



ST. CATHARINES ROWING CLUB
2024 Annual Meeting of Members
ALUMNI HALL, HENLEY ISLAND
Tuesday, January 23, 2024

In Attendance:

2023 Members of the Club

Louise Hastings	Marion Markarian (proxy)	Michelle Kerr (proxy)	Heather Talbot
Andre Basson (proxy)	Liz Harold (proxy)	Kelly Shewfelt	Tom Kent
Brian Thorne	Mike Petrychanko	Rae Ceccato	Kathy Powell (proxy)
Kate Hingston	Patrick Morris	Dave Winslade	Chris McAlpine (proxy)
Scott Anderson	Janet Lancaster	Mike DiBenedetto	Chris Blackwood
David Derry	Liz Iannizzi	Lindsay Sferrazza	Karen Costantini
Andrew Carr	Michele Fisher	Marianne Romak	Stephanie Mowder
Kristia Whittard	Lorna Hay-Gaudet	Karl Bowley	Brian Fisher
Aaron Thompson			

Guests

Christina Phillips	Barney Leach
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ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
JANUARY 23, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.
ALUMNI HALL, HENLEY ISLAND
MEETING MINUTES

1) Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by the Chair, David Derry, SCRC President at 7:00pm
- Brian Thorne, VP Membership was appointed as Scrutineer
- Chris Blackwood, Board Secretary was 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 six proxies received for the meeting:

4) Filing Notice of Annual Meeting

- Notice of the St. Catharines Rowing Club Annual Meeting of Members, to be held in person at the Alumni Hall, Henley Island on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. was communicated via email to all 2023 members on December 24, 2023.

5) Confirmation of Quorum

- Quorum achieved with 33 members present or by proxy (25 required) – confirmed by Brian Thorne, Scrutineer.

6) Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda of the SCRC Annual Meeting of Members of January 23, 2024. Moved by Kate Hingston, seconded by Stephanie Mowder. No discussion. Motion carried.

7) Approval of Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting of Members January 17, 2023

- Minutes of the January 17, 2023 meeting were made available to all members via the SCRC website.

Motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023 Annual Meeting of Members. Moved by Krista Whittard, seconded by Janet Lancaster. No discussion. Motion carried. The minutes will be posted to the SCRC website.

8) Business Arising from the Minutes

- David Derry noted that there was no business arising from the minutes.

9) Reports

- To facilitate the reading and acceptance of the 2023 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 David Winslade, seconded by Marianne Romak. No discussion. Motion carried.

President’s Report – David Derry

- Report as tabled.
- DD noted that this was a year of re-building after the official end of the COVID pandemic on May 4, 2023. RCA records reveal that SCRC was the largest rowing club in Canada when one includes the high school rowers and the St. Catharines Rowing League (Rec

Rowing). DD thanked all of the coaches who dedicated many hours to training and competing.

- Special thanks were directed to Louise Hastings (VP Fundraising) and the fundraising committee for their efforts in acquiring grants and organizing fundraising activities. Thanks were given to Brian Fisher (VP Finance), Wendy Wiebe and Karl Bowley (Treasurers) for tracking and managing the financial aspects of the Club. Brian Thorne (VP Membership) was recognized for his year-round efforts to track the Club and RCA memberships of athletes and coaches. Kate Hingston (VP Special Projects) and the special projects committee were thanked for organizing the off-the-water activities, especially the Boat Christening and the Captain's Dinner. DD thanked Janet Lancaster (VP Rowing) and the rowing committee, and Erin Sharpe (Youth Programs Manager) for managing the Club's various rowing programs.
- A final thank you was extended to outgoing Board members Sam Baio and Michelle Kerr who have served the Club for many years.

Vice-President Finance Report – Brian Fisher

- Report as tabled.
- BF began his report by reminding the members about 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. Rankin Construction was contracted to construct a new concrete floor in the boathouse. BF thanked the Junior winter training group and others who assisted with the shuffling of rowing shells from one bay to another numerous times so that Rankin could construct the new floor two bays at a time.
- The return to rowing following the COVID pandemic brought the Club membership registration higher than budgeted and the Treasurers will report on the year-end Club finances in their report. While day-to-day operations are barely covered by membership fees, the Club relied heavily on fundraising to purchase new equipment. Thanks to Ontario Trillium grants the Club was able to purchase several shells/blades and offset coaching expenses and education requirements dictated by the "Every Coach Certified" directive from RCA/RO. This year the Board decided to reimburse coaches for regatta travel expenses and provided a recognition award as a show of appreciation.
- BF recognized the Henley Island Helpers and the St. Catharines Rowing League for their generous financial contribution to the Club in 2023. Also recognized was a 100% donation to purchase a new 4+/x.
- Finally BF thanked Wendy Wiebe and Karl Bowley for continuing in their roles as Treasurers and their financial guidance and attention to Club finances.

