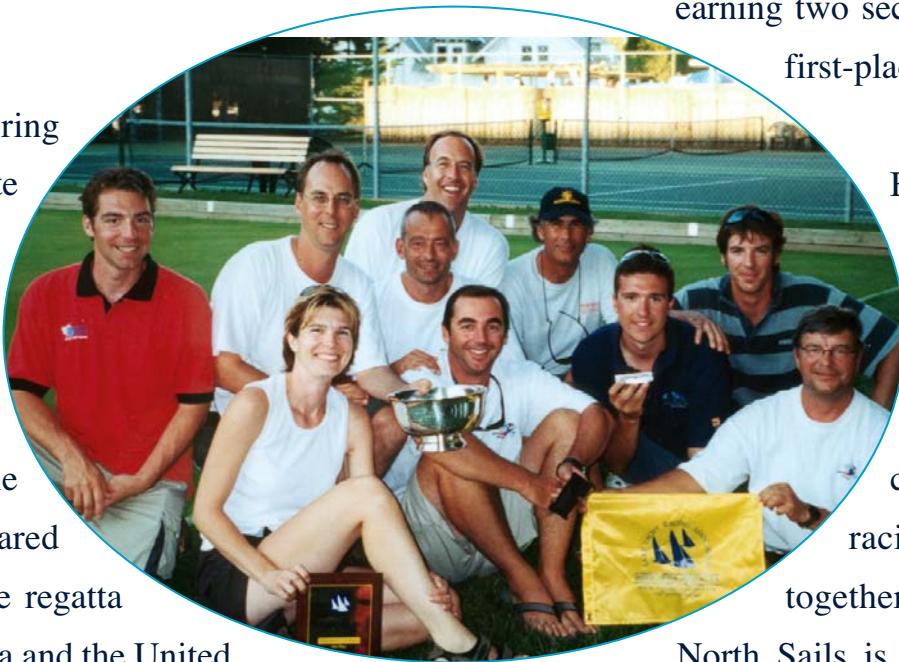
The boat received a new, much stiffer mast. Oulhen recommended a sail inventory consisting of North 3DL™ upwind sails and Gradient™ spinnakers. North sail designers worked closely with Begin and Oulhen to design a main suited to the characteristics of the new mast that would excel in the flat-water conditions expected at Great Lakes regattas such as CORK and LYRA. Oulhen's experience with the boat, careful measurement of the rig, and North's proprietary sail design software resulted in a main that pushed the boat past previous targets for speed.



speed sessions, with coaching from Oulhen, to work on boat speed and streamline boat handling, as well as to take photos of sail shape, tune the mast, and calibrate the instruments. A program to optimize the boat's IMS rating rounded out the comprehensive preparations for the regatta.

Peter Pan demonstrated good reaching speed in the long-distance Freeman Cup race. In short-course races held off of Toronto, helmsperson Pierre-Olivier Roy and tactician Michel Litté proved to have good nerves in the close racing, earning two second-place and four first-place finishes.

Begin chose to bring Peter Pan to compete at LYRA in July and August 2002, because of the greater challenge posed by the sizable fleet of well-prepared IMS yachts that the regatta attracts from Canada and the United States. Planning for LYRA started well in advance the previous year. Begin and his crew held many



Begin attributes his success at LYRA to excellent boat preparation, and an experienced crew that has been racing and practicing together for many years. North Sails is the only sailmaker for Begin. "It is impossible to win consistently without North Sails," he said.