

International Exchanges Partnerships Around the World

International Sail Training and Tall Ships Conference
Stavanger, Norway
November 12th, 2010

Presented by

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Today's Agenda

1. **Who is Toronto Brigantine Inc (TBI), eh!**
2. **International Exchange Programs**
 1. **Some History**
 2. **Considerations**
 3. **Notes from the Water – Real Life Lessons**
3. **Workshop – How did we get here!**
4. **Group Discussion and Questions**

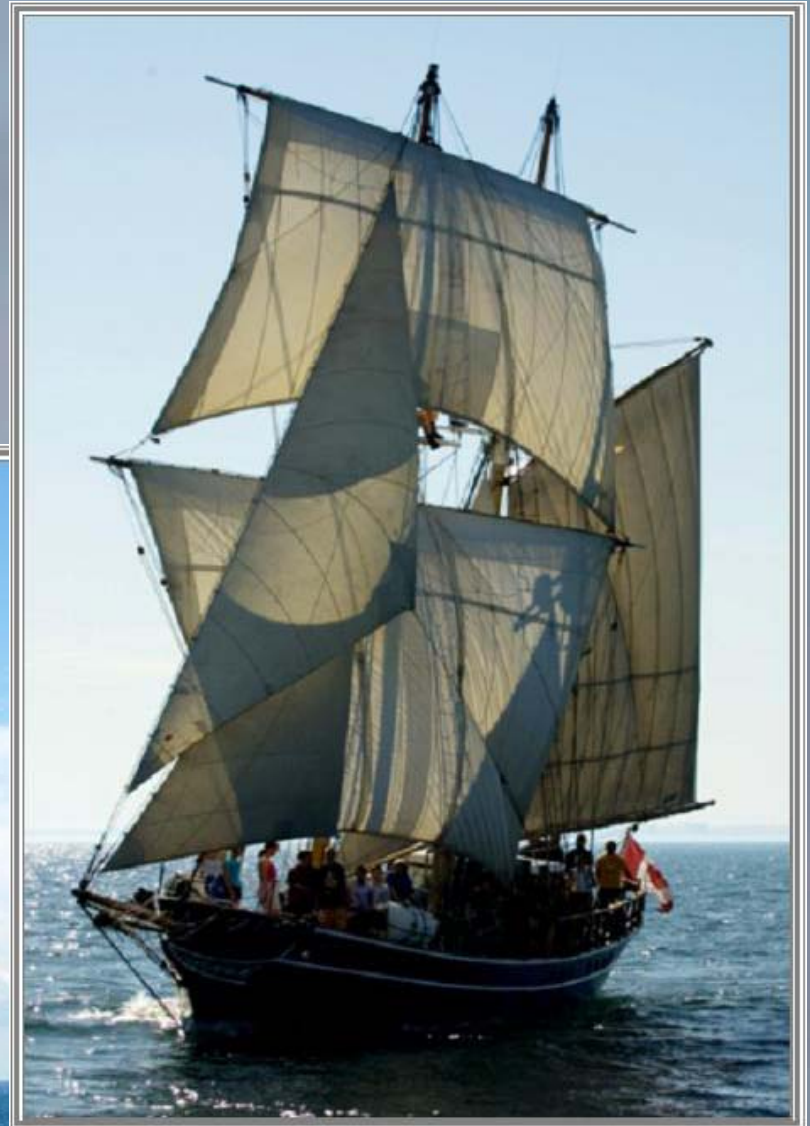
**Please be considerate to fellow delegates.
Unless you have “deck watch” please turn off your cell phone.**



