

From: **Ron Dadswell**
To: **ASTO Trustees and Members**

INTERNATIONAL SAIL TRAINING & TALL SHIPS CONFERENCE 2008 - HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

The STI Annual Conference will be held on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th November in Halifax, Canada. This will be the first ever STI Conference held outside of Europe and will be organised jointly between STI and the American Sail Training Association (ASTA).

The STI website is now live with details of the programme and online facilities for booking the conference, accommodation and flights at:
<http://www.sailtraininginternational.org/page.asp?partid=664>

Accommodation

The conference will be held at the Marriot Harbour Front Hotel which has 325 rooms and is offering special accommodation rates of Canadian \$177 (about £86) per night. There will also be a limited amount of less expensive accommodation at the Halifax Heritage House Hostel at Canadian \$25 per night for a bunk in a dormitory. Accommodation bookings are on a first come first served basis. See online booking at: <http://www.sailtraininginternational.org/page.asp?partid=868>

Conference Fee

In order to balance the budget there will be no STI subsidised conference fee rates for younger sail trainers, but ASTO trustees have agreed a small budget to reduce the £100 conference fee to £50 for all ASTO sail trainers irrespective of age. Applications to me at the above email address. The conference fee will also include a Reception on Thursday evening, lunches on Friday and Saturday and the Gala Dinner on Saturday evening. Online Conference Registration is at:
<http://www.sailtraininginternational.fulfilment.co.uk/conferencebooking/conferencebooking.asp>

Travel and Travel Bursaries

Recognising that Travel to Halifax will be a major expenditure item for those traveling from Europe, STI has decided to fund 60 travel bursaries worth €500 (£393) each. UK has been allocated just 10 of these 60 bursaries though the number may increase slightly at a later date if there is a shortfall on take up elsewhere. Applications for bursaries should be sent to me at the above email address as soon as possible, and by no later than 30th July. Applications will be assessed by ASTO using the following STI criteria:

- Merits of the individual case
- Date of application to ASTO
- Participation of the represented organisation in previous STI Conferences and events.

Applications should include the following information:

Name

Address

Email address

Contact Telephone numbers

Date of birth

Sail training organisation represented

Reasons why you believe you should be awarded a bursary

Applications will be assessed and processed on receipt and successful applicants notified as soon as possible.

In order to qualify for the €500 travel bursary, flight bookings must be made through STI's nominated travel agent, Fraser & Hoyt, in Halifax. The STI €500 bursary will be paid directly to Fraser & Hoyt with the delegate paying just the balance of the flight cost. As an example the price of a London to Halifax return through Fraser & Hoyt on 1st of June was Canadian \$846.32 = Euro 547.15. Therefore, with the €500 bursary, the flight would have cost the delegate Euro 47.15 (£36.99). Once booked, paid for and the ticket has been issued, Fraser & Hoyt have confirmed that there will be no increase in charges no matter what happens to fuel surcharges. The message is book early to get the best prices and avoid future fuel surcharges. The agency will also accept bookings from delegates who do not have bursaries. Quotes for flights can be obtained online through the STI conference pages at <http://www.sailtraininginternational.org/page.asp?partid=867>

Anyone allocated a bursary but able to find flights at a cheaper price than the agent will have their travel bursary reduced to €400.

ASTO has always been a core supporter of the STI conference, especially so since more emphasis was put on the attendance of young sail trainers. I hope that, despite the increased expense of attending a conference in Halifax, there will still be a good turnout of ASTO members' delegates and that member organisations will consider funding the attendance of at least one delegate to the conference.

Please distribute this information widely amongst your professional and volunteer staff and helpers, and to your hardcore sail trainers/trainees.

If you require further information please email me directly (rondadswell@ntlworld.com).

Best wishes,
Ron