Treasurer's Report – Karl Bowley

- Report as tabled.
- KB reported that the club remains solvent and in a positive financial position at year end 2023.
- The Treasurer's report shows:
 - Revenues \$ 190,544 (Membership and User Fees, Club-Organized Programs, Other Revenues)

- Expenses \$ 452,633 (Direct Membership Costs, Shell House Operations, Capital Expenditures, Indirect Club Costs)
- Fund Raising, Grants, Donations and Other Income \$323,436
- Net Income \$61,347
- Year End 2023 Surplus \$258,702
- KB responded to several questions about the 2023 Club finances noting that the Club continues to require fundraising and donations to provide programs and purchase new equipment.

Vice-President Rowing Report – Janet Lancaster

- Report as tabled.
- JL provided the highlights of the first full year of rowing after the COVID pandemic interrupted the Club’s regular programming. She began by thanking all the SCRC coaches, who are crucial to the rowing programs. This year the Board approved a small honorarium for coaches to show appreciation for their dedication, time and effort. JL thanked Aaron Thompson and all the coaches for achieving “Every Coach Certified” status with RCA/RO coaching initiatives.
- From the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, JL especially noted the 10 gold medals won by the Sr/U23 Men’s Team coached by Tom Kent and Jacob Thomas.
- Wendy Wiebe was recognized with her induction into the Row Ontario Hall of Fame. Michele Fisher was thanked for coaching the Junior Development Winter Training rowers
- Several SCRC past and present members participated on Canada’s National Rowing Team including Seniors Kristen Kit, Laura Court, Dan DeGroot and Jeff Buczek; U23 Michael Ciepiela and Coach Scott Anderson; U19 Makeda Harrison, Ingrid Eshuis and Coach Mike Petrychanko
- JL noted that the Community Sport for All Initiative continues with a grant from RCA/Sport Canada. The grant permitted 24 individuals from diverse backgrounds to discover the sport of rowing with both land and water training.
- JL thanked the Board of Directors for their leadership this past year; and Club Captain Aaron Thompson. Aaron will be transitioning to the position of Boatman once the search for a new Club Captain is completed.

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.
- BT provided the number of registrations in the various programs for both 2022 and 2023:

For 2022

- High School 186
- Masters 51
- Junior/Senior (summer/fall) 121
- Youth Rowing 158

- Rec Rowing 193

For 2023

- High School 231
- Masters 54
- Junior/Senior 154
- Youth Rowing 218
- Rec Rowing 227

Vice-President Fundraising Report (Louise Hastings)

- Report as tabled
 - LH began her report with a summary of the 2023 Fundraising results which totaled \$36,076. The two most successful activities were Tag Day (organized by Tracey Newman) which raised \$11,580, and Club Sponsorships (organized by Louise Hastings) which raised \$18,675.
 - Other activities for fundraising in 2023 included an expansion of the on-line merchandise agreement with Regatta Sports, a Masters Rowing Camp, a 50/50 Draw to support coaching development, and the tax deductible National Sport Trust Fund (NSTF) website.
 - Applications for grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Canada Summer Jobs program were denied in 2023. The Committee will continue to apply for grants from both agencies in 2024. The Committee will be applying for a Bingo Licence from the City of St. Catharines in 2024.
 - LH completed her report by thanking the members of the Fundraising Committee for their efforts in 2023.

Vice-President Special Projects Report (Kate Hingston)

- Report as tabled.
- KH noted the major events that the Club hosted in 2023:
 - The Sr. Men, Mary Rao and Tom Kent were thanked for running the Mother's Day Regatta parking fundraiser.
 - Boat Christening on June 11 attracted 100 people who witnessed seven boats christened to honour Scott Brodie 1x, Pat Newman 1x, Chris Taylor 1x, Kristen Kit 1x, Joel Finlay 2-/x, Mark "Tex" Thomas 2-/x, and Kevin Neufeld 4x/+.
 - "Thank You Coaches" BBQ held on July 27 recognized the efforts of our coaches. Thirty-seven coaches and guests attended. Thanks to the HIH and their new patio.
 - The Captain's Dinner was held on November 27 at the Holiday Inn and Conference Centre. Over 200 rowers, coaches and guests were in attendance to see thirteen awards presented.
 - KH thanked the Board members, HIH and the Alumni for their help and support of our off-the-water events.