**TBI is a non-profit
youth sail training
organization
established in
1962**

TBI's Brigantines

STV Pathfinder
Commissioned 1962



TS Playfair
Commissioned 1972

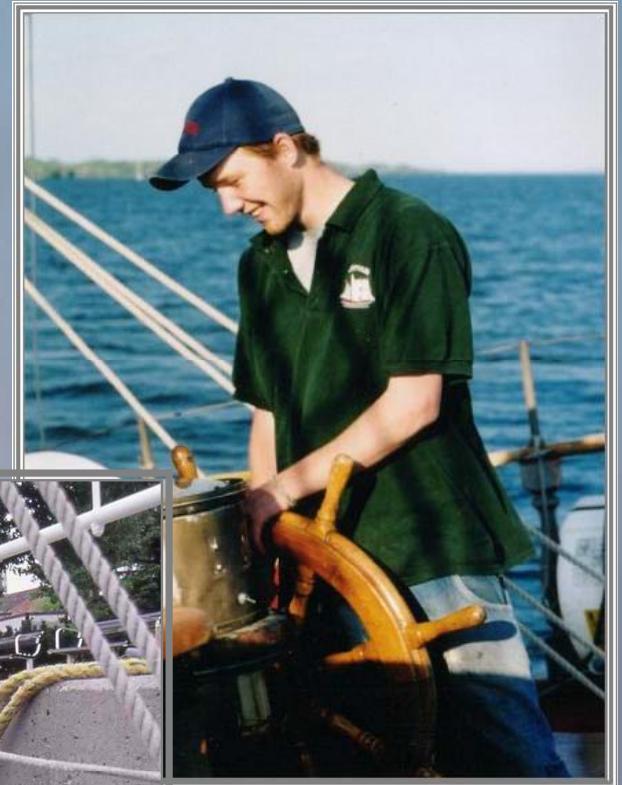
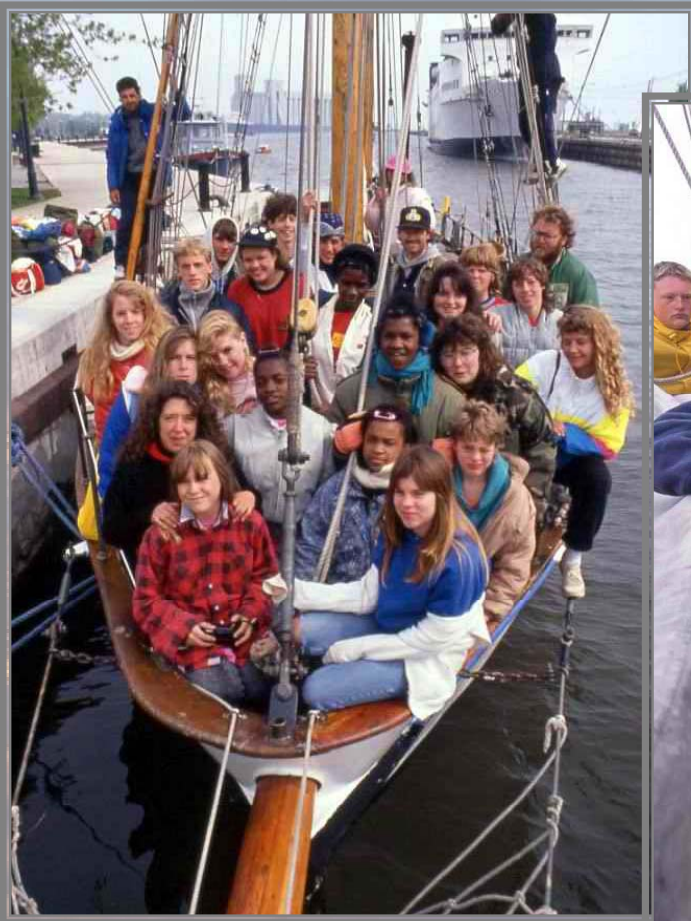
TBI's Mission

- To instill good seamanship, responsibility, teamwork and self reliance while building skills of leadership and good citizenship
- To uphold youth for youth chain of command based on experience and competence
- To maintain the heritage of sail on the Great Lakes



What's unique about TBI....

All Officers and Trainees aged 13 to 18
The only "adult" on board is the Captain!



The Officers
sail the vessels
in the summer
and maintain
them in the
winter.

Up to 18 trainees learn seamanship, problem-solving, cooperation and teamwork from 9 volunteer youth officers on 3 watches.



Summer Program

7-14 day courses on the Great Lakes





Winter Program

- Weekends, Xmas, school holidays
- on shore training (TBI Grade Stds and Gov't reg.)
- vessel maintenance
- promotions through ranks



Officers are trained in navigation, safety, first aid and marine emergency procedures and more..



