

ONTARIO
ANNUAL REPORT



LIFESAVING SOCIETY

The Lifeguarding Experts

**Working to prevent
drowning and reduce
water-related injury.**

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Registered Charity No. 10809 7270 RR0001.
All donations gratefully received.
Tax receipts issued for donations of
\$20 or more.

Teaching Canadians to save themselves and rescue others

Annually, over 1.5 million Canadians participate in our swimming, lifesaving, lifeguard, first aid and leadership programs. Each year, we certify thousands of instructors who provide the leadership for our training programs. Over 30,000 Canadians earn our Bronze Medallion each year. As Canada's lifeguarding experts, we set the standard for lifeguard training and certify Canada's National Lifeguards.

Making Canadians Water Smart®

The Lifesaving Society focuses Water Smart drowning prevention efforts on people most at risk – like men fishing in small boats – or on those who can make a significant difference, such as parents of young children. We deliver Water Smart messages through our swim program, media and community action. Our Swim to Survive® program provides the essential minimum skills required to survive an unexpected fall into deep water.

Drowning research

The Lifesaving Society conducts research into fatal and non-fatal drowning, aquatic injury and rescue interventions. Ongoing research and analysis supports the Society's evidence-based water-rescue training and Water Smart drowning prevention education.

Setting the standard

The Lifesaving Society establishes aquatic safety standards and consults on aquatic safety issues for the aquatic industry, governments and the judiciary. The Society offers a suite of services to help aquatic facility operators maintain and improve safe pool and waterfront operations. We perform aquatic safety audits and serve as experts in legal cases involving aquatic safety.

Lifesaving sport

The Lifesaving Society is the Canadian governing body for lifesaving sport – a sport recognized by the International Olympic Committee and the Commonwealth Games Federation. We use lifesaving sport to engage and inspire youth in our drowning prevention mission. Our Lifesaving Sport Fundamentals program offers a recreational introduction to lifesaving sport skills. Junior, senior and masters athletes compete regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally. We offer certification programs for officials and coaches.

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The Lifesaving Society

The Lifesaving Society is a full-service provider of programs, products and services designed to prevent drowning. We save lives and prevent water-related injury through our training programs, Water Smart public education, drowning research, aquatic safety management and lifesaving sport.

We are a national volunteer organization and registered charity composed of ten provincial/territorial branches, tens of thousands of individual members, and over 4,000 affiliated swimming pools, waterfronts, schools and clubs.

The Lifesaving Society is a leader and partner in the delivery of water safety education throughout Canada and around the world. (The Society operates globally in over 25 countries.)

We represent Canada in the Commonwealth Royal Life Saving Society and we are Canada’s Full Member in the International Life Saving Federation. The Lifesaving Society takes lead responsibility for drowning prevention in Canada.

Land Acknowledgment

The Lifesaving Society Ontario is situated on the ancestral lands of Indigenous peoples, a region rich in rivers and lakes. We are grateful to pursue our drowning prevention work on this extraordinary territory. These are the sacred lands of the Anishnabeg, Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit and Wendat peoples, and home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island.

As we think about our place in the world, we invite you to think about yours, and to pay respect to those who came before. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to partner with the Indigenous peoples who continue to call this land home, and to act as fellow stewards – to share and care for this land and its waterways for generations to come.

We have been teaching swimming, water safety and water rescue in Canada since 1896. Established in England (1891) as The Swimmers’ Life Saving Society, we became The Royal Life Saving Society in 1904. Today, we are known as simply the Lifesaving Society.

*Lifesaving Society, Water Smart, Swim to Survive, Swim for Life and National Lifeguard Service are all registered trademarks of the Royal Life Saving Society Canada.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings!

As I prepared my submission for the 2025 Annual Report, I found myself reflecting on my own journey with the Lifesaving Society and the roots that first connected me to this remarkable organization. If you are reading this report, you share those roots as well – and I invite you to take a moment to reflect on your own, especially if it has been a while since you last paused to do so.

Volunteers are truly the heart of the Lifesaving Society. Volunteerism is woven into every part of our organization, from board members and committee chairs to instructors, examiners and event coordinators. Our volunteers are often the first to arrive and the last to leave, motivated not by recognition but by a genuine desire to make a difference. Their passion is infectious, inspiring others to get involved and contribute. Time and again, our volunteers demonstrate an extraordinary commitment, balancing their involvement with work, family and other responsibilities, all while advancing our shared vision of a Canada free from drowning and water-related injuries.

One of the most inspiring aspects of our branch is the longevity of service shown by so many of our volunteers. Many have contributed for decades and beyond, leaving a legacy that continues to shape who we are today. These individuals have witnessed – and helped lead – the evolution of lifesaving training, the expansion of our programs and the growing impact of our work across communities. Along the way, they have mentored countless new volunteers, passing on knowledge, traditions and a strong sense of purpose that spans generations.

The influence of long-serving volunteers is evident throughout every facet of our work. They are the steady voices of experience in boardroom discussions, the wisdom behind our most enduring programs, and the familiar faces who return year after year to support events and initiatives. Their stories – of Bronze Medallion exams from years past, of lifeguard competitions judged, and of countless hours spent teaching Swim for Life – are woven into the rich tapestry of our branch. These volunteers exemplify the values of collaboration, excellence and innovation that define the Lifesaving Society.

It is also heartening to see how volunteering with the Lifesaving Society has become a family tradition for many, with involvement passed from one generation to the next. This legacy ensures that our branch remains vibrant, forward-looking, and deeply rooted in the communities we serve. As a parent, I can still remember the anticipation we experienced as our daughters took their National Lifeguard exams, now followed by debates about rescue techniques at the dinner table.

In 2025, the strength of the Ontario Branch was once again driven by the leadership and dedication of its volunteers. Across fundraising, governance, training, sport and public education, volunteers shared their time, expertise and enthusiasm to advance drowning prevention throughout the province. I encourage you to read this Annual Report from cover to cover and discover how volunteer-led fundraising generated more than \$37,000 for Water Smart® and Swim to Survive® programs, how leadership volunteers strengthened the Society's future through National Trainer reappointments and new recruitment, and how volunteers powered lifesaving sport competitions, supported strong governance, and shaped key advances in training, management education, and public outreach. Together, these efforts highlight a volunteer community that continues to be the backbone of the Society's impact and success.

I would also be remiss if I did not extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Ontario Branch staff. I am continually impressed by your professionalism, expertise and unwavering commitment. Whether coordinating lifesaving programs, developing educational resources, managing competition logistics, or supporting community outreach, you ensure that our work runs smoothly and reaches those who need it most. Your adaptability and innovation have been especially evident in recent years as we navigated change and responded to growing demand for our services.

To every staff member and volunteer – whether you are new to our branch or have been part of our community for a lifetime – thank you. Your contributions make it possible for us to save lives, educate communities, and promote water safety across Ontario.



This year's Annual General Meeting is more than a routine gathering. It is an opportunity to reflect on the incredible people who shape our Society, the dedication that sustains our work, and the enduring spirit that sets our branch apart. The story of the Lifesaving Society Ontario Branch is, above all, a story of people – our achievements, growth and resilience are grounded in the commitment of those who serve, both professionally and voluntarily.

As always, thank you, and please continue to join us as we work together toward our shared vision of a Canada free from drowning and water-related injuries.

Jennifer Knights

Ontario Branch Governors

John A. Macintyre	2014–
Marc J. Neeb	2003–2014
David W. P. Pretty	1980–2002
William A.B. Anderson, OBE	1971–1979
Anthony G.S. Griffin	1963–1971

Ontario Branch Presidents

Jennifer Knights	2023–
Kathleen Finn	2022–2023
Julie Dawley	2020–2022
Andrea Herrmann	2018–2020
Brian Connors	2016–2018
Paul Hulford	2014–2016
Juanita Bueschleb	2012–2014
Julie MacIsaac	2010–2012
Patrick D'Almada	2008–2010
Alain Rabeau	2006–2008
Patricia Kitchen	2004–2006
Victoria Hemming	2002–2004
Bob Clark	2000–2002
Calum U.C. MacLeod	1998–2000
Randy Killey	1996–1998
Tom McCullough	1994–1996
Gerry D. Young	1992–1994
Susan Glover Takahashi, PhD	1990–1992
Anne Jackson	1988–1990
Brian Wynn	1986–1988
Ruth A. Cruikshank, PhD	1984–1986
Robbie Giles	1982–1984
Michael Davis	1980–1982
Judy M. Kent, C.M.	1978–1980
Jack C. Bramm	1977–1978
Robert E. Lord	1976–1977
Jack C. Bramm	1974–1976
William M. Brummitt, M.D.	1972–1974
Stanley Richardson	1970–1972
Eva McDonald	1969
James L. Rowney	1967–1969
Kirk A.W. Wipper, C.M.	1965–1967
R. Bredin Stapells, Q.C.	1957–1965
M. Glynn Griffiths	1938–1957
John H. Crocker	1934–1938
Ernest A. Chapman	1928–1934
Arthur L. Cochrane	1919–1928
Arnold H. Morphy	1908–1919

TREASURER'S REPORT

The summary financial information presented here is derived from the Royal Life Saving Society Canada, Ontario Branch ("the Society") consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2025. They include the results of the Drowning Prevention Research Centre Canada, a federally incorporated registered charity controlled by the Society. This summary does not replace the audited statements. Detailed audited consolidated financial statements of the Royal Life Saving Society Canada, Ontario Branch are available upon request.

In 2025, the Society reported net revenues of \$11.7 million and total expenditures of \$12.6 million, resulting in a deficit of \$901,000 for the year. This is in contrast to the \$365,000 surplus achieved in 2024. The deficit primarily reflects a lack of anticipated revenue growth in key areas, alongside higher spending associated with strengthening core operations, advancing strategic priorities and expanding the Society's capabilities.

Water Rescue generated net revenues of \$4.2 million, a 2% increase from 2024, reflecting growth in Lifeguarding and First Aid awards.

Leadership net revenues were \$1.25 million, representing an expected 5% decline from 2024. This decrease reflects the tapering of growth following the prior Swim Transition peak.

Literature net revenues totaled approximately \$2.4 million, a 2% decrease from 2024. This decline in new materials is consistent with national trends reflecting a drop in demand for literature that supports training programs.

Merchandise net revenues totaled \$513,000, up 2% from 2024. Lifesaving Sport revenue of \$293,000 was up a strong 12% as programming continued to build momentum, with steady participation and engagement across competitions and events.

Other income sources remained an important contributor to the Society's financial results. Swim to Survive grants utilized in 2025 totalled \$1.7 million, up from \$1.3 million in 2024. These revenues, reflected in Fundraising, are offset by the corresponding expenditures. Investment income was \$591,000 in 2025, reflecting investment portfolio returns of 12%, which, while very strong, were lower than the exceptional investment returns of 21% realized in 2024.

Total expenditures rose to \$12.6 million in 2025, an increase of approximately 12% over 2024 (or 9% excluding Swim to Survive program expenses). The increase was primarily due to higher salaries and benefits, occupancy costs, relocation costs, meeting costs, and a higher national levy. Most of these costs were allocated across multiple program areas.

The Society completed its investment in a new office and warehouse relocation. The change in net working capital reflects the drawdown of investments totaling \$1.4 million to complete the relocation and to supplement cash flow, which was impacted by slower-than-expected receivable collections. The Society has implemented tools to address high trade receivables. Despite these outflows, the Society maintained a year-end investment balance of \$3.7 million, excluding maturities under one year.

In conclusion, the Society's financial results for 2025 produced an unplanned deficit, primarily due to revenues falling short of expected growth across several centres. In response, cost mitigation and cash flow management strategies remain in effect. Investments made during the year in programs, infrastructure and organizational capacity are intended to support the Society's long-term growth and impact throughout Ontario, advancing its mission of preventing drowning and reducing water-related injury.

