

St. Catharines Rowing Club

President's Report to the Annual General Meeting, January 21, 2020

I am starting my first report as president with – Thank-you. Thank you to our club leadership; the SCRC Board of Directors; the Board of the St. Catharines Recreational Rowing League, our coaches who continue to be the envy of other clubs and who provide so much time to our athletes, our regatta volunteers who not only help at our regattas but at the many other events hosted on Henley Island, our supporting organizations; The St.Catharines Rowing Alumni and The Henley Island Helpers; our island landlord CHRC; our Island rowing partners Ridley College and Brock; and finally and importantly all our many Sponsors. A special thank you to our many donors who help our club with financial support allowing us to provide the best racing and safety equipment for our programs.

2019 began with a request for each member of the Board to adopt a portfolio. Their enthusiastic response has ensured all aspects of club activity have at least one Director involved or leading. In February, in response to a request from Row Ontario, the Board submitted recommendations for their 2020 strategic plan.

In April a decision was made to move the Captain's Dinner to the Fall after the 2019 event. It was further decided that the Club should embark on a fundraising program to enable two SCRC crews (1 male, 1 female) to compete at the July 2020 Henley Royal Regatta in Henley-on-Thames England. A contract was signed with Sport4Ontario to make it easy for donors to contribute to the fund online and with a credit card.

The Spring Captain's Dinner was a great success. Emceed by Michelle Kerr our top performing 2018 athletes were recognized. The announcement of the Club's intent to go to Henley Royal was made and over \$15,000 was raised in as many minutes!

In June, the Club hosted Ingram Micro Canada to a Corporate teambuilding row. Three 8+'s were used to great success with the participants and club volunteers. The Club received over \$2,000.00 for the event. As a result, we have started discussions with the Brock University Centre for Sport Capacity to develop a plan for a permanent Corporate Rowing Program. The current schedule will see a test of a sustainable concept in the Spring and if successful, formal launch by summer 2020.

Summer saw another successful season on the water and several successful fundraising events. Tag Day was followed by what is planned to be an annual "Come Home to Henley" BBQ on the Saturday of Henley. An enthusiastic turnout generated an additional \$6,000 in funds for Henley Royal.

Row Ontario announced open Director positions and ultimately Janet Lancaster was elected to one of them. A successful "Rower Bring a Friend" event was held in September which saw close to 50 young potential rowers turn up.

With thanks to Chris Wilson, 4-time Olympic Gold Medalist, Spokesperson and Steward of Henley Royal Regatta, Sir Matthew Pinsent has agreed to attend a Spring Gala Fundraiser. Ridley College have generously made The Great Hall available for the event.

Confirmation was received that the land training centre for the 2021 Canada Summer Games will proceed. As of the writing of this report there is no clarity as to how the centre will operate after the Games.

A Henley Advisory Committee was formed to set standards for the crews attempting to qualify for Henley Royal. Mark Welsh, Bob Schenck, Paul Beedling and Chris Wilson agreed to sit on the committee. Subsequent to that, they announced four coaches for crews that will be in contention for the opportunity to represent the Club. Michele Fisher has the Jr. Women, Kathy Boyes the Sr. Women, Scott Anderson the Sr. Men and Brian Fisher the Jr. Men. The best of these four crews will race against the standards developed and the men's and women's crews that exceed them by the largest margin will be selected to compete at Henley Royal.

Our Fall Captain's Dinner saw one of the largest turnouts in recent years and the reveal of the Club Blazer that will be provided to our Henley Royal rowers.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Club President for 2019 and should the members wish, I would proudly serve again in 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Crooker
President