

# North American crew rescued after yacht sinks

By Rawle T'rus

A NORTH AMERICAN crew was rescued after their yacht sank while participating in the 16th

Annual Grenada Sailing Festival, which climaxed here on Monday. Canadian skipper David Tod and his four American crew members were

picked up by a rescue boat shortly after a strong wind capsized their fibre-glass J 24, half a mile off the island's southern tip. The crew lost US\$4 000

in personal effects and was engaged in a futile ten-minute struggle to save the boat valued at US\$7 000, which sank in 35 feet of water.

"We got a sudden gust and the boat got knocked down. Before we knew it, we were all in the water. Everybody," said Tod. "The boat would not

right itself. It stayed flat. We tried desperately. The mast was in the water for a while, I think it filled up

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## Sailing accident not a deterrent

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with water"

The locally chartered yacht was among a record 44 entrants in the festival which attracted 350 sailors and is considered a traditional curtain raiser to the series of sailing festivals across the Caribbean.

"Waves were starting to get into the cabin and sooner or later the bow started to sink and after that it filled up and slowly went bow down and next thing it disappeared right

in front of our eyes," said Tod who has been racing in the Grenadian waters for the past ten years. "The rescue operation went quite well. The rescue boat was right there almost immediately. We were not in any serious danger; fortunately the assistance boats were all over the place."

Tod, who races in sailing festival in Toronto, says he is not deterred by the accident and plans to continue participating in the Grenada sailing festival.

The event, which started in 1994, attracted top Caribbean sailors from neighbouring Trinidad, Barbados and Antigua.

This year's festival also welcomed a great mix of other nationalities, with the UK, Ireland, USA, France, and Holland strongly represented, plus skippers from as far away as New Zealand and South Africa.

This year's overall winner is the Trinidad and Tobago yacht Storm skippered by Peter Peake.

Here are the Final Overall Festival results by Class:

### Racing

1. Storm Peter Peake Trinidad

2. Lost Horizon, James Dobbs, UK

3. Akarana, Graham Deegan New Zealand

### Cruising 1

1. Tanga Langa Champe & Justin Evans, Grenada

2. Wayward, Jerome McQuillan, Trinidad

3. Survivor, David Leighton, Trinidad

### Cruising 2

1. Pentanemos, John McLean, UK

2. Apero, owned by Jason Fletcher Grenada

Marine, skippered by Isaac Thomas, All Grenadian crew

3. Quay Three, George Haworth, UK

### Multihull

1. Suave, Joe Walsh, USA

2. Ti Kanot, Chris Doyle, UK

3. Sasha, Max Hyslop, UK

Bocul Charter Class

1. Alemata, Marius Arts, Holland

2. Ben's Inspiration, Tjimen van Elst, Holland

3. Life of Reilly, Eddy Warger, Holland

Bocul Group - 49 yachtsmen from Holland, chartered 7 boats to take part

One Design - J24 Class

1. Hawkeye, Robert Povey, Barbados

2. Die Hard, Robbie Yearwood, Grenada

3. Impulse, Neil Burke, Barbados

Overall Festival Winner - Storm: Peter Peake from Trinidad