Crystal Maloney, CPA, CMA, CFA



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OPERATIONS

Net Revenue	2025		2024	
	\$		\$	
Water rescue	4,214,898	36%	4,141,500	36%
Literature	2,397,876	21%	2,446,732	21%
Fundraising	1,892,654	16%	1,505,036	13%
Leadership	1,254,234	11%	1,315,904	11%
Investments	590,870	5%	992,084	9%
Merchandise	512,546	4%	502,924	4%
Lifesaving sport	293,362	3%	262,434	2%
Affiliation fees	245,220	2%	246,035	2%
Management training	101,321	1%	93,565	1%
Safety standards	89,252	1%	66,954	1%
Research	45,128	0%	45,955	0%
National services	16,350	0%	-	0%
	11,653,711	100%	11,619,123	100%

Expenditures

Training programs	3,523,485	28%	3,564,833	32%
Member services	2,847,973	23%	2,417,985	21%
Swim to Survive	1,712,345	14%	1,317,649	12%
Lifesaving sport	1,205,397	10%	1,279,606	11%
Leadership	861,611	7%	796,450	7%
Public education	734,983	5%	461,297	4%
Research	528,311	4%	522,683	5%
National levy	519,576	4%	450,415	4%
Amortization	203,700	2%	64,612	1%
Management training	175,744	1%	158,652	1%
Mortgage loan interest	125,981	1%	68,788	1%
Safety standards	115,347	1%	151,415	1%
	12,554,453	100%	11,254,385	100%

Net Contribution for the year

(900,742) **364,738**

BALANCE SHEET

Net Assets

Net working capital	(3,154,782)	(2,349,434)
Investments	3,720,714	4,923,668
Capital assets	5,049,637	3,942,077
	5,615,569	6,516,311

Fund Balances

Capital	3,815,291	3,701,346
General	1,213,740	2,307,513
Provincial lottery	466,252	429,011
DPRC	120,286	78,441
	5,615,569	6,516,311

AWARDS REPORT

TOP LINE SUMMARY		2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
	Swimming	938,454	799,503	706,664	317,767	49,470
	Lifesaving	70,430	53,681	64,043	41,238	15,002
	First Aid	73,935	73,526	82,074	98,606	66,102
	Lifeguarding	42,046	41,774	42,664	28,922	23,115
	Management Training	1,541	1,592	1,568	966	808
	Lifesaving Sport	1,824	508	2,754	1,696	649
	Leadership	45,966	43,709	39,940	30,405	23,433
	Total	1,174,196	1,014,293	939,707	519,720	178,579
SWIMMING	Swim to Survive	67,551	65,765	44,468	14,336	-
	Swim for Life	870,903	733,738	662,196	303,431	49,470
		938,454	799,503	706,664	317,767	49,470
LIFESAVING	Junior Lifeguard Club	384	316	830	472	97
	Canadian Swim Patrol	40,690	22,716	28,687	18,471	3,170
	Bronze Star	9,461	8,900	9,439	5,185	2,323
	Bronze Medallion	19,894	21,018	23,611	16,727	9,222
	Distinction	-	37	16	29	25
	Lifesaving Fitness	-	691	1,444	444	150
	Boat Rescue	-	3	16	-	15
		70,429	53,681	64,043	41,328	15,002
FIRST AID	First Aid	64,329	63,517	67,885	72,367	46,852
	CPR	9,606	10,009	14,189	26,239	19,250
		73,935	73,526	82,074	98,606	66,102
LIFEGUARDING	Supervision	1,646	2,137	1,900	1,426	389
	Bronze Cross	17,380	18,251	19,921	14,085	8,895
	National Lifeguard	23,020	21,386	20,843	13,411	13,831
		42,046	41,774	42,664	28,922	23,115
MANAGEMENT TRAINING	Aquatic Supervisor and Manager	908	984	930	567	419
	Pool Operator	258	278	377	206	256
	Aquatic Safety Inspector	375	330	261	223	133
		1,541	1,592	1,568	996	808
LIFESAVING SPORT	Athletes	1,576	316	2,570	1,590	570
	Officials	248	192	184	106	79
		1,824	508	2,754	1,696	649
LEADERSHIP	Instructor	41,001	38,756	35,091	26,127	19,435
	Examiner	3,840	3,852	3,806	3,162	3,195
	Trainer	1,125	1,101	1,043	1,116	803
		45,966	43,709	39,940	30,405	23,433
	JLC Member Recognition Seals	1,854	4,878	5,976	4,338	603



AFFILIATE RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Society recognizes affiliate members who deliver the Society's training programs, promote Water Smart® public education, and raise funds in support of the Society's drowning prevention mission. Most recognition awards are presented on the basis of points earned (see point values). The *Water Smart Award* and the *Jocelyn Palm Cup* are awarded from a list of nominees who meet established criteria.

ANTHONY G. S. GRIFFIN CUP: Awarded to the City of Toronto District with the largest lifesaving program. (The City does not participate in the Cochrane Cup category.)

1 st	Toronto – Etobicoke/York District	49,110
2 nd	Toronto – Toronto & East York	38,246
3 rd	Toronto – Scarborough District	36,870
4 th	Toronto – West Toronto/ York District	34,223
5 th	Toronto – North York District	24,699
	Total	183,148

ARTHUR LEWIS COCHRANE CUP: Awarded to the affiliate member with the largest lifesaving program.

1 st	City of Ottawa	176,430
2 nd	Lifeguarding Academy	126,789
3 rd	City of Brampton	110,890
4 th	City of Mississauga	104,403
5 th	City of Markham	101,919
6 th	Town of Oakville	69,570
7 th	City of Vaughan	63,464
8 th	City of Richmond Hill	60,372
9 th	City of Kitchener	58,772
10 th	City of Hamilton	54,913

ARNOLD H. MORPHY CUP: Awarded to the single-facility affiliate with the largest lifesaving program.

1 st	Carleton University	38,061
2 nd	Shendy's Swim School	36,091
3 rd	Brock University	29,560
4 th	Dovercourt Recreation Association	20,902
5 th	Scarborough YMCA	19,855
6 th	Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	14,096
7 th	Toronto Swim Centre	13,810
8 th	Forest City First Aid	13,436
9 th	City of Woodstock	13,385
10 th	The Steve & Sally Stavro Family YMCA	12,950

DAVID W. PRETTY CUP: Awarded to the municipal affiliate with the largest lifesaving program in a community with a population between 100,000 and 250,000.

1 st	Town of Oakville	69,570
2 nd	City of Richmond Hill	60,372
3 rd	Town of Milton	45,013
4 th	City of Burlington	40,355
5 th	City of Guelph	23,364
6 th	City of Barrie	23,214
7 th	City of Windsor	19,246
8 th	City of Oshawa	17,590
9 th	City of Waterloo	16,029
10 th	City of Cambridge	11,483

BURLINGTON CUP: Awarded to the municipal affiliate with the largest lifesaving program in a community with a population between 50,000 and 100,000.

1 st	Town of Newmarket	31,087
2 nd	Town of Caledon	29,164
3 rd	Town of Aurora	25,092
4 th	Town of Halton Hills	18,655
5 th	City of Belleville	7,948
6 th	City of Niagara Falls	7,523
7 th	City of Kawartha Lakes	5,330
8 th	City of Peterborough	4,036
9 th	City of Sault Ste. Marie	3,156
10 th	Norfolk County	3,021

SCARBOROUGH CUP: Awarded to the municipal affiliate with the largest lifesaving program in a community with a population between 10,000 and 50,000.

1 st	Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	14,096
2 nd	City of Woodstock	13,385
3 rd	Town of Essex	12,156
4 th	City of Orillia	11,901
5 th	Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury	11,034
6 th	Town of LaSalle	10,488
7 th	Wilmot Township	9,604
8 th	Town of Bracebridge	8,477
9 th	Town of Georgina	8,401
10 th	Municipality of Lakeshore	8,012

M. G. GRIFFITHS CUP: Awarded to the municipal affiliate with the largest lifesaving program in a community with a population under 10,000.

1 st	City of Temiskaming Shores	4,215
2 nd	Town of Kirkland Lake	2,926
3 rd	Town of Hanover	2,549
4 th	Town of Deep River	2,091
5 th	Town of Perth	1,937
6 th	Town of Arnprior	1,885
7 th	Town of St. Marys	1,825
8 th	Town of Fort Frances	1,740
9 th	Township of Edwardsburgh/ Cardinal	1,516
10 th	Municipality of Huron East	1,164

PRIVATE AFFILIATE AWARD: Awarded to the private affiliate with the largest lifesaving program.

1 st	Lifeguarding Academy	126,789
2 nd	Shendy's Swim School	36,091
3 rd	Dovercourt Recreation Association	20,902
4 th	Rescue Ready	18,976
5 th	First Aid + CPR Training Academy	15,082
6 th	Jack of Sports	14,212
7 th	Toronto Swim Centre	13,810
8 th	Forest City First Aid	13,436
9 th	Training for Life	12,889
10 th	Felix's Swim School	12,763

ERNEST A. CHAPMAN CUP: Awarded to the affiliated camp with the largest lifesaving program.

1 st	Onondaga Camp	10,762
2 nd	Camp Can-Aqua	5,955
3 rd	Toronto Athletic Camps	5,935
4 th	Glen Bernard Camp	4,843
5 th	Camp Winnebago	3,718
6 th	Taylor Staten Camp Company	2,743
7 th	Camp Arowhon	2,671
8 th	Camp Tanamakoon	2,651
9 th	Camp Tawingo	2,539
10 th	Camp Kandalore	2,525

JOHN H. CROCKER CUP: Awarded to the affiliated YMCA with the largest lifesaving program.

1 st	Scarborough YMCA	18,411
2 nd	The Steve & Sally Stavro Family YMCA	12,565
3 rd	North York YMCA	12,396
4 th	Markham YMCA	11,968
5 th	Centre Branch YMCA	10,382
6 th	Cooper Koo Family Cherry Street YMCA	9,911
7 th	Metro Central YMCA	7,854
8 th	Oshawa Mary Street YMCA	7,260
9 th	Les Chater Family YMCA	6,920
10 th	Mississauga YMCA	6,227

WILLIAM HENRY MEMORIAL CUP: Awarded to the affiliated school with the largest lifesaving program.

1 st	Branksome Hall	2,888
2 nd	Notre Dame Catholic High School	1,108
3 rd	Sir James Whitney School	1,083
4 th	Lakefield College School	1,077
5 th	Westmount Secondary School	982
6 th	Bishop Alexander Carter Catholic S.S.	853
7 th	Appleby College	482
8 th	St. Andrew's College	360
9 th	Sir Frederick Banting S.S.	330
10 th	St. Charles College	300

KIRK A. W. WIPPER CUP: Awarded to the affiliated university or college with the largest lifesaving program.

1 st	Carleton University	38,061
2 nd	Brock University	29,560
3 rd	York University	17,767
4 th	University of Toronto	14,830
5 th	Western University	9,903
6 th	University of Ottawa	7,615
7 th	CTS Canadian Career College	7,017
8 th	Trent University	6,498
9 th	University of Waterloo	6,389
10 th	Queen's University	6,354

R. BREDIN STAPELLS CUP: Awarded to the affiliate member with the largest leadership training program; and to the municipal affiliate with the largest leadership training program per capita.

Open category

1 st	City of Toronto	53,400
2 nd	Lifeguarding Academy	47,860
3 rd	City of Mississauga	35,630
4 th	City of Markham	27,560
5 th	City of Ottawa	27,360
6 th	City of Brampton	25,700
7 th	City of Richmond Hill	24,820
8 th	Town of Oakville	23,910
9 th	City of Vaughan	21,230
10 th	City of London	15,340

Per capita category

1 st	Wilmot Township	0.24313
2 nd	Town of Enlehart	0.13870
3 rd	Town of Aurora	0.13633
4 th	Town of Perth	0.13603
5 th	Town of Essex	0.13339
6 th	City of Richmond Hill	0.12746
7 th	Town of Newmarket	0.11866
8 th	Town of Deep River	0.11448
9 th	Town of LaSalle	0.11308
10 th	Town of Oakville	0.10747

WILLIAM M. BRUMMITT BOWL:

Awarded to the affiliate with the largest first aid program.

1 st	City of Ottawa	80,720
2 nd	City of Toronto	76,443
3 rd	City of Brampton	47,551
4 th	City of Mississauga	42,483
5 th	City of Markham	36,305
6 th	Lifeguarding Academy	34,721
7 th	City of Hamilton	22,844
8 th	Town of Oakville	21,270
9 th	City of Vaughan	20,971
10 th	Rescue Ready	18,976

JOHN E. MCCUTCHEON BOWL: Awarded to the single-facility affiliate with the largest first aid program.

1 st	Carleton University	15,411
2 nd	Brock University	15,259
3 rd	Shendy's Swim School	14,255
4 th	Forest City First Aid	13,436
5 th	York University Department of Kinesiology	10,648
6 th	Scarborough YMCA	10,045
7 th	Dovercourt Recreation Association	9,896
8 th	Elemental First Aid	8,112
9 th	Nelson Swim and Safety	7,376
10 th	Pair of Medics First Aid and CPR Training	7,250

JOCELYN PALM CUP: Awarded to the affiliate making the most outstanding contribution to the National Lifeguard program.

City of Hamilton

WATER SMART® AWARD: Awarded to an affiliate for outstanding community service to drowning prevention education.

City of Peterborough

DARNELL CHALLENGE CUP: Awarded to affiliate members or institutions that demonstrate a commitment to drowning prevention by mobilizing staff and volunteers to raise funds for Water Smart®.

Open category

PPL Aquatic, Fitness and Spa Group Inc.

Municipal category

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

Single-facility category

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

SWIM TO SURVIVE® AWARD: Awarded to affiliate members and their board of education partners who provide Swim to Survive training to 80% or more of their target populations.

