



**ST. CATHARINES ROWING CLUB**  
**2023 Annual General Meeting**

**Via ZOOM**

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023**

**In Attendance:**

<u>2022 Members of the Club</u>			
Scott Anderson	Sam Baio	Chris Blackwood	Karl Bowley
Rae Ceccato	Rick Crooker	David Derry	Stephanie Mowder
Brian Fisher	Michele Fisher	Louise Hastings	Lorna Hay-Gaudet
Liz Iannizzi	Janet Lancaster	Nancy Love	Michelle Kerr
Craig Kozun-Young	Leo Biancanello	Kathleen Powell	Wendy Wiebe
Matt Wilson	Michael Thompson	Brian Thorne	Mike Petrychanko
Aaron Thompson	Andrew Carr	Flynn Kirwin	Erin Sharpe
Becky Rosloski	Owen Powell	Colin Hughes	
<u>Guests</u>			
David Winslade	Kate Hingston	Jeff Hamm	Tracey Newman
Marianne Romak	Dianne Kirwin		

**ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS**  
**JANUARY 17, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**1) Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Rick Crooker, SCRC President at 7:00pm
- Michelle Kerr, Immediate Past President appointed as Scrutineer
- Chris Blackwood, Board Secretary appointed as Recording Secretary

**2) Recognition of Traditional Indigenous Territories**

We begin this meeting by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and within the land protected by the *Dish With One Spoon* wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples and acknowledging this reminds us that

our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

### **3) Registration of Proxies**

- Chris Blackwood reported that there were no proxies received for the meeting:

### **4) Filing Notice of Annual Meeting**

- Notice of the St. Catharines Rowing Club Annual Meeting, to be held virtually on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m. was communicated via email to all 2022 members on December 22, 2022 and again on January 12, 2023.

### **5) Confirmation of Quorum**

- Quorum achieved with 31 members present (25 required) – confirmed by Michelle Kerr, Scrutineer.

### **6) Approval of Agenda**

**Motion to approve the agenda of the SCRC Annual Meeting of January 17, 2023. Moved by Nancy Love, seconded by Erin Sharpe. No discussion. Motion carried.**

### **7) Approval of Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting January 20, 2022**

- Minutes of the January 20, 2022 meeting were emailed to members on January 12, 2023.

**Motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the previous SCRC Annual Meeting of Members. Moved by Craig Kozun-Young, seconded by Kathy Powell. No discussion. Motion carried.** The 2022 AGM minutes will be posted to the SCRC website.

### **8) Business Arising from the Minutes**

- Rick Crooker noted that there was no business arising from the minutes.

### **9) Reports**

- To facilitate the reading and acceptance of the 2022 Officer Reports the meeting moved into a “Committee of the Whole” for the Officer Reports.

**Motion to move the meeting into a committee of the whole. Moved by Stephanie Mowder, seconded by Liz Iannizzi. No discussion. Motion carried.**

### **President’s Report – Rick Crooker**

- Report as tabled.
- RC briefly recapped the year of 2022 and announced that he will be stepping down as President and Director, expressing thanks to the Directors, Coaches and Athletes, and Volunteers with whom he has worked since joining the Board in 2016. RC recognized the ‘remarkable amalgam of organizations that work together’ to make Henley Island and rowing a unique success.

### **Vice-President Finance Report – Brian Fisher**

- Report as tabled.
- BF noted that the 2022 Budget was established and relied heavily on aggressive fundraising. Sending two crews to compete in the 2022 Henley Royal Regatta in England required the Board's decision to draw from the reserves, which put additional strain on overall expenses. Extra fundraising allowed the Club to absorb the financial impact and finish the year in a positive financial position.
- 2022 witnessed the largest individual donation in the history of Club, as Jim and Marilyn Minards bequeathed a legacy amount to be used solely for SCRC infrastructure improvements. This donation will result in remote-sensored lighting in the boathouse (complete), concrete floors throughout all ten bays (Winter 2023), and future tarmac and dock lighting with any remaining funds. Unfortunately, Jim passed before seeing the boathouse concrete floors. The Club is very fortunate to have Jim's 70+ years of contributions and oversight.
- The Club received Ontario Trillium Foundation grants along with contributions from both the Henley Island Helpers and the St. Catharines Rowing League (Rec Rowing). A Westpark rowing alumnus, Arty Trojan, has donated funds for the purchase of a new Hudson 4+/4x shell and oars.
- BF acknowledged the time and talents so freely given by all of the volunteers and coaches over the past year. He also recognized both Wendy Wiebe and Karl Bowley, Co-Treasurers, for another year of sound financial advice, reporting and oversight.

