

January 16, 2018

## CATHARINES ROWING CLUB

### VICE PRESIDENT, SPECIAL PROJECTS - REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**TUESDAY JANUARY 16, 2018**

As Vice-President - Special Projects it is my privilege to work with Michelle Kerr, the dedicated members of the Board and so many member-volunteers who so generously provide their time and wise counsel.

#### **GRANT APPLICATIONS:**

##### **SERVICE CANADA – SUMMER EMPLOYMENT GRANT:**

The Club received a Summer Employment Grant of \$3,522.35 from Service Canada. This was based on employment for eight weeks. We have applied for a 16-week grant for 2018.

**ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION:** The club has applied for a grant from the Ontario Trillium foundation for \$67,200 to re-fit six eight person shells used for the Adult Recreational and Youth Rowing School programs. We expect to hear about this grant around March 1.

**ONTARIO – SUMMER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM:** We were not successful in getting this grant in 2017 – usually about \$2750.00 and directed to the Youth Rowing School. We plan to re-apply in 2018.

#### **AWARDS:**

##### **ROWING CANADA AVIRON:**

The 2017 Rowing Canada Aviron awards will be announced at RCA's annual conference in Toronto Ontario, January 25-28.

St. Catharines received the following long service awards for 2016:

- 35 Years: Paul Beedling, Michael Thompson
- 30 Years: Michelle Kerr, Janet Lancaster, Carl MacCulloch,
- 25 Years: George Darte, Larry Masse, John Mirynech, Ian Muir, Greg Pinder, Mark "Tex" Thomas
- 20 Years: Michele Fisher, Louise Hastings, Marion Markarian

##### **ROWONTARIO:**

**Athlete of the Year:** Emma Dockray

**Coach of the Year:** Michele Fisher

**Male Umpire of the Year:** Rich Neufeld

##### **Certificates in Appreciation of Volunteer Service:**

- Mark Chapman
- Michael DiBenedetto
- Joslyn Galloway
- Oniqua Kamaka
- Mary Rao
- Rob Walton
- Theresa Woods

Congratulations to all!

#### **EVENTS:**

**CAPTAIN'S DINNER:** Over 175 members and guests attended the 71st Annual Captain's Dinner and Awards Presentation in honour of the Club's coaches, athletes and volunteers on Saturday April 8, 2017 at the Holiday Inn and Suites. Michelle Kerr was Master of Ceremonies – a job she has for life! Awards were presented by Mark Welsh, Head Coach and Manager with past award winners, many of whom returned to the club and the inner after long absences. The Junior Development Program conducted a successful Silent Auction and an exciting video, made up of pictures taken by Renate and Kevin Hodges and “produced and directed” by Michelle Kerr and Carl MacCulloch highlighting the presenters' and the 2016 winners' achievements played during the presentations.

For the past 10 years, the dinner has been supported by a group of loyal sponsors. In 2018, we are planning to expand the program to support our regattas and TRY-IT Days as well as the dinner. We hope our loyal sponsors and new ones as well will be enthusiastic about this expanded new program which will offer them much greater recognition and exposure.

**TAG DAY:** Thank you to Chair, Tracey Newman, our high school athletes and coaches and the members of the SCRC board for ensuring another successful Tag Day on Saturday May 11. A total of \$10,200 was raised at thirty community businesses. Tag Day, 2018 on Saturday May 12, promises to be even better!

**CHRISTENING:** The 2017 Christening on Sunday June 25 was held on the Alumni Clubhouse lawn. Despite some interesting weather we managed to christen 7 boats. Six of these boats (four 2x/2-s and two 4x/4-s) were purchased with the 2016 grant of \$110,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and one, a coxed four, was cost-shared with Governor Simcoe Secondary School.

The Student Athlete Bursaries, funded by a generous anonymous donor, were presented to Olivia Reynolds, Isabell Matwijow and Zach Neufeld.

Thank you, once again, to Nancy Love and her crew of volunteers for arranging this lovely event and for meeting the challenges of some crazy storms.

**TRY-IT DAYS:** We held two more very successful TRY-IT days on May 7 and September 30. A total of almost 100 potential rowers came out to see the club and to get into a shell and row. Thank you to Michelle Kerr, Michele Fisher and all of the athletes and coaches who came out to make this a success. We believe that opening the club to the community in this way is important and allows people, many of who have never ventured down Henley Island Drive, to enjoy a taste of our great sport and see why we are so committed to it. Spring 2018 TRY-IT Day is scheduled for Sunday May 6.

**PASTA DINNER:** The 5th Annual Pasta Dinners, chaired by Lorna Hay-Gaudet were held on the Tuesday and Wednesday of Henley Week – August 8 and 9, 2017 at the Alumni Clubhouse. Over the two nights, athletes, coaches and friends consumed huge amounts of pasta and salads catered by Rosalie's and served by a team of athlete and Board member volunteers. A total of 362 happy pasta lovers helped us raise \$1,500.00 for SCRC. Thank you, Lorna, for organizing this popular event and to all the SCRC volunteers who helped.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Always fun, the Christmas Party was held on Thursday December 21 at Scorecard Harry's – the guests enjoyed Mike's pizza and wings and once again, generously filled the Community Care barrels.

Respectfully Submitted,

Louise Hastings  
Vice President, Special Projects  
January 16, 2018.