(107.9%) Bruce-Grey CDSB with Brockton Municipality, Mary Immaculate Community School Chepstow, St. Theresa of Calcutta Catholic School Walkerton, Walkerton District Community School, YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce, Hanover Aquatic Centre, Township of North Huron

(101.1%) DSB Ontario North East with Town of Cochrane, Town of Iroquois Falls, Town of Kapuskasing, City of Temiskaming Shores, City of Timmins, Town of Kirkland, Lake Northeastern CDSB

(97.3%) CSDC des Grands Rivières with Town of Cochrane, Town of Hearst, Town of Kapuskasing, City of Timmins, Town of Iroquois Falls, Town of Kirkland, Lake City of Temiskaming Shores

(92.5%) Trillium Lakelands DSB with Town of Huntsville, Town of Bracebridge, City of Kawartha Lakes

(92.4%) Rainbow DSB with City of Greater Sudbury

(91.3%) Limestone DSB with Loyalist Township, Queen's University, KFL & A Public Health Unit, City of Kingston, YMCA of Eastern Ontario, CFB Kingston

(82.2%) London DCSB with Town of Ingersoll, City of London, Southwest Middlesex Municipality, Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc, Thames Centre Township, Town of Tillsonburg, West Elgin Municipality, City of Woodstock, YMCA of Southwestern Ontario

Affiliate recognition awards point values

Affiliate Recognition Awards encourage and recognize the use of the Society's training programs. Point values reward affiliates who offer a full menu of lifesaving programs and reflect the relative degree of difficulty or amount of training and effort required to achieve each level including the programming time commitment. Recertifications are assigned half the point value of original certifications.

Water rescue awards

Rookie / Ranger / Star Patrol	7 / 7 / 7 points
Junior Lifeguard Club	10 points
Pool and Waterpark Attendant	10 points
Safeguard	10 points
Patrol Rider	10 points
Bronze Star	10 points
Bronze Medallion	15 points
Bronze Cross	20 points
Distinction	30 points
National Lifeguard	40 points

First aid awards

Anaphylaxis Rescuer	2 points
Basic First Aid	4 points
CPR -A / -B / -C	4 / 6 / 8 points
CPR-HCP	8 points
Emergency First Aid	12 points
AED	10 points
Airway Management	15 points
Standard First Aid	25 points

Specialized training

Lifesaving Fitness Bronze / Silver / Gold	5 / 7 / 9 points
Lifesaving Sport Officials	15 points

Leadership training

Assistant Instructor	20 points
Swim Instructor	40 points
Lifesaving Instructor	40 points
Examiner Course	15 points
Update Clinics	15 points
Specialized Instructors	30 points
Trainer Course	30 points
Lifesaving Sport Coach	30 points

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Training Programs contributes to the mission of the Society by developing and supporting the delivery of training programs and related education products and services to prevent drowning and water-related injury and to train Ontarians how to swim and to rescue themselves and others in, on or around the water.

Swim Committee

Many thanks to our hard-working Swim Committee: **Lisa Brandie** (Chair), **Erin Burrell**, **Kennedy Connors**, **Elisabeth Drouillard**, **Lynda Kissner**, **Gretna Lalbachan**, **Elyse Laughton**, **Sarah Laughton**, **Daniel Morson**, **Kayla Pariselli** and **Jaylen Peters**.

In 2025, the Swim Committee welcomed a number of new members: **Brynn McCarron**, **Giulia Pearl**, **Taylor Reeves** and **Sarah Walsh**.

Seasonal affiliate meetings

In 2025, the second annual Spring Affiliate meetings targeted for Seasonal Swim Licensees were held virtually, with over 75 participants joining to network, connect and ask valuable programming questions. The Swim Committee also held a Fall Swim Affiliate Meeting for year-round affiliates, which drew more than 96 participants and featured a special drowning-prevention presentation from **Dr. Tessa Clemens** alongside a series of departmental updates.

Survey

To better understand affiliate needs, the committee distributed a survey to 174 year-round Swim affiliates. The details gathered have since been reviewed and will be used to inform the development of new resources to support effective Swim for Life® program delivery.

Other highlights

Throughout the year, the committee was hard at work and completed several key initiatives, including recording a podcast, submitting a review of adapted aquatic materials for national consideration, writing four *Lifeline* articles targeting instructional skills and Swim Instructor development and creating a Swim Lesson Audit Form to assist affiliates in strengthening program quality.

First Aid

The First Aid Committee made significant progress in preparing for upcoming updates within the first aid industry. Key achievements included a comprehensive review and alignment of the written First Aid Test with the latest CSA Standard adopted by the WSIB, ensuring compliance with current national requirements.

The committee also conducted a detailed review of the new *Canadian First Aid Manual* to verify accuracy, consistency and alignment with updated instructional and first aid practices. In addition, members compiled an itemized list of the equipment required for first aid courses, supporting greater standardization and quality control across training environments.

To further strengthen instructional readiness, the committee reviewed and refreshed lesson plans and PowerPoint presentations to reflect the revised curriculum and support effective delivery of the new material ahead of the anticipated 2026 launch.

Thank you to First Aid Chair **Andrew Oman** and committee members **Hayley Callen**, **Lauren Dalueg**, **Stephanie Henry**, **Craig Jenner**, **Penny Lecour**, **Zane Muzaffar**, **Diana Reed**, **Scott Ruddle**, **Tamara Wood** and **Ben Zimmerman** for reviewing, writing and input over the past year.

A special thank-you to **Dr. Cody Dunne**, our Medical Advisor, for exceptional leadership and guidance. Your expertise, insight and steady support played a vital role in this important initiative.



Lifeguard Services Committee

We thank members of the Lifeguard Services Committee who worked diligently on the projects below: **Adrian Wong** (Chair), **Brook Beatty**, **Kevin Button**, **Stephanie Jarvis**, **Shelley Makepeace**, **Peter Mumford**, **Mark Paravani**, **Robin Rankin**, **Tasha Richardson**, **Wasi Rizvi** and **Scott Ruddle**.

Jocelyn Palm Cup

Lifeguard Services continued its work in 2025 to help affiliates prepare strong nominations for the Jocelyn Palm Cup by updating and promoting the affiliate application guide introduced last year. The guide supports organizations interested in showcasing their contributions to the National Lifeguard program.

Supporting Affiliates

The Lifeguard Services Committee supported the Hamilton Area Chairs by coordinating volunteers to deliver two National Lifeguard training clinics for local Instructors. Special thanks to **Scott Ruddle** and **Wasi Rizvi**, who stepped forward to lead the sessions and provide clear, practical guidance to strengthen program consistency across the region. Their commitment, professionalism and willingness to assist on short notice helped ensure the affiliate's training needs were fully met and accessible to all participants.



Video clips

The Lifeguard Services Committee, in partnership with the Resource Development Committee, continued developing new video content in 2025 to support National Lifeguard candidates and strengthen instructional tools for National Lifeguard Instructors. Volunteers dedicated significant time to scripting, filming and editing materials that will be featured in upcoming program resources. We're grateful for their efforts and appreciate the continued support of the **City of Vaughan** in helping make this work possible.

A special thanks to **Brook Beatty** (Chair) and his team **Jacob Ripmeester** and **Brittany Wong** for their work supporting the video project. Their combined efforts strengthened the quality and reach of this initiative.

A special thanks to our Resource Development Committee – **Megan Mintz** (Chair), **Brendan McMahon** and **Carolyn Reinhart** for their expertise, analysis and commentary to support a consistent, professional look and feel to the video footage.

National Lifeguard Resource Development

The Lifeguard Services Committee has assembled a small working group of experienced National Lifeguard Instructors to support the ongoing Resource Development Project. This team is helping to review and refine instructional tools and candidate materials to ensure they align with current program standards and address any gaps that may exist.

Thank you to **Wasi Rizvi** (Chair) and the project team members, **Reggie Andreas**, **Nicole Downie**, **Ray Fan**, **Jacob Fitts**, **Michael Jütte**, **Stefanie Lauppe**, **Brad McConnell**, **George Pachiadakis**, **Laurene Redding** and **Amalia Toner**.

Bronze Committee

The Bronze Committee held its first in-person meeting since the pandemic to define its upcoming priorities for 2026 and begin developing new resources to support instructors teaching Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross. This year, the committee also completed a longstanding project: the creation of standardized rescue resources for Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross. These resources will provide instructors with a strong starting point when delivering courses while allowing flexibility to build upon the resources as they gain experience and tailor their own teaching approaches. The resources are now available on the Society's website.

Thanks to **Ashley Hutchison** (Chair) and committee members, **Sam Michael Coppa**, **Cody Flomen**, **Craig Jenner**, **Zane Muzaffar**, **Matthew Noce**, **Jaylen Peters**, **Michelle Rowe**, **Melanie Samborski** and **AJ Sousa**.



Aquatic Proficiency Committee

The Ontario Branch formally assumed stewardship of the retired Distinction program from the National Society. This stewardship enables Ontario to pilot and revise the program to meet current training needs. Building on the work initiated by former chair **Adrian Wong**, the committee developed proposed revisions for an Ontario-based pilot. The committee created a comprehensive pilot guide along with supporting resources, including lesson plans, an updated agenda and additional materials to assist affiliates and examiners in testing the proposed changes. Upon completion of the pilot, the findings will be reviewed to help shape the future direction of the Distinction program.

Thank you to **Allison Courtney** (Chair) and the project team members **Victoria Babineau**, **Renee Pelland** and **Lindsay Snider**.

Training in Iqaluit

In March, National Trainer **Tiffany Vis** delivered a series of training programs in Iqaluit to build local capacity in aquatic leadership. The sessions included National Lifeguard Instructor training for 2 candidates, a Trainer Course for 4 candidates, a Swim Instructor Course for 1 candidate, National Lifeguard certification for 6 candidates and National Lifeguard recertification for 2 candidates. These efforts strengthened the local network of qualified lifesaving professionals and supported the ongoing development of skilled aquatic leaders in the community.

Training in Guyana

In July, National Trainers **Sarah Newton** and **Tamara Wood** returned to Guyana to continue training candidates, aiming to build local self-sufficiency in lifesaving and first aid. The program included 49 participants, with 7 earning Lifesaving Instructor certification, 41 completing Emergency First Aid, 31 achieving Bronze Medallion and 28 advancing to Bronze Cross. Three candidates were also appointed as Examiners, further strengthening local capacity and supporting a sustainable network of aquatic leaders.

Training and Development in the Caribbean

Lifesaving Society Canada's International Development Assistance program which is supported by the Ontario Branch is currently working with 11 Caribbean nations to develop self-sufficiency in survival swimming, lifesaving, lifeguard and leadership programs and to build sustainable lifesaving organizations.

We thank National Trainers **Lisa Adams**, **Patrick D'Almada** and **Perry Smith** for their leadership in assisting Antigua, Grenada, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos to accomplish their drowning-prevention goals in 2025.

LEADERSHIP

The Leadership Activity Centre contributes to the Society's mission by developing the instructors, coaches, examiners and trainers who teach Ontarians how to swim, how to rescue, and how to be safe in, on and around the water. Leadership supports the mandates of Training Programs, Lifesaving Sport, Safety Standards, Management Training, Public Education and Area Services.

National Trainer reappointment

National trainers are experienced and highly skilled leaders who play a vital role in developing instructor trainers across the province. In April, the Lifesaving Society reappointed 34 National Trainers for a new two-year term.

YRAC Spring Thing

VP of Training Program **Patrick King**, VP of Leadership **Kerry Wakefield** and First Aid Manager **JP Molin** delivered an information session on the Society's certification review process. The session explored what a certification review entails and its implications for both individuals and affiliates. Presenters outlined the circumstances that can trigger the review, along with warning signs that suggest program delivery may be compromised. Real-world scenarios – ranging from the surprisingly unusual to the seemingly routine – were examined to illustrate where issues arose, what went wrong and how they could have been prevented. The session emphasized the importance of strong oversight and consistent adherence to Lifesaving Society policies and procedures to maintain the integrity of training and certification standards.

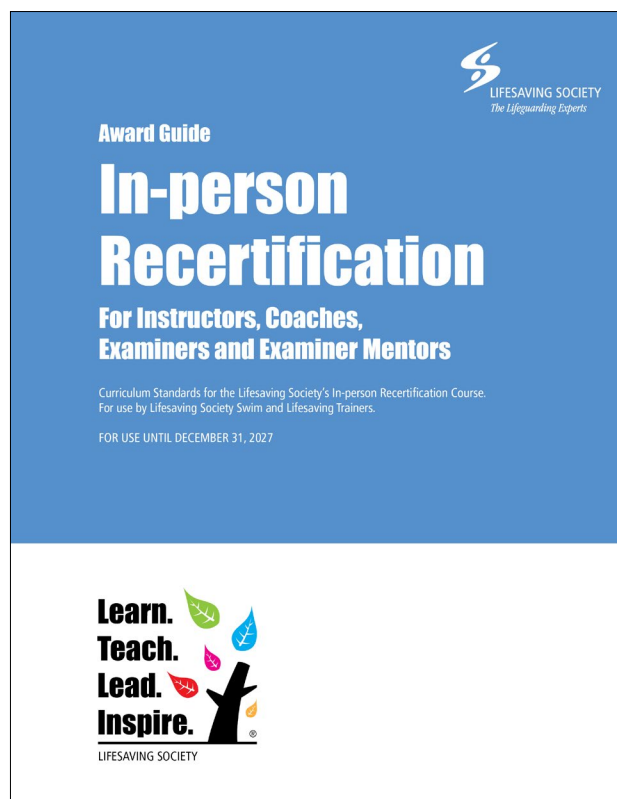


National Trainer – Leadership Opportunities

From July through November, Leadership Council engaged several National Trainers to lend their experience, expertise and passion for the Lifesaving Society while contributing to a series of mini-projects listed below.