### **Treasurer's Report – Karl Bowley**

- Report as tabled.
- The club remains solvent and in a positive financial position at year end, coming out of the COVID years of 2020 and 2021.
- The Treasurer's report shows:
  - Revenues \$ 149,630
  - Expenses \$ 325,366
  - Fund Raising and Other Income \$184,152
  - Net Income \$8,416
  - Year End 2022 Surplus \$186,753
- KB responded to several questions about the 2022 Club finances.

### **Vice-President Rowing Report – Matt Wilson**

- Report as tabled.
- MW began by recognizing and thanking Jim Marino for serving as Club Captain during COVID and welcomed SCRC's new Club Captain, Aaron Thompson.
- The 2022 Henley Royal Regatta crews were recognized. The original plan of sending one crew was changed to a men's and women's eight when both crews met the time standards established by the committee. Both crews, spares and coaches overcame international travel and time changes, acclimatization to England, transportation logistical challenges, and COVID infections to perform at the Regatta. The crews performed well but were pitted against very competitive crews.

- 2022 saw the return of high school rowing, with the number of athletes fewer than pre-COVID resulting from the sport having lost two full years of training and competing. Much work and time will be needed to bring high school rower registrations back to where it was before COVID. The Board is starting to look at enhanced development programs for athletes and coaches.
- MW noted that the Junior Development program and Youth Rowing School both received a refresh this year under the direction of Erin Sharpe and her team of dedicated coaches and volunteers. Recognition also was given to Louise Hastings for obtaining a Trillium grant that helped pay coaches' salaries and purchase much needed equipment. The St. Catharines Alumni were also thanked for allowing the use of their hall for indoor activities as part of the programming.
- Of special note were SCRC athletes who were selected to compete for Team Ontario in the Canada Summer Games:
  - Kai Bartel
  - Owen Bartel
  - Michael Ciepiela
  - Teagan Orth
  - Niko Schramm
  - Cait Whittard
  - Riley Pisek.
- MW also recognized SCRC athletes and coaches who represented Canada at the U23 World Championships:
  - Michael Ciepiela
  - Mitchell Rodgers
  - Nicholas Murray-Coplen
  - Coach Scott Anderson
- SCRC athletes and coaches on the Canadian U19 Team included:
  - Owen Bartel
  - Cait Whittard
  - Coach Mike Petrychanko
- Makeda Harrison was a CanAmMex crew member.
- The 2022 summer rowing season finished with many crews competing in Henley Regatta finals and seven Henley gold medals. MW commended both athletes and coaches for their dedication to the Club and the sport of rowing. Ronna Lockyer and Chris Blackwood were recognized for their work in coordinating the Master's rowing program throughout 2022.
- The 2022 fall season saw the Club participate competitively in several premier regattas including the Head of the Charles and Head of the Schuykill.
- Owen Bartel was recognized for being awarded RCA's Jack Guest Male Junior Athlete of the Year.
- MW closed by thanking Aaron Thompson, Club Captain; Louise Hastings, VP Special Projects and grant application writer, the Directors for their dedication to keeping the

Club in operation through COVID, and to Rick Crooker for his leadership over the past years as President.

#### **Vice-President Membership – Brian Thorne**

- Report as tabled
- BT listed the programs and athletes that get registered with RCA under the SCRC ‘umbrella’. He described the 2022 fee pilot that saw 2K athletes and Masters rowers pay a basic membership fee and a deposit towards racing entry and seat fees. The purpose was to implement a ‘pay to race’ system for all athletes. Each athlete would have their racing/seat fee account reconciled at the end of the season. Ten high schools had rower representation in the summer and fall competitive seasons, which also included two rowers from western New York and several from university.
- BT provided the number of registrations in the various programs for 2022:
  - High School 186
  - Masters 51
  - Junior/Senior (summer/fall) 121
  - Youth Rowing 158
  - Rec Rowing 193

