



St. Catharines Rowing Club
Annual Meeting January 20, 2022
President's Report

And we thought 2020 was bad...

2021 was another year of restricted rowing and no summer regattas. Access to the course through the Spring and Summer was again restricted to small boats.

Several members and supporters generously donated over the year. Thank-You!

When the announcement that CSSRA was cancelled, we decided to open the Club on April 1st. The Ontario government then announced a 28-day lockdown starting on... April 1st. The good news was that vaccinations had arrived and the road to recovery could begin – or so we thought...

By June some patios had started to open (including the Alumni and Henley Island Helpers) and people were already booking their second vaccination. Regrettably however, Henley was cancelled for the second consecutive year, as was our ability to offer athletes the chance to compete at the Henley Royal Regatta in England.

After a year of serving as our volunteer Club Captain, Jim Marino was selected from several applicants in September and hired as our full-time Club Captain.

While the Canadian Henley Regatta was cancelled, the Olympics went ahead, and we proudly watched the Canadian Women's 8+ win Gold with former SCRC Coxswain Kristen Kit steering them to victory.

In early August, an intramural race day was organized to give those few rowers that were able to be on the water a chance to race each other.

Several Directors agreed to be part of a committee to review the 1994 Club Constitution. A decision was made to draft a new set of By-Laws over the Fall for review and approval at the AGM in order to comply with the new Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. Club lawyer and member John Mirynech provided significant guidance as the By-Laws were drafted.

As we moved through the Fall, anticipating we would finally be done with COVID, the first two cases of the Omicron variant were announced at the end of November – only two months ago but it feels like forever. Third vaccination boosters are now being offered throughout the region and Ontario schools are back in class as of January 17th. No one knows how the Spring and the rest of 2022 will unfold. If normal returns (whatever that now means) then we will see the high schools racing at CSSRA followed by a summer of regattas.



We will conduct trials for crews to qualify for the 2022 Henley Royal Regatta and if they qualify, they will go to England with our full support.

There is an old expression intended to humble us in our moment of pride and console us when we are in despair –

“This too shall pass.”

Let's hope so... and soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Crooker
President
January 20, 2022