2026–2027 In-person recertification course updated

Council Chair **Elisabeth Drouillard** – together with her National Trainer committee – **Lynda Kissner**, **Jerry Lynch**, and **Marek Holke** has completed the revision of the *In-person Recertification Award Guide*. The updated guide features new and engaging learning activities, along with additional trainer resources to help ensure that the courses remain relevant and effective in recertifying and refreshing instructors, coaches, examiners and examiner mentors. This updated resource will be in use by trainers until December 31, 2027.



National Trainer 2025 Summit Preparation

Council Chair **Tamara Wood**, together with her National Trainer Committee – **Juanita Bueschleb** and **Craig Jenner** – reviewed the feedback from the 2024 National Trainer Summit and used it to develop the agenda, content and activities for the 2025 virtual Summit.

National Trainer Communication Plan

Council Chair **Charlene Pugh**, together with her National Trainer Committee – **Juanita Bueschleb**, **Heather Morris-Stokes**, **Samantha Slofstra** and **Carolyn Tyner** – developed a communication plan to help strengthen the National Trainer community. The first initiative under this plan was the creation of the National Trainer Who's Who.

Leadership Library PowerPoint Refresh

In July, the updated and refreshed slide decks for Instructor courses (Assistant, Swim, Lifesaving, First Aid and National Lifeguard), as well as Examiner and Trainer courses, were made available in the Leadership Library. The resources were revised to align with the *Instructor Manual*, *Examiner Handbook* and *Trainer Manual*, in both English and French. The updated slide decks support trainers in delivering consistent, high-quality training. Thank you to **Kerry Wakefield**, **Elisabeth Drouillard**, **Jason Jolicoeur**, **Charlene Pugh**, **Tiffany Vis** and **Tamara Wood** for your work on these resources.

New National Trainer Recruitment

In September, the Leadership Council conducted interviews to recruit new National Trainers, the first new recruitment since 2017. Thank you to **Kerry Wakefield**, **Charlene Pugh**, and **Tamara Wood** for developing the process, conducting the interviews and assessing the candidates.

National Trainer Summit

Thirty National Trainers from Ontario, along with ten National Trainer candidates, came together virtually on November 1 to share, network and provide input to the Society. Thank you to **Tamara Wood** for leading the charge on this valuable opportunity, supported by **Juanita Bueschleb** and **Craig Jenner**, and with the guidance of VP **Kerry Wakefield** and Council Chairs **Elisabeth Drouillard**, **Charlene Pugh**, **Stephen Tolmie** and **Tiffany Vis** in executing the event.

PRO Expo presentation

The Leadership Council developed the “So, the Swim Instructors are Certified, Now What?” presentation for the 30th anniversary of PRO in November. The presentation highlighted creative ideas and practical resources to support affiliates in onboarding new instructors and continuing to develop existing instructional staff. Special thanks to presenters **Tiffany Vis** and **Tamara Wood**.

National Trainer Course

Ten National Trainer candidates completed the National Trainer Course held on November 29 in Toronto and December 10 virtually. Thanks to **Kerry Wakefield**, **Charlene Pugh**, and **Tamara Wood** for the extensive work involved in designing, preparing and delivering this course. These candidates must now successfully apprentice on a Trainer Course before being appointed as a National Trainer.

Quality assurance and certification review

The effectiveness of the Society's training programs relies on maintaining its certification standards. In 2025, numerous written complaints regarding standards, program delivery, and the conduct of members and volunteers were investigated. These investigations led to five formal Certification Reviews, resulting in sanctions, temporary suspensions, revocations, or decertification for various offences.

Thank you to VPs **Patrick King** and **Kerry Wakefield** for taking a lead role on behalf of the Board of Directors and to the following volunteers who were panelists: **Lisa Brandie**, **Cynthia Cakebread**, **Elisabeth Drouillard**, **Sarah Ingleton**, **Jason Jolicoeur**, **Lynda Kissner**, **Penny Lecour**, **Jerry Lynch**, **Jennifer Miller**, **Heather Morris-Stokes**, **Sarah Newton**, **Andrew Oman**, **Sylvia Pearson**, **Charlene Pugh**, **Shanna Reid**, **Katie Short**, **Samantha Slofstra**, **Julie Turnbull** and **Adrian Wong** for all their time and hard work.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Management Training contributes to the mission of the Society by providing training and certification opportunities for leadership personnel who help aquatic facility owners, managers and operators prevent drowning and water-related incidents.

Thank you to Vice President **Sean Duffy**, Professional Development Chair **Catherine Corriveau**, Aquatic Management Training Chair **Jerry Lynch**, Pool Operator Chair **Jonathan Wyatt**, Management Proficiency Chair **Jennifer Fruscella**, Webinar Chair **Nikolay Nikolov** and Safety Management Inspection Courses Chair **Viktor Verblac**.

Pool Operations

Work progressed on the revision of the Society's Pool Operator programs in preparation for new leadership materials. A survey was conducted to gather input on the proposed revisions and the results were reviewed by the Management Training Council. With additional feedback from the field, the Council of Officers approved Management Training's motion to merge the Society's two-level Pool Operator program into a single-level course. Work has now shifted to developing updated program content and instructor resources.

Aquatic Staffing Shortage Addendum Report

Work continued on addressing staffing challenges by collaborating with various stakeholders to publish the Aquatic Staffing Shortage Addendum Report, which is available on the Society's website.

State of Aquatic Staff in Ontario Survey

A survey was developed and launched to gain a clearer understanding of the current staffing landscape. It was distributed across a broad range of affiliates and the focus will now shift to compiling the responses and conducting a thorough analysis of the findings.

Webinars

2025 was a highly productive webinar year, hosting multiple sessions and establishing an annual calendar of offerings for 2025–2026. Throughout the year, the webinars supported more than 800 registered attendees in the effective management of safe aquatic facilities. All sessions were recorded and added as resources on the Lifesaving Society website.

In 2025, the webinar series hosted by **Nikolay Nikolov** featured the following: *Pilot Evaluation of Lighting Conditions in Indoor Swimming Pools* with **Dr. Chun-Yip Hon** and **Allison Pan**; *From Policy to Pool Deck: Understanding Ontario's New Public Pools Regulation Amendments* presented by **Janice Carroll**, **Mahesh Patel** and **Bryan Zhao**; and *Strategies to Protect Your Water: Optimizing Zones and Stations for Stronger Supervision* with **Kellee Hogan**, **Shanna Reid** and **Joey Rusnak**.

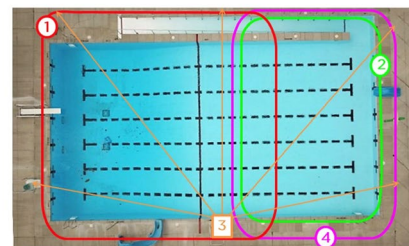
Pilot evaluation of lighting conditions in indoor swimming pools

Allison Pan and Dr. Chun-Yip Hon

School of Occupational and Public Health
Toronto Metropolitan University



Where do we need more supervision?



YRAC

In May, **Catherine Corriveau** provided remarks on behalf of the Society, highlighting upcoming webinars, ongoing research on heat stress, a lifesaving sport video, a staff shortage report, inquest and court findings, regulation updates and revisions to the pool operations program.

SAFETY STANDARDS

Safety Standards contributes to the mission of the Society by setting and clarifying standards and by providing tools that help pool and waterfront owners, managers and operators prevent drowning and maximize public safety.

Under the leadership of Vice President **Lisa Adams**, the Safety Standards Council welcomed new Chair **Alex Chu** (Technology).

Research partnerships

Under the direction of **Wasi Rizvi**, the Society continued its research partnership with Toronto Metropolitan University. The primary focus was a project examining the effects of heat stress on lifeguards. This included applying for external funding, partnering with affiliates for data collection and collaborating with an intern. The project aimed to provide guidance for organizations to better protect their lifeguards from the impact of heat stress on performance.

Audit services

In 2025, the Lifesaving Society completed 20 safety audits of swimming pools and waterfronts across Ontario.

Safety Audit Services Chair **Patrick D'Almada** continued the development of an aquatic industry safety awards program, updated audit resources for 2025, and oversaw the training and recertification of staff. Updates to the audit database reflected current standards and included modifications to improve audit report recommendations.

Incident management resources

Under the leadership of Incident Management Chair **Teresa Taylor**, the following resources were developed:

- **Major Incident Management Toolbox**

A new resource was designed to help supervisory staff and pool operators respond effectively following serious incidents. The toolbox outlines clear steps, practical tools, and communication supports to assist with recovery and coordination after major events. It will soon be available on the Society's website.

- **New Staff Training Package**

A Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training module was created, including a PowerPoint presentation and a lesson plan. This module is designed to strengthen staff preparedness and resilience in the aftermath of critical incidents.

- **Affiliate Feedback Tool**

A post-incident tool was developed to collect feedback from affiliates one to two months after a major incident. This feedback will help the Society assess the effectiveness of its resources and identify opportunities to better support members during times of need.

Regulation Review

In 2025, under the guidance of Chair **Janice Carroll**, the Regulation Review Committee focused on extensive updates to the *Guide to Ontario Public Pools Regulation*, which is now available. The *Backyard Pool Safety Guidelines* are under review to update information and improve delivery to the target audience. Work is underway to update the former *Guide to Waterslides*.

Court and Inquest

Rob Richardson, Chair of the Court and Inquest Committee, submitted the Amelia Yeoman Inquest Report for approval by the Safety Standards Council. The report was subsequently posted in 2025 on the Society's website as a resource for pool operators. The committee has since turned its attention to a case involving the drowning of a young man in Algonquin Park.

Safety Standards

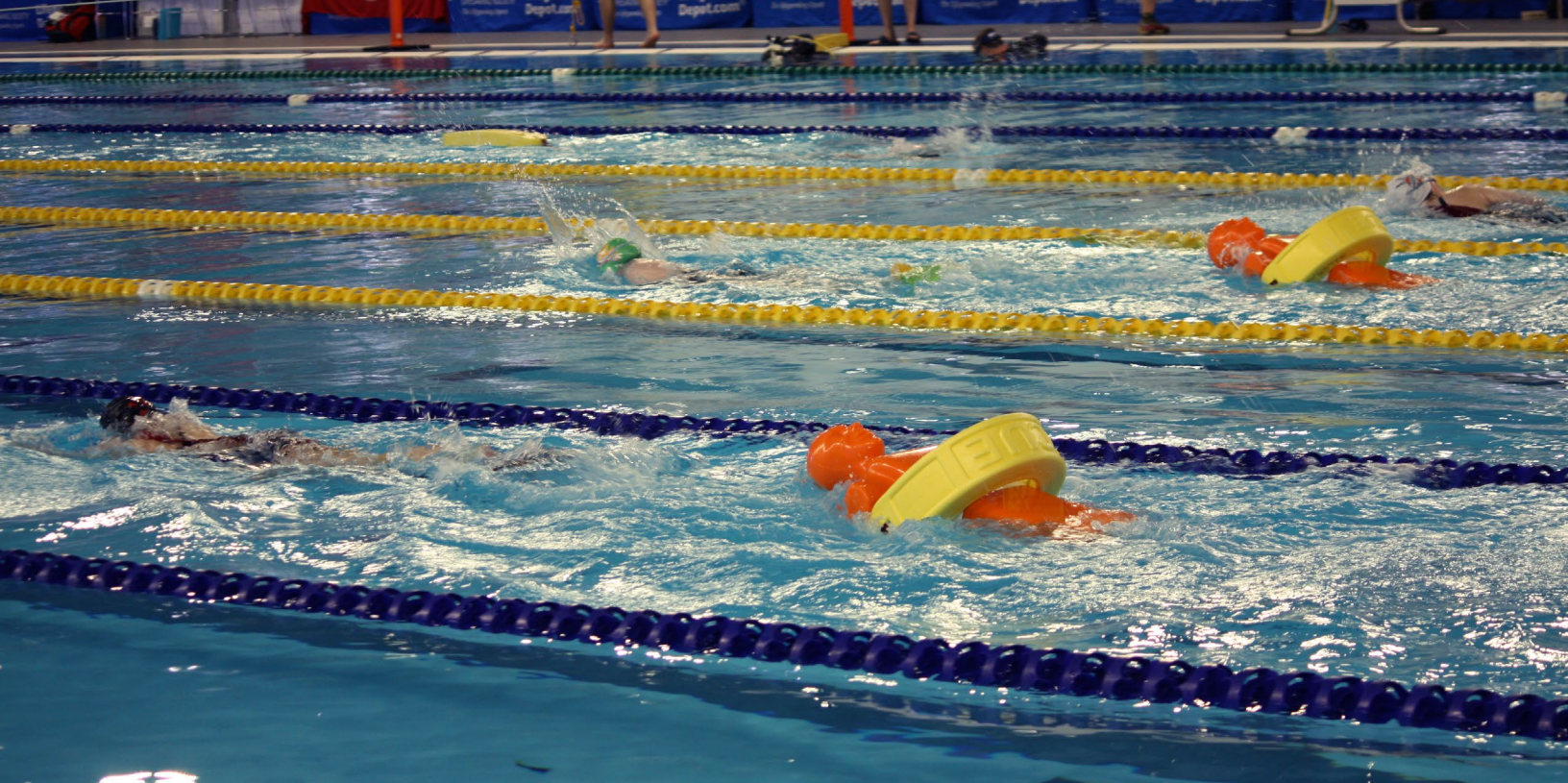
All existing safety standards are now accessible on the Lifesaving Society Ontario website. Safety Standards Chair **Andrea Slade** is leading an initiative to develop a new standard on the use of electronic devices in aquatic facilities. Nearly 400 surveys on this topic were received from affiliates, providing valuable feedback for the draft proposal, which is expected to be finalized and approved in 2026.