#### **Vice-President Fundraising Report (Sam Baio)**

- Report as tabled
- Two major fundraising initiatives were held in 2022. The *Come Home to Henley* event held during the Henley Regatta raised approximately \$6,000 which is intended for coach development and training. The other major fundraiser was for the *Henley Royal Regatta* and reached approximately \$14,000. Louise Hastings and Kate Hingston were recognized for their organizational and fundraising talents.
- SB notes five actions that would help the Club with fundraising efforts in 2023:
  - Review and re-build Club membership data and contacts past and present;
  - Targeted fundraising, where each initiative has a particular purpose/focus. Examples include rowing equipment, rowing scholarships, coach recruitment and development;
  - Create a recognized brand and marketing presence in the community. This will require professional marketing and website;
  - Obtain a 50/50 lottery licence that can be run electronically, stretching from Early Bird to the Henley Regatta. Many sports organizations are using this strategy as a fundraiser;
  - Develop a working relationship with sport clothing and website retailers to make SCRC branded merchandise available to the public. This should encourage athletes, coaches, parents and volunteers past and present to buy and display the SCRC brand, which may lead to others also purchasing branded clothing.

#### **Vice-President Special Projects Report –Louise Hastings**

- Report as tabled.
- LH noted the major on-shore events that the Club hosted in 2022:
  - Tag Day raised \$11,000. Thanks to Tracey Newman and the high school student volunteers.

- Plant Sale at the Mother's Day Regatta netted \$3,500. Thanks to Mary Lynn and John Somogyi and Kathy Powell.
- Boat Christening on June 12 saw new boats named in honour of Paul Beedling, Wayne Dick, and Marion Markarian. Thanks to Kate Hingston and Janet Lancaster.
- *"Thank You Coaches"* BBQ held on July 30 recognized the efforts of our coaches. Thanks to the HIH and their new patio.
- *"Come Home to Henley"* event held in the Alumni Hall on August 6. The 50/50 draw winner was announced, a silent auction was held and money was raised for coaching development and education. Thanks to Sam Baio, Kate Hingston and Lauren Kelly, and a special thanks to Don Baker and the St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Association for use of their hall.
- The Captain's Dinner was held on November 26 at the Holiday Inn. On behalf of the 173 attendees, thanks to Kate Hingston for organizing the evening. Ronna Lockyer and Masters rowers ran the silent auction, raising \$2500.
- LH reviewed the major grant applications and donations for the 2022 Rowing Season:
  - Club Sponsors (19 for a total of \$13,000)
  - Service Canada – Summer Employment Grant (\$4045) for a workshop assistant.
  - Participaction – Grant for \$750 to support the June 11 Try-It Day event
  - Ontario Trillium Foundation - Resilient Communities Fund Grants: \$149,700 for the purchase of rowing equipment; and \$119,800 for coach recruitment, training and conferencing, and for coach compensation for the Junior Development and Youth Rowing Camp programs, along with rowing shell purchases. An application for \$150,000 to replace the boat racking in the shell house was not successful, however another donation source will allow the racks to be manufactured locally and installed.
- LH recognized all the RCA/RO Award winners for the year:
  - Jim Minards: RCA Lifetime Achievement Award
  - RCA Long Service Awards: Paul Beedling 50 yrs; Sam Baio 30 yrs; George Darte 30 yrs; Jack Lovett 55 yrs; Ian Muir 30 yrs; John Myrinech 30 yrs; Greg Pinder 30 yrs; Bill Ross 40 yrs; Brian Thorne 55 yrs; James Walker 50 yrs.
  - RCA Volunteer Appreciation Certificates: Andrew Carr; Liz Harold; Maddie Hingston; Matt Hingston; Karly Matwijow; Aly Meade; Dereck Schwandt; Peter Somerwil; Jacob Thomas.
  - RO Long Service Awards: Paul Beedling 50 yrs; Sam Baio 30 yrs; George Darte 30 yrs; Jack Lovett 55 yrs; Ian Muir 30 yrs; John Myrinech 30 yrs; Greg Pinder 30 yrs; Bill Ross 40 yrs; Michael Thompson 55 yrs; Brian Thorne 55 yrs; James Walker 50 yrs.

#### **Club Captain Report – Aaron Thompson**

- Report as tabled.
- AT began by thanking the High School coaches, Rowing Committee and Board of Directors for their support in getting high school rowers back on the water. High School athletes, many of them novice rowers, competed in the Early Bird Regatta, Mother's Day Regatta, the South Niagara Invitational and the CSSRA Championships.

