

Vice President Rowing Report 2020

I feel privileged to be in the position of Vice President Role of the St. Catharines Rowing Club. As Rick our President likes to say, the BEST DAMN ROWING CLUB IN THE WORLD. First, I would like to start by thanking all those that supported me in my role over the year. I want to send special thanks to Mark Welsh and Brian Fisher for the continued work on the Rowing Committee as well as the many other tasks that they do to let the athletes be athletes and all the rest stays behind the scenes. With our compliment of Lead Coaches, we provided athletes of all levels, the access to further their skills on their path to excellence in rowing. With the current goal of sending a men's and women's crew to Henley Royal this year, I truly believe we will increase the excellence of the whole club, reaching our goal to be the best rowing club out there.

Competitive Rowing Lead Coaches 2019

Junior B Women: Janet Lancaster	Junior B Men: Mary Rao
Junior A Women: Michele Fisher	Junior A Men: Brian Fisher
Senior A&B Women: Kathy Boyes	Senior A & B Men: Peter Somerwil
Senior A & B Lwt. Women: Dave Wright & Swede Burak	Senior Lwt. A & B Men: Scott Anderson & Tom Kent
Fall Junior Women: Murray Scott & Michelle Fisher	Fall Junior Men: Brian Fisher
Masters: Rob Walton, Rick Jackson & Brian Davis	

I would like to thank the Lead Coaches and the numerous Assistant Coaches for all the hard work and dedication that make our athletes the best that can be. These people are the backbone of The St. Catharines Rowing Club, providing our competitive athletes excellent training programs and leading them to personal and club successes.

All the above Coaches have agreed to take on their roles in the 2020 year with the exception of Sr. A & B Men. We are currently trying to fill this position.

Host Regattas 2019

The SCRC hosted the following regattas

High School Season

Early Bird
Mother's Day
Jr. National Team Eastern Selection Trial

Summer/Fall Competitive Season

Central Ontario Rowing Association (CORA)
Head of the Raging Basshole

I would like to thank all the Regatta Leads and the countless volunteers that put in the many hours to host these regattas, without them, we wouldn't be able to run such events. I would particularly like to thank Regatta Chair; Brian Fisher, Chief Umpire; Louise Hastings and Dave Derry for the many extra hours leading up

to regatta day. The Unfortunate situation we found ourselves in this year was the cancellation of the St. Catharines Invitational Regatta due to a lack of entries. With the cost and people involved we could not see a way that we could even break even on the event.

Racing Season (See Appendix I for a full list of Regattas)

The SCRC had another full season of racing. Competing started with the Indoor Ergometer Racing and ended with the Head of the Fish in the fall. Boats were on the water for most of the year as ice would allow limited access. The main season started in late March when the High Schools began their on water training and concluded in December with the Development Program for our Junior Athletes on the water. Our successes were many and our friendships were lasting.

Highlight of the racing season

1. CSSRA	Gold-4 Silver-5 Bronze-5
2. RowOntario Championships	Gold-6 Silver-7 Bronze-6
3. Royal Canadian Henley Regatta	Gold-12 Silver-8 Bronze-6
4. Canadian Henley Masters	Gold-3 Silver-6 Bronze-1
5. Sr. World Championships	Laura Court Tim Schrijver Matt Buie David DeGroot Kristen Kit
6. Under 23 World Championships	Brett Vilk
7. Junior World Championships	Hailey Mercuri
8. CanAmMex	Lucas Celia Isabel Frolick Owen Darling Alexandra Wiley Ryan Holland David Law Campbell Veld
9. Trans-Tasmanian	Laura Gadsdon <u>Jordan Isnor</u>

Awards

The legacy of excellence with the SCRC was recognized again this year and I would like to acknowledge the success of the following award winners.

RowOntario Competitive Coach of the Year-Scott Anderson

RowOntario Athlete of the Year- Andrew Barry & Christian McAlpine

St. Catharines Sports Hall of Fame Induction- Swede Burak & Bill Schenck

RowOntario Umpire Lifetime Achievement Award-Ken Jasper Campbell

Athlete Development

The Development Program for Junior Athletes continued again this year. This is an initiative that supports SCRC athletes who are interested in moving to the next level in their rowing career. These athletes train as a group through the year, with indoor training at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School and on water sessions throughout the fall, winter and spring as weather permits. With the added crew selection to time trial for Henley Royal Regatta, the training intensity has certainly increased for these athletes.

Henley Royal Regatta

In April of 2019 at the Captain's Dinner, we announced that we were sending one men's and one women's crew to Henley Royal. A committee was struck to set timetables and standards to determine the selection process determining which crews will qualify to go. It is this committee consisting of Mark Welsh, Chris Wilson, Paul Beedling and myself that met many times to determine a fair and transparent process since this was all new to the St. Catharines Rowing Club. Without going into too much detail, winnable events were looked at, coaches were selected, eligible athletes were asked if they would like to try out, time trial dates and standards were set up. Many hours of discussion within the committee as well as outside consultation, we think we have come up with a process which will put our best foot forward at the regatta. We look forward to 2020 and completing this process and see the Cerise and Blue do well at the HRR.

Major Equipment Purchases

We are very fortunate in the equipment that the SCRC has and continues to acquire year after year. With the support of generous donors and the Ontario Trillium Foundation we were able to secure additional equipment to help our athletes succeed.

- Pair/Double
- Single
- Two Coach Boats and Motors

Future of Rowing

Part of being a board member of the SCRC is to ensure the success of the sport of rowing for future generations of athletes. The decisions made today by the broader rowing community have direct impact on every club, volunteer and athlete. Over the last year, the executive has continued deal with RowOntario and Rowing Canada on topics such as seat fees, regatta sanctioning, the elimination of lightweight rowing and the impact and timing of mandatory requirements on coaches and volunteers. We will continue to work through these and many other hurdles with a focus on strengthening rowing and creating more access, not less to the sport we all love.

Safety

The SCRC continues to update the policies to ensure a safe environment of athletes and volunteers. We are working with the other organizations on Henley Island as well as experts in the field of safety, to ensure ongoing safety. This has been and always will be a priority of the St. Catharines Rowing Club.

In closing, I would again like to thank every member of the SCRC community for their hard work and dedication that make the St. Catharines Rowing Club the envy of clubs everywhere. Without the many people that contribute to all the activities on and off the Island, we wouldn't be the club we are today.

Prepared by,

Bob Schenck

Vice President Rowing

St. Catharines Rowing Club

Appendix I

Indoor:

Canadian Indoor Ergometer Championships
Rudernkreig Ergometer Championships
DM Novice Ergometer Sprints
Ontario Ergometer Championships

Secondary School:

Early Bird Regatta
John Bennet (Buffalo) Invitational
Head of the Martindale
Mother's Day Regatta
Stotesbury Cup Regatta
South Niagara Invitational Regatta
US Scholastics
London WOSSA
CSSRA

Summer:

Tony Biernacki
Dominion Day Regatta
CORA Welland
Westside Invitational
CORA St. Catharines
RowOntario Masters Championships
RowOntario Championships
Royal Canadian Henley Masters
Royal Canadian Henley
US Masters Championships

Fall:

Muskoka Fall Classic
Head of the Welland
Head of the Raging Basshole
Head of the Charles
Head of the Fish