National Safety Standards Commission

Representing Ontario on the National Safety Standards Commission, **Michael Shane** began work on the development of a national waterfront standard and a national safety audit program.

Expert witness

In 2025, the Lifesaving Society was retained as an expert in twelve cases to assist law firms in reviewing aquatic incidents in Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and Prince Edward Island.



LIFESAVING SPORT

Lifesaving sport is the only sport whose skills are first learned for humanitarian purposes. Through lifesaving sport, the Lifesaving Society seeks to engage and inspire youth in our drowning prevention mission.

The Lifesaving Sport community in Ontario experienced a remarkable year, highlighted by 11 sanctioned regional competitions and seven provincial championships. This year saw the participation of 743 competitors across 29 clubs in our provincial championships, showcasing exceptional athleticism, teamwork, and dedication to lifesaving sport and its drowning-prevention mission.

Additionally, four Telegames were held, drawing 806 participants from 20 clubs. The Telegames continue to be a vital initiative, connecting athletes from different regions and fostering grassroots engagement in lifesaving competition.

Ontario hosted the Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships in Windsor, marking the event's return to the city following the Canadian Championships in June 2023, the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships in September 2023, and now again with the Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships in May 2025. A big thank you to locals **Jason Jolicoeur** and **Stephen Tolmie** for their help in organizing the venue and the volunteers who made the event a success. We thank the City of Windsor for their continued support of lifesaving sport.

Both national championships had great turnouts, with Ontario leading the way in overall attendance. We had 127 of 212 athletes in the pool and 39 of 155 athletes at the beach. Further, the **Lifesaving Club of Markham** continued its provincial dominance by winning the club banner at the Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships. We thank all the clubs and parents who made it possible for their athletes to travel and represent Ontario at the national level.

On the international stage, Ontario athletes represented the province with pride and excellence. At the Orange Cup in Rotterdam, Netherlands, Ontario was represented by **Oliver Kalavriziotis** (athlete), **Tara Vanderlinden** (official), and **Kathleen Finn** (manager). For the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships 2025, held in Swansea, Wales, Ontario contributed a strong delegation of 2 athletes, 11 officials, and 2 support personnel including athletes **Sydney Shemilt** and **Chloe Chen** along with coach **Chantique Carey-Payne**. The Lifesaving Society also provided essential equipment support for the national team, ensuring Ontario competitors performed at their best.

Ontario Championships Highlights

- ON Lifeguard Championships
 - » 13 teams with 42 competitors
 - » Hosted by the Town of Essex
 - » 4-Person Team Champions: **The Elderly: Sandrine Ah-Kim, Alyssa Arcaina, Madison Mitran and Hannah Zhang**
 - » 2-Person Team Champions: **Got Bandages?: Zak Kolasa and Rylee Livingston**
- ON Senior/Masters Pool Championships
 - » 109 Senior athletes and 31 Masters athletes representing 16 clubs
 - » Hosted by the **City of Orillia**
 - » Masters Champions: **Vaughan Lifesaving Club**
 - » Senior Champions: **Lifesaving Club of Markham**
- ON Junior Pool Championships
 - » 409 athletes from 24 clubs
 - » Hosted by the **City of Markham**
 - » Champions: **Lifesaving Club of Markham**
- ON Waterfront Championships
 - » 152 competitors (57 Junior, 89 Senior, 6 Masters) from 10 clubs
 - » A two-day event in the **Town of Saugeen Shores**
 - » Senior Champions: **Saugeen Shores Lifesaving Club**
 - » Junior Champions: **Saugeen Shores Lifesaving Club**
 - » Masters Champions: **City of Ottawa Beaches**
- Overall Provincial Champions
- Ontario Lifesaving Pool Champions: **Lifesaving Club of Markham**
- Ontario Lifesaving Waterfront Champions: **Saugeen Shores Lifesaving Club**
- Ontario Lifesaving Club Champions: **Lifesaving Club of Markham**

The success of competitions relies heavily on the dedication of officials and volunteers. We extend our gratitude to the following stellar officials:

- Meet Managers and Referees - 2025 Ontario Championships: **Cynthia Cakebread, Connor Marois, Sarah Ingleton, Ryan Foster, Rebecca Boyd, Edmund Chan, Adrian Wong, Dawson Parke, Tara Vanderlinden, Lorraine Wilson-Saliba and Carmen Wong.**

- Canadian Championships: **Cynthia Cakebread** (Chief Referee), **Rebecca Boyd** (Chief Referee), **Edmund Chan** (Deputy Referee), **Shanna Reid** (Deputy Referee), **Sarah Ingleton** (Deputy Referee), **Noreen Campbell, Paul Stone, Jeff Schultz, Judith Schultz, Zachary Schultz, Lorraine Wilson-Saliba, Ryan Foster, Tara Vanderlinden, Daniel Di Matteo, Brenda Hotton, Bruce Hollowell, Clotilde Anne-Marie Friedmann, Finn Vanderlinden, Mandy Chen, Michelle Amar, Nolan Pitt, Perry Smith, Jason Jolicoeur, Sarah Newton, Dawson Parke, Henry Hui and Stephen Tolmie.**
- Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships: **Edmund Chan** (Deputy Referee), **Sarah Ingleton** (Deputy Referee), **Shanna Reid** (Event Director), **Cynthia Cakebread, Lorraine Wilson-Saliba, Michelle Amar, Hugo Rodrigues, Perry Smith, Paul Stone, Bruce Hollowell and Rebecca Boyd.**

The Society is proud of the achievements and growth within the sport community in 2025. The combination of regional, provincial, national and international successes highlights Ontario's leadership in lifesaving sport.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Lifesaving Sport Council led by Vice President **Jeff Schultz** and the Lifesaving Sport Chairs: **Jeff McCurdy** (Event Management), **Ryan Foster** (Lifeguard Competitions), **Brittany Wong** (Outreach), **Hugo Rodrigues** (Officials), **Rebecca Boyd** (Technical), **Kara Parkins** (Athlete Representative), **Emma Phillips** (Social Media), **Jeremy Wong** and **Leslie Aziz** (Coaching).

We look forward to building on this momentum in the upcoming year and continuing to inspire excellence in lifesaving sport across Ontario.



Zak Kolasa and a fellow rescuer compete in a Lifesaving Sport event.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public Education contributes to the mission of the Society by increasing awareness of the risks associated with activities in, on and around water. The aim is to modify Ontarians' at-risk behaviour to eliminate drowning and water-related injury.

School grant program

The Society approved applications for 58,816 Grade 3 students and 10,291 Grade 7 students for Swim to Survive® and Swim to Survive®+ training, respectively, for the 2024/25 school year.

The school grant programs would not be possible without the generous support of the **Ontario Ministry of Education** since 2006. In August 2024, the Ministry confirmed a grant of \$1.7 million to support the Society's school grant program through the 2024/2025 school year.

In 2025, new Swim to Survive and Swim to Survive+ school grant program teacher resources for in-class lessons such as activity sheets, parent and teacher letters and updated lesson plans, which are all available on the Society's website.

Special thanks to **Jillian Hamilton** for her guidance and assistance as part of the Application Approval Committee. The Society greatly appreciates the long-standing and continuing support of **PPL Aquatic, Fitness and Spa Group** for the Swim to Survive and Swim to Survive+ programs.

National Drowning Prevention Week

National Drowning Prevention Week (NDPW) was celebrated July 20–26, 2025. It focuses community and media attention on drowning and encourages news releases, television and radio interviews and public demonstrations and events promoting our messaging.

The NDPW 2025 theme was Safer Together. Ontario incorporated a focus on lifejacket wear for all age groups. Like salt and pepper and peanut butter and jam, lifejackets and water go hand-in-hand.

Public Education representatives attended 12 community events over the week, making approximately 11,000 in-person touchpoints. Special thanks to Mustang Survival and Salus Marine Wear Inc., for donating more than \$3,000 worth of lifejackets and gear to promote lifejacket wear.



World Drowning Prevention Day

Falling during NDPW, the UN General Assembly Resolution on Global Drowning Prevention designated July 25 as World Drowning Prevention Day. To mark the day, 24 Ontario buildings and monuments participated in the "Light Up Blue" campaign. Thank you to all who participated including **CN Tower, Bracebridge Falls, Brant St. Pier (Burlington), Mississauga Clock Tower, Niagara Falls, the OTTAWA sign at Byward Market, the HAMILTON sign, Welland Bridge, London City Hall, Guelph City Hall, Orillia Recreation Centre, Vaughan City Hall, Sarnia City Hall** and **Jumbo the Elephant** in Elgin County.



The Jumbo the Elephant Monument in St. Thomas lit up blue in recognition of World Drowning Prevention Day.

Lifejacket Contribution Program

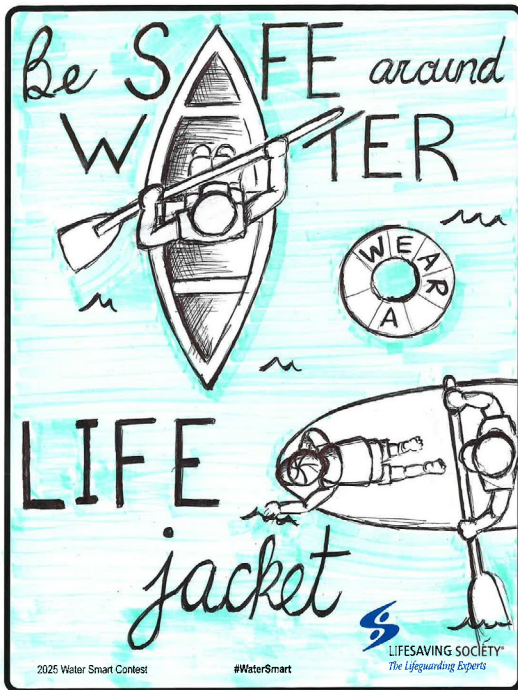
The Society launched the Lifejacket Contribution Program in 2025 to support new and existing local lifejacket lending programs. The Contribution Program provides successful applicants with up to nine adult-sized, Transport Canada-approved lifejackets, conditional on applicants matching the donation with an equal number of new infant/child/youth lifejackets. The Lifejacket Contribution Program supported six lending programs in 2025, giving out a total of 51 lifejackets.

Water Smart contest

Municipal Chair **Judith Schultz** led the 2025 Water Smart Contest, encouraging kids to display their understanding of water safety habits through art. There were 92 submissions. Fifty prizes (a children's book) were distributed to affiliates running the coloring contest for children 5 and under. The provincial winners from the 6–10-year-old and 11–15-year-old age categories were **Alyssa Chen** (age 10) and **Abigail Aves** (age 13).



Lifejacket Sticker Design Winner
6–10 years old
Alyssa Chen



Lifejacket Poster Design Winner
11–15 years old
Abigail Aves

RESEARCH

The Lifesaving Society reports on drowning and unintentional water-related deaths. These reports provide a comprehensive fact base to guide the Society and others in developing effective drowning prevention solutions. Water-related death data for Canadian provinces and territories is extracted from the Offices of Chief Coroners and Medical Examiners and analyzed by the Drowning Prevention Research Centre Canada (DPRC) – the lead agency for drowning and water-incident research in Canada.

In 2025, the DPRC produced 111 reports.

Interim drowning data

Interim data offers a glimpse into the drowning mortality rate of any given year. Interim data on fatal drownings is derived from internet and media monitoring services across Canada. This data is later reconciled with Coroner and Medical Examiners' reports. Annually, it provides information on approximately half of all drowning fatalities in Canada.

In 2025, the DPRC produced weekly interim/preliminary drowning reports from May to September for Lifesaving Society Branches including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, the Maritimes and Northern Canada.

In Ontario, preliminary interim data showed an overall 21% increase in 2025 drowning incidents compared to 2024. Increased media reports involving aquatic incidents were reported in 2025 (+21%), non-aquatic incidents (+25%) and boating incidents (+10%).

In Ontario, more drownings among children under 5 years were reported than in previous years and the number of media reports involving young adults 15–24 years increased (+57%). There were noticeable increases (+42%) in reported drownings among adults 65 years and older, which were offset by a decrease in reports involving adults 30–39 years (–37%).

By comparison, interim data for Canada as a whole indicated a slight overall decrease in fatal drownings (–10%). Increases in reported drownings in Nova Scotia (+86%), Ontario (+20%), British Columbia (+19%) and Quebec (+5%) were offset by decreases in New Brunswick (–20%), Newfoundland (–14%) and Alberta (–13%). Reported boating fatalities (–15%) and non-aquatic fatalities (–10%) decreased.