Club Captain Report – Aaron Thompson

- Report as tabled.

- AT began noting the 2023 additions to the SCRC fleet of boats, including: “Spirit of Westpark ‘73” Hudson USP 4x/+ purchased with a donation from Arty Trojan; one 4x/+, two pair/doubles; and five singles which were funded using Ontario Trillium Grant monies.
- The 2023 High School season saw 224 athletes participate. Seven medals were won at the Stotesbury Cup Regatta and 15 medals won at the CSSRA Championship Regatta. AT thanked the HS coaches for their continued dedication, time and effort.
- The summer program saw growth in participants with 30 medals won at the Row Ontario Championships and 11 Henley golds. Special mention of the Sr. Men’s program and the Masters Women’s Eight for their performance at the Henley Regatta.
- The fall program was also successful with the Youth and Masters HO�CR crews retaining their places in the 2024 Regatta; medals at the Head of the Schuylkill. Twenty junior rowers will continue their training into the late fall, early winter.

Communications Committee Report (David Winslade)

- DW announced the inaugural year for this new committee. The Committee is exploring ways to use social media, the SCRC website and other means of communication to better inform members about Club programs, initiatives and activities.

Motion to move out of the committee of the whole. Moved by Marianne Romak, Seconded by David Winslade. No discussion. Motion carried.

Motion to receive the 2023 SCRC Officers’ Reports. Moved by Rae Ceccato, Seconded by Karen Costantini. No discussion. Motion carried. Reports will be posted to the SCRC website.

10) By-Law Items

- David Derry informed the members that in order for the Club to be compliant with newly enacted legislation for Not-for-Profit Corporation, a special meeting of the members may have to be held in 2024 in order to approve any changes to the By-Law and to file Articles of Continuance.

11) Approval of Actions of the 2023 Board of Directors

Motion to approve the actions of the 2023 SCRC Board of Directors. Moved by Mike Petrychanko. Seconded by Lorna Hay-Gaudet. No discussion. Motion carried

12) 2024 Membership Fees – Brian Thorne

- Brian Thorne presented the proposed fee structure for 2024 as reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors on January 2, 2024. BT described the fee structure that included splitting fees into “Membership Fee” and “Racing/Entry Fee Deposit”.
Motion to approve the 2023 fee structure by Brian Thorne. Seconded by Brian Fisher. Some discussion took place with respect to access to equipment and coaching. Motion carried.

13) Nominating Committee Report (Chris Blackwood for Michelle Kerr)

- The Nominating Committee’s mandate is to solicit, interview and endorse a slate of nominees for the position of Director. The Committee consisted of Michelle Kerr (Chair), Chris Blackwood, David Derry, and Louise Hastings. Nominations were open in November and December 2023 for five (5) positions on the 2024 Board of Directors. The nominees, if approved, would serve a three-year term on the Board.
- The nominees recommended by the Nominating Committee included:
 - Travis King
 - Stephanie Mowder
 - Christina Phillips
 - Heather Talbot
 - Brian Thorne

Motion to approve the five nominees for 2024-2026 Directors. Moved by Chris Blackwood, seconded by Louise Hastings. It was noted that there was no need for an election. **Motion carried.**

14) SCRC 2023 Board of Directors (RC)

- The 2023 Board of Directors, consisting of 15 Directors, was announced.
 - Chris Blackwood
 - Andrew Carr
 - David Derry
 - Brian Fisher
 - Michele Fisher
 - Louise Hastings
 - Kate Hingston
 - Travis King
 - Janet Lancaster
 - Stephanie Mowder
 - Christina Phillips
 - Marianne Romak
 - Heather Talbot
 - Brian Thorne
 - David Winslade
- The first meeting of the new Board will be held on Wednesday, January 24 @ 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.

15) Appointment of Auditors (BF)

- No action was required for this agenda item. The need for an financial audit was deemed to not be necessary for 2023/24.

16) New Business and Announcements (DD)

- The outgoing Directors were recognized and thanked for their combined years of service to the Club
 - Sam Baio

- Michelle Kerr

17) Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the SCRC January 23, 2024 Annual Meeting of Members. Moved by Michele Fisher, seconded by Andrew Carr. Motion carried.

Minutes by Chris Blackwood, Secretary

Minutes to be approved at January 2025 Annual Meeting of Members.