**TBI has 5 grade standards
Officers can get Transport
Canada Certifications**

**This is what
TBI.....**



**..... is all
about!**

Every year TBI hosts International Exchange Trainees from Europe!



International Exchange Programs

1. Some History
2. Considerations
3. Notes from the Water – Real Life Lessons!

“Those who sail know the oceans to be that which connect us to foreign lands – not a boundary which separates us.”

The Value of Exchange Programs can be found in the Development of Modern Youth Sail Training

- Dr Kurt Hahn established seamanship school for RN and Merchant Marine during WWII.
- After WWII challenged with developing programs that created an atmosphere of trust between the youth of countries so recently and so bitterly at war.
- Dr. Hahn observed - war demonstrated the qualities *of leadership and responsibility* that young people exhibited when called upon..... much greater than normal peace-time life would demand of them.

The Development of Modern Youth Sail Training continued...

- The “civil version” of Outward Bound was conceived by introducing ‘the moral equivalent of the stress of warfare’ .
- Dr. Hahn recognized that life aboard sailing ships at sea most closely provided the mix of *stress, responsibility and exhilaration* that he felt was necessary to form powerful bonds between youth.
- Began organizing programs to send youth crews from England, France, Germany and Italy to sea together.
- Youth learned to trust each other , came home with new friends and newly discovered qualities of self-confidence, courage and leadership.

Youth Sail Training Exchanges Considerations

1. Why are you doing this maybe the same as who should I send?

- Give trainees a new experience?
- Improve programming at home?
- Allow Trainees to gain sea time or other qualifications?
- Strengthen relationships between sail training organizations?
- Other?

Sometimes a “contest” is not the best way to make a final selection.

Youth Sail Training Exchanges Considerations

2. Partnering with the appropriate organization depends on your objectives.

- Experience with exchange programs
 - resources, support, know how, etc.
- Comparison to trainee's home program
 - balance new experiences with "cultural shock"
- On board support and integration
 - mentorship, reporting relationship in chain of command
- Consider Barriers
 - age, language, etc.

Youth Sail Training Exchanges Considerations

3. Trainee Selection

- Expectations
- Fit with partnering organization
- Maturity
- Objectivity
- Seamanship Skills
- Resourcefulness
- Flexibility
- Communication skills
- Ambassadorial abilities (citizen diplomacy)

Youth Sail Training Exchanges Considerations

4. The Details

- Custom and Immigration Issues
 - Visa's, travel restrictions, etc.
- Health and Travel Insurance (is it adequate?)
- Logistics
 - transportation to vessel
 - local ground based support
 - on shore accommodation (part of the experience!)
- Cost
 - Round trip airfare
 - Spending money
 - Training fees associated with trip

TBI accepts exchange trainees at no cost to the sponsoring organization – we win!!



Notes from the Water - Real Life Lessons!!

Presented by

Ben Martin

International Exchange - UK

Australian Scheme

- Funded by ASTO
- Funds trainee to fly to (and from!) Australia and complete 2 consecutive 10 day voyages
- Return ticket open enabling travel

Canadian Scheme

- Funded by the James Myatt Trust
- Usually funds 2 young people from the UK

Selection Process

- Meet the criteria
- Send letter to ASTO – explain why applicant would be the best person to represent UK sail training overseas
- Final interview panel

My Canadian Exchange - 2008



International Exchange Experiences

“found a new lease of life”

“I could almost write another thesis on this experience and it still wouldn't do justice to the impact of this journey”

“I've had the best months of my life”

“I gained a lot personally, not only sailing skills but I gained in confidence and independence that will always be useful in the future”

It's your turn – the workshop!!

How did we get here?

- Read the situation described in the worksheet and discuss the questions at your table.
- Assign a person to represent your team.
- Presentation followed by group discussion.



International Exchange Programs are about ...

responsibility

Fun

service

citizenship

skills

sailing

youth

excitement

independence

outdoor experience

pride

friendship

sharing

communication

personal growth

history

self-esteem



Thanks for you time today!

**Have fun at the rest of the
conference!**

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