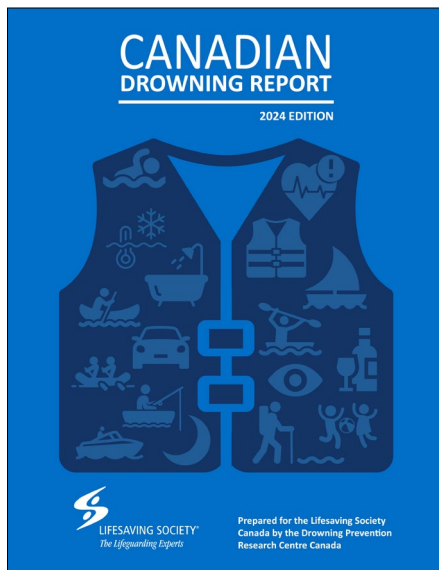
Non-fatal drowning

In 2025, the DPRC produced an *Ontario Non-fatal Drowning Report*.

Fatal drowning

In 2025, the DPRC produced provincial/territorial infographic reports for Lifesaving Society Branches in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Québec, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Maritimes and Northern Canada. The DPRC also produced a 2025 national infographic report and a *2025 Canadian Drowning Report* for Lifesaving Society Canada, with the latter coming out in early 2026.

The most current data was provided to each Branch. Nationally, data was available for years up to and including 2021. In Ontario, data was available for years up to and including 2021.



Transport Canada recreational boating-related fatality reports

The DPRC produced monthly recreational preliminary boating-related fatality reports for Transport Canada beginning in May 2025. Work also began to produce an updated Annual Recreational Boating-related Fatalities Report for data years up to 2021 and Annual Preliminary Recreational Boating-Related Fatalities Report with data years 2022–2025.

Studies focusing on drowning

In 2025, the DPRC collaborated with other researchers to publish three studies.

Lay rescuer intervention study

This study, published in the journal *Injury Prevention*, revealed lay rescuers (bystanders without formal training) play a vital role in saving lives during drowning incidents, but often at great personal risk. Between 2010 and 2019, 4,535 people died from unintentional drowning in Canada. Lay rescuers were involved in 1,846 rescue attempts, often using high-risk, contact-based techniques (48.5%). Tragically, 74 lay rescuers fatally drowned while trying to save someone else. Lay rescuers were found to be more likely to intervene when the drowning person was a child, female, in a pool, only one person was drowning, and no ice was present. The study calls for expanded drowning prevention efforts that go beyond swimming skills and CPR and indicates that public education should include safe, non-contact rescue techniques.

Supervision and guardianship of Canadian youth

This study looked at risk factors and population statistics to determine the likelihood of a rescue or rescue attempt taking place. The study used fatal drowning records ($n = 638$) from coroners and medical examiners across Canada (2006–2016). When population statistics and situational factors were considered, bystander type (adult, minors only, or alone/not witnessed) became the primary way to predict whether a rescue attempt was likely. Compared to infants, older children and teens were less likely to be rescued, and a bystander being there did not mean there was a capable adult supervising. This finding is interesting because teenagers (15–18 years) accounted for 33.5% of drownings, followed by toddlers (2–4 years, 21.9%) and children (5–11 years, 20.5%). Lakes and rivers posed the highest risk. Rescue attempts were less likely in ocean settings.

Demographic, situational, and environmental risk factors

This research involved a three-phase risk assessment using unintentional water-related death records ($n = 5105$) from all Canadian provinces and territories from January 2006 to December 2016. It also included census boundaries, hydrological shapefiles, and cellphone towers. Results show that minors were most likely to be the responder attempting the rescue when someone was alone drowning or was alone and/or unintentionally fell into the water. Seasonal analyses reveal risky peak times during evenings and weekends and demonstrate the importance of per capita calculations in comparing risk between differently sized populations. A unique approach was used to separate risk based on the probability of accessing cellular reception for emergency medical services at drowning locations.

MEMBER SERVICES

Member Services develops and maintains the corporate functions, systems and infrastructure required to support and service the membership of the Society.

Governance

The National Society is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors nominated by provincial/territorial branches and elected at the Society's AGM. National commissions are led by volunteer commissioners who report to the Board of Directors. These commissions are Training Programs, Lifesaving Sport, Safety Standards and International Relations. A management team is composed of senior staff of the 10 branches.

Lifesaving Society Ontario is governed by an elected volunteer Board of Directors with a volunteer Council of Officers and nine activity centre councils composed of professionals in recreation, education, business, finance, management and the medical and legal professions.

Ontario Board of Directors

The Board of Directors governs the Lifesaving Society Ontario in accordance with its mission and bylaws. Directors are elected for a two-year term by the Society's membership at the annual general meeting. No person or body external to the Society is entitled to appoint any directors. Directors appoint all officers, including council and area chairs and approve activity centre plans.

In July, President-elect **Paul Di Salvo** stepped down and was appointed VP without portfolio. Additionally, Treasurer **Crystal Maloney** was appointed President-elect.

LIFESAVING SOCIETY

Ontario Branch of The Royal Life Saving Society Canada. Established 1908.

Honorary Patron

The Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

2025 Board of Directors



John Macintyre
Governor



Jennifer Knights
President



Julie MacIsaac
Past President



Crystal Maloney
President-elect



Stanislav Bodrov
Corporate
Secretary



Cynthia Cakebread
VP Member
Services



Adrian Cossu
VP Information
Services



Sean Duffy
VP Management
Training



Diane English
VP Strategic
Planning



Patrick King
VP Training
Program



Kenn Little
VP Fundraising



Melissa Rydahl
VP Public
Education



Lisa Adams
VP Safety
Standards



Jeff Schultz
VP Lifesaving Sport



Kerry Wakefield
VP Leadership

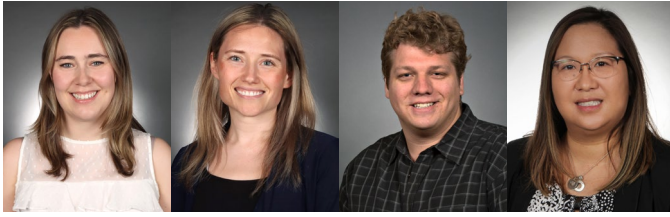


Paul Di Salvo
VP without
Portfolio



Brian Miess
CEO (ex-officio)

2025 Council of Officers



Alison Courtney

Megan Mintz

Mitch Blimkie

Judith Schultz



Jeff McCurdy

Hugo Rodrigues

Rob Richardson

Wasi Rizvi



Jerry Lynch

Nikolay Nikolov

Jennifer Miller

Christine Pelletier



Jacob Fitts

Heather
Morris-Stokes

Tiffany Vis

Tamara Wood



Pat Lewis

Eddie Tang

Jennifer Knights

Brian Miess
(ex-officio)

Ontario Council of Officers

The Council of Officers is composed of two representatives of each activity centre council (see below), the president as chair and the president-elect. Members of the Council of Officers are nominated by the respective activity centre council and appointed by the Board of Directors for two-year terms.

The Council of Officers represents active affiliate and award members; manages topics not assigned to a single activity centre (e.g., governance review) or topics that are the responsibility of multiple activity centre councils (e.g., affiliate recognition review); and monitors the work of the Board of Directors. Any member of the Society may attend and speak at meetings of the Council of Officers.

Activity Centre Councils

Lifesaving Society Ontario organizes its drowning prevention work in activity centres: Training Program, Leadership, Public Education, Safety Standards, Management Training, Lifesaving Sport, Fundraising, Member Services and Area Services.

Activity centre councils are chaired by the topical vice-president or by an individual appointed by the board. Councils are composed of portfolio chairs (appointed by the board for a two-year term) who oversee specific portfolios necessary to manage the work of the activity centre. Chairs recruit and develop committee members.

Any member of the Society may attend and speak at activity centre council meetings.

On the Lifesaving Sport Council, **Emma Phillips** was appointed as Sport Social Media Chair in February. In September, **Brittany Wong** resigned as the Lifesaving Sport Outreach Chair and **Leslie Aziz** and **Jeremy Wong** became Coaching Co-chairs.

On the Public Education Council, **Briar McCaw** was appointed as Research Chair in February. **Rishana Piranthapan** and **Kelly MacDonald** were appointed Swim to Survive Co-Chairs in September. In November, **Christine Wareing** resigned as Community Outreach Chair.

On the Leadership Council, **Jason Jolicoeur** resigned as the Leadership Chair in September and was replaced by **Stephan Tolmie** in November.

On the Member Services Council, **Melanie Corbett** was appointed Rescue Commendation Chair and **Alberto Berumen** resigned as the Volunteer Personnel Chair, both in January.

On the Management Training Council, **Nikolay Nikolov** became the Webinar Chair in January with **Catherine Corriveau** taking on his previous position of Professional Development Chair. In November, **Viktor Verblac** resigned as Safety Management Inspector Course Chair.

On the Safety Standards Council, **Kurtis Adamus** was appointed Technology Chair in January, but resigned from the position in September. **Alex Chu** took over the role in November.



Vice President Melissa Rydahl (*centre*) presents the Water Smart® Award to staff from Norfolk County, recognizing their outstanding contributions to drowning prevention education in their community.

Photo by John Bauld

Members of the board, activity centre councils and the Council of Officers are listed on the inside back cover. The Society's CEO is an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors and Council of Officers. Senior Officers and staff Directors are ex-officio members of their corresponding activity centre councils.

Area Services Council

The Area Services Council provides support services for Area Chairs, their volunteer personnel and the individual members who support community delivery of drowning prevention activity. The VP Member Services chairs the council, which is comprised of the Area Services Chair and five Regional Representatives elected by area chairs.

Area Chairs

The Board of Directors appoints chairs to represent the Society in designated geographic areas. These volunteer area chairs operate in 38 regions of Ontario. Area chairs recruit volunteer committee members and field representatives to help serve the area.

In January, **Amy Clarke** and **Makinna Givens** became Co-Chairs for Temiskaming, replacing **Sheryl Gilbert**.

In April, **Jenn Ciavoliello** resigned as Toronto-Etobicoke York Chair, and was replaced by **Scott Findlay** and **Justin Cordivani**. **Valerie Morgado** resigned as Toronto-Scarborough Chair and was replaced by **Erin Sin** and **Christine Wang**. **Antonio Ciccone** was appointed Chair for Toronto-North York. **Micah Sernno** resigned as Chair for Toronto-East York and Toronto-West Toronto, York, and **Erin Lemm** became Chair for Toronto-West Toronto, York. **Quinn MacDonald** was appointed Co-Chair for Niagara.

In September, **Makinna Givens** resigned as Co-Chair in Temiskaming. **Chris Fields** resigned as Chair in Sarnia-Lambton and was replaced by **Michelle Rottier**. And in Toronto-North York, **Wendy Hoehle** resigned as Chair and was replaced by **Nicole Wilson**.

In November, **Kaitlin Coleman** resigned as Chair in Nunavut and was replaced by **Benjamin LePage**. **Antonio Ciccone** resigned in Toronto-North York. In Grey-Bruce, **Marilyne Jones** resigned as Chair and was replaced by **Jordan Johnston**.

Member Services Council

Annual Conference

Lifesaving Society Ontario hosted its 116th Annual General Meeting and Affiliate Recognition Awards presentations on the evening of April 11, 2025, at the Hilton Toronto/Markham Suites Conference Centre and Spa. The Society's Area Chairs held a virtual Area Chair Conference earlier in the year.



Jocelyn Palm presents the Jocelyn Palm Cup to Jennifer McRoberts and Shelley Makepeace representing the City of Hamilton – the affiliate making the most outstanding contribution to the National Lifeguard program in 2024.

Photo by John Bauld

Eva McDonald Memorial Prize

Mariam Adams was the recipient of the 2025 Eva McDonald Memorial Prize, which is presented to an undergraduate in the University of Toronto Faculty of Kinesiology & Physical Education who makes a significant contribution to the development of aquatics and lifesaving education through the university and the Lifesaving Society.

The prize is awarded jointly by the Lifesaving Society and the Faculty's Alumni Association. Eva McDonald, a member of the Lifesaving Society for over 40 years, died in 1969 while serving as Ontario President. Eva graduated from the Faculty and was President of its Alumni Association.

Hilary M. Weston Award

One individual earned Lifesaving Society certifications through the Hilary M. Weston Award for youth who would otherwise be unable to afford to participate in the Society's training programs. The Society provides selected youth with the examination and required support literature. Award recipients undergo lifesaving training under the auspices of an affiliate member whom the Society invites to waive its registration fees.

The Society instituted the Hilary M. Weston Award in 2001 in grateful recognition of the Lieutenant Governor's Patronage of the Society from 1997–2002.



President Jennifer Knights (*centre*) presents the Scarborough Cup to Stacey Stevens, Iwona de Xavier and staff of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville – the municipal affiliate with the largest lifesaving program in a community with a population between 10,000 and 50,000.