- AT thanked the Club for his appointment to Club Captain following the high school season. Getting the Club back up and running after COVID for a fully competitive summer and fall season was a great challenge. He expressed his thanks to the coaches, athletes and volunteers. SCRC attended all the major regattas including CORAs, Masters and Ontario Championships, Westside Regatta, Royal Canadian Henley, Head of the Charles and Head of the Schuykill.
- AT made note of the two crews that competed at the Henley Royal Regatta and praised the efforts of both coaches and athletes who represented the Club at that international venue.
- AT recognized the leaders and staff of the Youth Rowing School and Junior Development Program. The Rec Rowing League and HIH were also recognized for their efforts post-COVID.
- Thanks were offered to Jim and Marilyn Minards for their extremely generous donation which will enable lighting, concrete floors and racking to be installed in the boathouse. Thanks were also given to all the volunteers who are assisting with the almost daily movement/shifting of shells and equipment from bay to bay, allowing Rankin Construction the room to construct the new floors.

**Motion to move out of the committee of the whole. Moved by Stephanie Mowder, Seconded by Liz Iannizzi. No discussion. Motion carried.**

**Motion to receive the 2022 SCRC Officers' Reports. Moved by Colin Hughes, Seconded by Flynn Kirwin. No discussion. Motion carried. Reports will be posted to the SCRC website.**

#### **10) Constitutional Items**

- No constitutional items were presented.

#### **11) Approval of Actions of the 2022 Board of Directors**

**Motion to approve the actions of the 2022 SCRC Board of Directors. Moved by Janet Lancaster. Seconded by Scott Anderson. No discussion. Motion carried**

#### **12) 2023 Membership Fees – Brian Thorne**

- Proposed 2023 fee structure was emailed to all club members on January 12, 2023. Brian Thorne presented the proposed fee structure as reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors on January 3, 2023. BT described the fee structure that included splitting fees into "Membership Fee" and "Racing/Entry Fee Deposit". BT noted that membership fees have again been harmonized for all athletes.

**Motion to approve the 2022 fee structure by Brian Thorne. Seconded by Brian Fisher. No discussion. Motion carried.**

#### **13) 2023 Membership Fee Adjustments due to COVID**

- It is possible that the COVID pandemic and restrictions will continue to affect the normal rowing season into 2023. In the event that this does occur, the new Bylaw would require the Board to return to the membership in order to adjust the membership fee structure.

**Motion to authorize the Board to adjust membership fees downward if required, due to COVID restrictions on the 2023 rowing season, without calling a Special Meeting of the Members. Moved by Brian Thorne, seconded by Chris Blackwood. No discussion. Motion carried.**

**14) Nominating Committee Report (Michelle Kerr)**

- The Nominating Committee established to solicit, interview and endorse a slate of nominees for the position of Director consisted of Michelle Kerr (Chair), Chris Blackwood, David Derry, and Louise Hastings. Nominations were open in November and December 2021 for eight (8) positions on the 2023 Board of Directors.
- The nominees recommended by the Nominating Committee included:
  - David Derry
  - Michele Fisher
  - Louise Hastings
  - Kate Hingston
  - Travis King
  - Janet Lancaster
  - Marianne Romak
  - David Winslade

**Motion to approve the eight nominees for Directors. Moved by Chris Blackwood, seconded by Louise Hastings. It was noted that there is no need for an election. Motion carried.**

**15) SCRC 2023 Board of Directors (RC)**

- The 2023 Board of Directors, consisting of 15 Directors, was announced.
  - Sam Baio
  - Chris Blackwood
  - Andrew Carr
  - David Derry
  - Brian Fisher
  - Michele Fisher
  - Louise Hastings
  - Kate Hingston
  - Michelle Kerr (Past President)
  - Travis King
  - Janet Lancaster
  - Stephanie Mowder
  - Marianne Romak
  - Brian Thorne
  - David Winslade
- The first meeting of the new Board will be held on Wednesday, January 18 @ 7:00 p.m. at which time the Officers of the Club will be elected. As per the new Bylaw passed in 2022, Directors will be elected to a three-year term, with the intention of electing 5



Directors every year beginning in 2025. In order to move into this cycle, the 2023 Directors will be asked to select a one-, two- or three-year term of service beginning in 2023.

**16) Appointment of Auditors (BF)**

- No action was required for this agenda item.

**17) New Business and Announcements**

- The outgoing Directors were recognized and thanked for their combined years of service to the Club
  - Rick Crooker
  - Lauren Kelly
  - Ronna Lockyer
  - Tami Lyons
  - Michael Thompson
  - Matt Wilson

**18) Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion to adjourn the SCRC January 17, 2023 Annual Meeting of Members. Moved by Sam Baio, seconded by Ronna Lockyer. Motion carried.**

Minutes by Chris Blackwood, Secretary

N.B. These minutes are DRAFT until approved at the 2024 SCRC AGM.