



Ottawa New Edinburgh Club
504 Sir George Etienne Cartier Parkway
Ottawa, ON, K1M 2K7

SAILONEC Going Out Checklist

One should always go through the following checklist to determine if it is safe to go out sailing.

1. Wind speed and direction	While the wind speed is not always consistent through a region, one should look at the current and forecast wind speeds at the Gatineau Airport, which is fairly representative of the conditions on our stretch of the river.
	Due to the geography around the boathouse, wind from different directions will create different water conditions
	A west wind (predominant) will be stable. If there are white caps on the water, the wind speed is near the limit for a first-year skipper. However, a west wind will be make more difficult to back to docks as it may required to gybe within the harbour.
	An east wind will be stable and will create larger waves as it goes against the current and as there is a long fetch for waves to build up. Whitecaps appear at lower wind speed, so first-year skippers can go out in whitecaps provided the wind conditions are otherwise reasonable.
	A north or south winds will be unstable and gusty. If you see whitecaps in a north or south wind, do not go out.
2. What are the air and water temperatures?	
3. Do my crew and I have the skills necessary to sail in these conditions?	
4. There comes a point where skills are not enough: do my crew and I have enough weight to balance the boat?	
5. How many people will be in the boat? Will there be a crew member sitting on the leeward side, increasing heel?	
6. Are my crew and I wearing appropriate clothing?	
7. Where do I plan to go? Staying close to the club allows other people to help if required.	
8. Is the rescue boat rigged so that other members could use it to provide help?	
9. Can the club boat I plan to take out, in its current condition, handle that wind speed?	
10. If I am bringing guest(s), do they know what to do if there is a capsized ?	