Photo by John Bauld



Queen's Park Investiture of Royal Life Saving Society Commonwealth Honour Awards

Front row, from left: Jacob Fitts, Megan Mintz, Alexandra Brown, John Macintyre, Her Honour The Honourable Edith Dumont, Jennifer Knights, Adrian Cossu, Mark Paravani.

Back row, from left: Marta Wrzal, Shelley Makepeace, Jennifer McRoberts, Tiffany Vis, Sheryl Gilbert, Bruce Parkin, Scott Ruddle, George Turnbull, Sarah Newton, Leslie Aziz, Noreen Campbell.

Photo by John Bauld

Commonwealth Honour Awards

On December 9, 2025, the Society's Honorary Patron – **The Honourable Edith Dumont**, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario – hosted an investiture at Queen's Park for recipients of the Society's Commonwealth Honour Awards that recognize their volunteer leadership and service.

The Service Commendation, which honours volunteers for significant contributions to the aims of the Society, were awarded to: **Alexandra Brown, Jacob Fitts, Shelley Makepeace, Jennifer McRoberts, Megan Mintz and Tiffany Vis.**

The Service Medal acknowledges a minimum of five years of noteworthy service as a volunteer officer or committee member. Service Medals were awarded to **Noreen Campbell and Marta Wrzal.**

Recipients are eligible for a Bar to Service Medal at intervals of four years. The Bar to Service Medal was awarded to **Adrian Cossu, Sheryl Gilbert and George Turnbull.**

The Service Cross, which recognizes meritorious service of at least 15 years, was awarded to **Leslie Aziz, Sarah Newton, Bruce Parkin, Mark Paravani and Scott Ruddle.**



The Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (*right*) – presents Society volunteer Sarah Newton with a Service Cross, awards for more than 15 years of meritorious service.

Photo by John Bauld



Vice President Patrick King presents the Kirk Wipper Cup to Jennifer McPhee representing Carleton University – the affiliated university or college with the largest lifesaving program.

Photo by John Bauld

Rescue Award of Merit

The Rescue Award of Merit may be presented to Lifesaving Society certification holders for aquatic or non-aquatic rescues, or to non-award holders for water-related rescues. In 2025, the Society recognized 11 individuals in four separate incidents with the Rescue Award of Merit: **Callahan Kivell** and **Lyla Kivell**; **Ryan Atkinson** and **Cohen White**; **Maija Gulens**, **Emilio Reyes**, **Alex Chlorakos**, **Alex Holic** and **Alex Misevski**; **Avery Fam** and **Tessa Kitchen**; and **Enoch Nitri Kwakye**.



Governor John Macintyre (*far right*) presents the Rescue Award of Merit to Kaitlyn Burwell, Orlley Whitby, Emily Tran, Owen Hollowell and Jacob Miess.

Photo by John Bauld

Lifesaving Commendation

Though no one earned this award in 2025, the Lifesaving Commendation is awarded to Lifesaving Society certification holders working in a professional capacity and who, in the line of duty, perform a successful rescue in a life-threatening emergency requiring resuscitation.

Personnel

The Lifesaving Society Ontario builds organizational strength through a very healthy and diverse volunteer system. In 2025, Ontario staff and volunteers continued to contribute to the National Society and international initiatives.

Lifesaving Society Canada

Andrea Herrmann is the national Society's Past President and chairs the Nominations, Research, and Levy Review committees. **Jennifer Knights** is Ontario's Member Representative to the national Society. **Julie MacIsaac** is a member of the National Board of Directors and serves on the Human Resources Committee.

Brian Connors serves as Commissioner of the Safety Standards Commission on which **Michael Shane** and **Kathleen Finn** represents Ontario.



President Jennifer Knights (*centre*) presents the Burlington Cup to Zoe Kwan, Marika Foster and Giulia Pearl from the Town of Newmarket – the municipal affiliate with the largest lifesaving program in a community with a population between 50,000 and 100,000.

Photo by John Bauld

Kathleen Finn represents Ontario on the Lifesaving Sport Commission. **Steve Box** is the National Commissioner and serves on the Society's Finance and Audit Committee.

Perry Smith is the Commissioner-Elect. **Kathleen Finn** is National Team Administrator leading national team program activities on behalf of the commission.

Kathleen Finn was National Team Manager for the 2025 Commonwealth Championships and Orange Cup.

Patricia Kitchen is Public Education Commissioner. **Lisa Hanson Ouellette** represents Ontario on the commission.

Patrick D'Almada is Past Chair of the Society's International Relations Committee of which **Bob Clark** and **Perry Smith** are members.

Tasha Richardson serves as Training Program Commissioner-Elect. **Marek Holke** and **Patrick King** represent Ontario on the Training Program Commission.

Wendy Mahony provided provincial/territorial Branches with Member Management until her retirement in May 2025.

Peter Mahony now provides Member Management support to branches and was a member of the Subject Matter Expert Committee for the Digital Transformation Project in 2025.

International Life Saving Federation

Perry Smith serves as Secretary of the ILS Sport Commission.

RLSS Commonwealth

Bob Clark is a member of the Royal Life Saving Society Commonwealth Board of Trustees and chairs the RLSS Heritage Committee. **Rebecca Boyd** serves as Director, Sport Development.

Other national organizations

Michael Shane sits on the Standards Council of Canada. He and **Jerry Lynch** sit on the Blue Flag Jury for Canada.

Information and communication services

In 2025, we:

- Published four issues of our digital newsletter *Lifeline* for 202,800 subscribers.
- Distributed 32 direct email campaigns to members to support program delivery and Society initiatives.
- Launched an internal IT ticketing system to improve staff coordination, streamline issue resolution, enhance service accountability, and provide performance tracking across departments.
- Coordinated the network infrastructure installation for the new Member Services Centre, integrating secure data connectivity between the Centre and Head Office, including unified network architecture, access control systems and CCTV security across both locations.
- Participated in the launch of the new LifeguardDepot.com website in collaboration with Business Development and Communications, supporting system integration, payment processing, operational readiness, content management, design, photography copywriting and copyediting.



Dr. Steven Beerman (*centre*) presents the King Charles III Medal to recipients (*from left*) Former Governor Marc Neeb, Governor John Macintyre, Jocelyn Palm, former Society Executive Director, and Douglas Ferguson, former Society Executive Director.

Photo by John Bauld

Office staff

In 2025, the Society welcomed **Daniel Gurevich** (Information Service Specialist), **Shirlene Rhone** (Support Admin), **Rose McCourt** (Support Admin), **Janina Branscombe** (Public Education Coordinator), **Sally Liu** (HR Compensation Admin), **Hammed Chenzaie** (Corp. Communications Manager), **Mackenzie Kerekes** (Graphic Designer), **Zandra Jacinth Lawrence** (Sales Manager), **Heena Nikhath** (Information Service Specialist), **Bilal Naeem Khan** (Junior Developer) and **Sofia Nalband** (Accountant).

Lorna Seukumar was promoted to Account Manager. **Yvonne Gomez** moved to Accounting Clerk – Awards and Service Invoicing. **Anissa Spears** moved to Accounting Clerk (Merchandising Invoicing). **Dora Seaver** promoted to Customer Service Specialist. **Wendy Craggs** received a title change to Affiliate Specialist. **Ryan Ferguson** became the Publishing Manager. **Induja Barnes** moved to Publishing Coordinator. **Brian Kitamura** promoted to Lead Graphic Designer.

Part-time staff in 2025 included **Iris Harrison** (Receptionist); **Krystal Rush**, **Morgan Spears**, **Lauren Seukumar**, **Sasha Hon**, **Katherine Morgan** and **Alisha Safraj** (Support Admins). **Ed Bean** served as a part-time member of the Society's communications team and **Lauren Daleug** served as a part-time member of the Society's Research team.

We bid farewell to **Perry Smith**, who retired in April after 26 years of service, **Wendy Mahony** who retired in May after 52 years of service, and **Eva Leung** who retired in December after 6 years of service. **Salma Abdule** also left in January after 3 years of service, as did **Bianca Fazzari** in February after 1 year of service. Additionally, we bid farewell to the following part-time staff: **Sumaiyah Abdule**, **Ivtej Mann**, **Anjali Ramesh** and **Cynthia Vilvarajah**.



President Jennifer Knights (*centre*) presents the David Pretty Cup to Justin Cordivani, Nicola Taccone and Jonathan Brooker of the Town of Oakville – the municipal affiliate with the largest lifesaving program in a community with a population between 100,000 and 250,000.

Photo by John Bauld



Front row, from left: Brian Miess, Cherry Bertrand, Genevieve Fernandes, Iris Harrison, Pam D’Costa-Dupley, Nadia Luck, Fiona Ye, Amanda Wilson, Dora Seaver, Heena Nikath, Hammed Chenzaie. *Second row, from left:* Lorna Seukumar, Mackenzie Kerekes, Rose McCourt, Daniel Gurevich. *Third row, from left:* James Mahony, Catherine Reyes, Rebecca Meehan, Janina Branscombe, Eva Leung, Sally Liu, Laurie Priestman. *Fourth row, from left:* Juanita Bueschleb, Rachel LaForge, Yvonne Gomez, Ann Palmer, Daksha Moti, Manon Seiller, Sheri Stewart, Becky Lehman, Krystal Rush, Induja Barnes. *Fifth row, from left:* Brian Kitamura, Rocky Lu, Greg Parsons, Lesley Anderson, Marek Holke. *Sixth row, from left:* Peter Mahony, Tessa Clemens, Shirlene Rhone, Lori Groves, Victoria Donovan, Ryan Ferguson, Ateeq Laeeq, Zandra Lawrence, Vivian Murray-Black, Sindy Parsons, Sofia Nalband, Dawn Maragh. *Seventh row, from left:* Lisa Hanson Ouellette, Emma Cox, Daniel Di Matteo, Ed Bean. *Eighth row, from left:* Nicholas Tsenis, Liam Hollowell, Stephanie Bakalar, Ted Mabbayad, Naeem Iqbal. *Ninth row, from left:* JP Molin, Brennan Curtis, Kathleen Finn.

Photo by John Bauld

The Society employed the following permanent staff in 2025:

Genevieve Fernandes, Secretary to the CEO
Nadia Luck, Manager
Brian Miess, CEO
Ann Palmer, Manager

Training Programs

Cherry Bertrand, Specialist
Lori Groves, Manager
Marek Holke, Manager
Becky Lehman, Senior Officer
Rebecca Meehan, Admin Assistant
JP Molin, Manager
Sindy Parsons, Manager
Nicholas Tsenis, Manager

Research

Janina Branscombe, Coordinator
Tessa Clemens, Manager
Emma Cox, Manager
Lisa Hanson Ouellette, Senior Officer
Lucie Simoes, Drowning Research Associate

Finance

Naeem Iqbal, Accounts Payable
Yvonne Gomez, Accounts Receivable
Sofia Nalband, Accountant
Dawn Maragh, CFO
Laurie Priestman, Admin Assistant
Lorna Seukumar, Manager
Anissa Spears, Accounts Receivable
Fiona Ye, Manager

Information Services

Brennan Curtis, Manager
Liam Hollowell, Manager
Teodoro Mabbayad, Manager
Peter Mahony, Senior Officer
Ranjini Theivendram, Support Admin
Daniel Gurevich, Specialist
Heena Nikhath, Specialist
Bilal Naeem Khan, Junior Developer

IT Projects

Manon Seiller, Manager

Business Development

Pam D’Costa-Dupley, Admin Assistant
Zandra Jacinth Lawrence, Manager
Renata Jaciw-Zurakowsky, Senior Officer
Ateeq Laeeq, Manager
James Mahony, Shipper-Receiver
Greg Parsons, Order Desk
Amanda Wilson, Shipper-Receiver

Lifesaving Sport & Aquatic Safety Standards

Kathleen Finn, Senior Officer
Rocky Lu, Project Specialist
Aidan Miess, Manager
Michael Shane, Director

Communication Services

Stephanie Bakalar, Senior Officer
Juanita Bueschleb, Manager
Induja Barnes, Coordinator
Hammed Chenzaie, Manager
Victoria Donovan, Coordinator
Ryan Ferguson, Manager
Mackenzie Kerekes, Graphic Designer
Brian Kitamura, Lead Graphic Designer
Rachel Laforge, Admin Assistant

Operations

Wendy Craggs, Specialist
Daniel Di Matteo, Manager
Sally Liu, HR Compensation Admin
Rose McCourt, Support Admin
Daksha Moti, Support Admin
Vivian Murray-Black, Manager
Catherine Reyes, Support Admin
Shirlene Rhone, Support Admin
Dora Seaver, Specialist
Sheri Stewart, Senior Officer

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising activities contribute to the mission of the Society by raising money to support public education activities that prevent drowning and water-related injury.

Our 2025 Water Smart® and Swim to Survive® campaigns raised \$37,503. Volunteers and donors across Ontario accepted the challenge for fundraising in a variety of ways. We thank all our supporting affiliates. We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the members of the Fundraising Council for their dedicated efforts, including **Kenn Little**, Vice President; **Heather Kazan**, responsible for Fundraising Events; **Patricia Lewis**, overseeing Personal Giving; **Eddie Tang**, leading Social Media; and **Tony Zhang**, heading Planned Giving.

Community events

In 2025, our affiliates continued to organize Water Smart fundraising activities, including the sale of freezies, swim-a-thons, 500 Metre Swim and April Pools Day events. We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to the members of the Fundraising Council for their dedicated efforts, including **Kenn Little**, Vice President; **Heather Kazan**, responsible for Fundraising Events; **Patricia Lewis**, overseeing Personal Giving; **Eddie Tang**, leading Social Media; and **Tony Zhang**, heading Planned Giving.

PPL Swim-a-thon

PPL Aquatic, Fitness and Spa Group Inc. (Pool People Limited) raised \$26,337 in its annual swim-a-thon. Our thanks to **Paul Denstedt** (President), **Tim Bown** (Vice President and event organizer), event coordinator **Tim Bell** and the entire staff of 200 for their outstanding work.

In addition to PPL Aquatic, Fitness and Spa Group itself, we thank the following businesses that generously donated through PPL's swim-a-thon in support of the Society's Swim to Survive Plus program: **Backyard Brands Inc.**, **Badger Daylighting LP**, **Basic Concrete Cutting Inc.**, **Bradford Aquatic Group**, **Covertch Industries Limited**, **Dynamic Connections**, **Fred Sauer**, **Leading Edge Automotive Inc.**, **Mursatt Chemicals Ltd.**, **PPL Aquatic, Fitness & Spa**, **Professional Corporation**, **SCP Distributions**, **The Aries Group Inc.**, **Tony Battista Paving Inc.** and **TRUX International**.



Darnell Challenge Cup

The Society awards its Darnell Cup to affiliate members or institutions that demonstrate a commitment to drowning prevention by mobilizing staff and volunteers to raise funds for Water Smart education. The Cup is presented in three categories: Open, Municipal and Single-Facility. For 2025:

PPL Aquatic, Fitness and Spa Group Inc. (Pool People Limited) led the Open category for the eighteenth year in a row. Since 2008, PPL Inc. has donated more than \$499,174 for Swim to Survive and Swim to Survive Plus programs.

The **Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury** led the Municipal Facility category with \$3,271. Our thanks to **Teresa Taylor**, Aquatic Supervisor; **Cortnee Andrade**, Aquatic Programmer; **Jada DiTotto** and **Leah Palonen**, Aquatic Leaders and the BWG staff.

The **Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury** led the Single-Facility category with \$3,271. Our thanks to **Teresa Taylor**, Aquatic Supervisor; **Cortnee Andrade**, Aquatic Programmer; **Jada DiTotto** and **Leah Palonen**, Aquatic Leaders and the BWG staff.

Corporate and partner support

The work of the Lifesaving Society is made possible in part by the generous support of our partners. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of **The BLG Foundation**, **Michael and Libby Goldgrub Foundation**, **Raging Dragons of Chatham-Kent** and the **Waterloo Wellington Regional Aquatic Council**.

Gaming

Nevada Lottery tickets netted \$37,240.75 thanks to participating Ontario retail store owners.

David and Olive Pretty Archives

In 2025, we received donations to this fund from **Wendy & R. Douglas Ferguson**, and **Scott Ruddle**. The fund supports the collection, preservation and display of materials important to the historical record of the Society's lifesaving work. The fund is named in honour of Mrs. J.M. (Olive) Pretty, Secretary-Treasurer of the Ontario Branch (1932 to 1956) and her son David who served in multiple volunteer roles over eight decades including Governor of the Lifesaving Society Ontario.

Megan Holliday Memorial Fund

The fund honours the memory of Megan Holliday, an exceptional athlete from London, Ontario and covers the lifeguard certification costs of London-area recipients. There were no recipients in 2025.

Royal Circle of Friends

The Society acknowledges donors who have made deferred gifts through wills, trusts, insurance or estate plans. Thank you to **Mark Feigenbaum** and **Cheryl Sibany**.

In memoriam donations

The Society is honoured to be the recipient of in memoriam donations. In 2025, donations were received in memory of **Luc Cepisca** from Samantha Mincone, **Lyndon Joachim Fernandes** from Kenneth Little, **Andre Joseph Gratton** from Laurie Priestman, **Graydon Knights** from Jennifer Knights, **Karlos Kwok-On Lau** from Carmela Baylosis, Francis Chan, Kai Yee Chan, Vera Chen, Samuel Cheung, Audrey YuenSang Chiang, Sahar Dakhili, Mei-Chien Lucia Fan, Ivy Fong, Barry Henderson, Yan Kai, Betty Kan, Rachel Lam, Lynn Lau, Kwok Lau, Aston Wai Tung Lee, Edward Leung, Lily Lianto, Lynda Lau Liebrecht, Paulette Lung, Paulina and Raymond Mo, Natalie Mok, Ben Mom, Maggie Ng, Helen Ong, Laure Patterson-Kwon, Kristine Pedernal, Amirali Rahmani, Ioan-Gabriel Rus, Barbara Tieman-Sengupta, Magdalen Yam, May Yang, Yh Yang, Elsa Young, Anonymous; **Jim Lehman** from Rebecca Lehman; **Phil McCurdy** from Wendy & R. Douglas Ferguson, Laurie Priestman; **Patricia (Pat) Margaret McLaughlin** from Kenneth Little; **Douglas Miess** from Brian Miess; **Chris Rawnsley** from Susan Corak; **Joshua Steinburg** from Rebecca Durcan; **Helen Vanoff** from Kenneth Little; **Gregory Weatherup** from Alexandria Weatherup-Leach; **Darren Winger** from Kenneth Little.

In honour donations

In 2025, we received donations in honour of: **Paul Dungey – Retirement** from David Cameron, Rejean Duwyn, Dirk Huyer, Louise McNaughton-Filion, Elizabeth Urbantke and anonymous; in honour of **Wendy Mahony and Eva Leung** on the occasion of their retirement from the Lifesaving Society Ontario Branch from Laurie Priestman.

Donor clubs

With private thanks to our anonymous donors, the Society is pleased to acknowledge with gratitude the following individuals who financially supported the Society's work in 2025.

Distinction Club (\$500 or more): **Timothy Bean, Stephen Beerman, Edmund Chan, Doug Gillespie, Robert & Patricia Lord, Crystal Maloney, Juanita Bueschleb, Dennis & Joan Duncan, Jennifer Knights, Blake Langill, Deborah Nathan, John A. Macintyre, Calum MacLeod, Brian Miess, Kwok Lau, Sean Duffy.**

Merit Club (\$300 to \$499): **Edward Bean, Lisa Hanson Ouellette, Anne Hung, Maren Plut, Kenneth Little, Guy Holt.**

Bronze Club (\$100 to \$299): **Stephen Assaly, Carmela Baylosis, Holly Brown, Barbara & Jim Byers, Francis Chan, Kai Yee Chan, Vera Chen, Samuel Cheung, Audrey YuenSang Chiang, Debbie Crumbie, Emillo Derose, Michelle Dharmalingam, Rebecca Durcan, Julia Elzinga, Diane English, Mei-Chien Lucia Fan, Wendy & R. Douglas Ferguson, Beth Fisher, Stanley Gagnon, Sarah Goodhope, Barry Henderson, Andrea Herrmann, Colleen Holke, Marek Holke, Dirk Huyer, Ivan Iankovitch, Betty Kan, Robert Kavanagh, Joel Kirsh, Beryl Knights, Nga Ki Ko, Haylea Kuehl, Rachel Lam, Lynn Lau, Lynda Lau Liebrecht, Aston Wai Tung Lee, Rebecca Lehman, Edward Leung, Jennifer Leung, Patricia Anne Lewis, Lily Lianto, Shu Ben Liu, Paulette Lung, Julie MacIsaac, Joyce Mahinda, Samantha Mincone, E.D. Mitchell, Pauline & Raymond Mo, Natalie Mok, Ben Mom, Heather Morris-Stokes, Maggie Ng, Helen Ong, Claudine Pageau, Laure Patterson-Kwon, Gale Payne, Kristine Pedernal, Laurie Priestman, Charlene Pugh, Amirali Rahmani, Jamil Rawdah Al Balah, Ioan-Gabriel Rus, Fred Sauer, Laura Sfreddo, Nancy Stasko, Ivy Stockley, Brian Sutherland, Barbara Tieman-Sengupta, Annie Tong, Domenic Tudino, Elizebeth Urbantke, Cammiee Wai Chu Chan, Candice Ward, Roy & Gayle Warren, Alexandria Weatherup-Leach, Paul Weir, Ross Wilson, Olof & Lorraine Wilson-Saliba, Lynn Wong, May Yang, Yh Yang, Yau Yau Yip, Elsa Young.**

In 2024, we also received \$139.74 from individuals who donated through the **United Way** and \$4,100 through **Benevity Community Impact**.

LIFESAVING SOCIETY ONTARIO

2025 Activity Centre Council Chairs and Area Chairs

COUNCIL CHAIRS

Training Programs Council

Aquatic Proficiency

*Allison Courtney**

Bronze Medal Awards

Ashley Hutchison

First Aid Services

Andrew Oman

Lifeguard Services

Adrian Wong

Swim Program

Lisa Brandie

Resource Development

*Megan Mintz**

Public Education Council

Municipal Affiliates

*Judith Schultz**

Research

Briar McCaw

Schools

*Mitchell Blimkie**

Swim to Survive

Kelly MacDonald &

Rishana Piranthapan

Lifesaving Sport Council

Athlete Representative

Kara Parkins

Coaching

Leslie Aziz & Jeremy Wong

Event Management

*Jeff McCurdy**

Lifeguard Competition

Ryan Foster

Social Media Engagement

Emma Phillips

Sport Officials

*Hugo Rodrigues**

Sport Outreach

Brittany Wong

Technical

Rebecca Boyd

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Court & Inquest Findings

*Rob Richardson**

Major Incident Management

Teresa Taylor

Regulation Review

Janice Carroll

Research

*Wasi Rizvi**

Safety Audit Services

Patrick D'Almada

Safety Standards

Andrea Slade

Technology

Alex Chu

Management Training Council

Aquatic Management Training

*Jerry Lynch**

Management Proficiency

Jennifer Fruscella

Pool Operator

Johnathan Wyatt

Professional Development

Catherine Corriveau

Webinar

*Nikolay Nikolov**

Leadership Council

Chair

Elisabeth Drouillard

Chair

Charlene Pugh

Chair

Stephen Tolmie

Chair

*Tamara Wood**

Chair

*Tiffany Vis**

Member Services Council

Affiliate Services

*Christine Pelletier**

Annual Conference

*Jennifer Miller**

Rescue Commendations

Melanie Corbett

Fundraising Council

Fundraising Events

Heather Kazan

Personal Giving

*Patricia Lewis**

Planned Giving

Tony Zhang

Social Media

*Eddie Tang**

Area Services Council

Area Services

*Heather Morris-Stokes**

Central

Megan Kirk-Steele

East

*Jacob Fitts**

Greater Toronto

Tanya Wolsegger

North

Penny Lecour

West

Kathy Fisher

AREA CHAIRS

Windsor-Essex

Sarah Newton & George Turnbull

Chatham-Kent

Jane McGee & Nicholas May

Sarnia-Lambton

Michelle Rottier & Chris Mahoney

London-Middlesex

Alexandra Brown

Oxford-Brant-Norfolk County

Janet McCurdy & Vicki Rutherford

Niagara

Samantha Slofstra & Quinn MacDonald

Huron-Perth

Andrea Slade & Colton Maracle

Waterloo-Wellington

Jennifer Miller & Bruce Parkin

Hamilton-Wentworth

Jennifer McRoberts & Kathy Fisher

Burlington

Brittany Popoff, Kayla Pariselli

Oakville

Jennifer Fruscella &

Nicola Taccone-Witczak

Mississauga

Judith Schultz & Leslie Aziz

Brampton-Caledon

Tanya Wolsegger & Shauna D'Souza

Grey-Bruce

Michael Hundt & Jordan Johnston

Halton

Heather Morris-Stokes &

Melissa Willson

Huronia

Christine Wareing

Muskoka-Parry Sound

Meghan Kirk-Steele &

Cameron Labonte

York

Brook Beatty

Durham

Erin Horlock

Kawartha-Haliburton

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Hastings

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Lanark-Leeds & Grenville

Tara van der Linden

Cornwall

Tara Quesnel

Ottawa

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Patricia Wilson

North Bay-Nipissing

Penny Lecour & Andrew Oman

Sudbury-Manitoulin

Anthony Duong & Marika Louws

Algoma District

Ben Ayton

Temiskaming

Amy Clarke

Cochrane District

Paul Baril & Amanda Nadeau

Lake Superior

Tiffany Vis

Dryden-Kenora

Crystal Stokes

Toronto-Etobicoke-York

Scott Findlay & Justin Cordivani

Toronto-North York

Paul Yang

Toronto-Scarborough

Eric Sin & Christina Wang

Toronto & East York

Meaghan Tanaka

Toronto West-York

Eric Lemm

Affiliate Branches

Nunavut

Benjamin LePage

**Representative to the Council of Officers*

A comma signifies a change in office holder during the calendar year. An ampersand signifies co-chairs.

