

ST. CATHARINES ROWING CLUB

VICE PRESIDENT, SPECIAL PROJECTS – ANNUAL REPORT, 2019

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY JANUARY 21, 2020

As Vice-President, Special Projects it is my privilege to work with the dedicated members of the Board and member-volunteers who so generously provide their time and wise counsel. In particular, I wish to thank Michele Fisher for her work on TRY-IT Day, Nancy Love, Christening Chair, Eileen McRae for her management of September's "Bring-a-Friend" Day, Tracey Newman for her work as Tag Day Chair and on "Come Home to Henley" and the January 2020 Info Day and Lorna Hay-Gaudet and the Nuticelli family for Pasta Night. I also want to extend a special THANK YOU to Mark Welsh for his ongoing support and valuable contribution to the Club.

GRANT APPLICATIONS:

SERVICE CANADA – SUMMER EMPLOYMENT GRANT:

We received a grant to support the Assistant to the Head Coach position for 2019 and will apply for this grant for 2020 as soon as applications open.

ONTARIO - SUMMER EXPERIENCE GRANT:

We did not receive the provincial Summer Experience Grant (SEP) in 2019. Our programs and the criteria for that grant were not well aligned. However, we plan to carefully examine the 2020 SEP criteria and determine if we should apply.

CANADIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (CPRA):

With thanks to Bill Stevenson and Mark, we submitted an application to CPRA for just under \$15,000 to purchase interchangeable shoe plates and shoes for competitive shells.

AWARDS: SCRC members, coaches and volunteers have received a number of Awards from both ROWONTARIO and ROWING CANADA AVIRON – Congratulations to all!!

ROWONTARIO

Athlete(s) of the Year:

Andrew Barry and Christian McAlpine in recognition of their outstanding performance winning the Gold Medal at the Junior National Team Small Boat Trials and Gold in the pair and eight at Henley. The two formed an inseparable unit through their training and racing, leading by example, providing mentorship for younger rowers and earning the respect of fellow club members and coaches through their dedication to the sport.

Coach of the Year:

Scott Anderson was named Competitive Coach of the Year. This award goes to a coach who provides athletes with guidance and leadership that is essential to the fulfillment of their competitive aspirations. Scott also coaches at the Brock, earned the award by coaching crews to several top of the podium finishes. His athletes won five gold medals at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, three at the OUA Championships and two at the Canadian University Rowing Championships. Scott was also named Coach of the year by the Ontario University Athletic Association.

Trillium Cup Awards:

Nancy Love and Chris Blackwood

Long Service Awards:

15 Years

Mark Chapman
Meredith Petrychanko

20 Years:

Bob Ralph
Murray Scott

25 Years

John Gleddie
Liz Ianuzzi
Marion Markarian
Don Markarian

35 Years

Tom Kent
Bob Schenck

40 Years

Ron “Swede” Burak

45 Years

Ken Sandham

Volunteer Service Awards:

Paul Bartel	Autumn Bland	Emma Dockray	Mariah Hendrickson
Kathy Powell	Jacob Tryer	Hunter Young	

ROWING CANADA AVIRON AWARDS

Volunteer of the Year

Kevin Boyes: for his work organizing safety boats at the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association (CSSRA) regatta and helping create a database of qualified safety boat volunteers for those regattas.

Jack Nicholson Coaching Bursary: Mary Rao who coaches for SCRC and for Brock is sharing the bursary with Samantha Heron from the University of Victoria

RCA Long Service Awards:

40 years

Ron “Swede” Burak
Tom Kent

15 Years

Meredith Petrachanko

SPONSORS:

2019 saw us move our Annual Captain’s Dinner and Awards Presentation from spring to fall – resulting in two (wonderfully successful) Dinners in one calendar year. Our loyal and generous sponsors stepped up to our two-in-one year requests for support – thank you!

EVENTS:

CAPTAIN’S DINNERS:

2019 was the year of two wonderfully successful dinners. The Spring Dinner, on April 6, chaired by past SCRC President, Stephanie Brooks and MC’d by Michelle Kerr honoured the Club’s coaches, athletes and volunteers. The awards were presented by crew coaches and by Head Coach, Mark Welsh. Over 200 members and guests attended.

A video put together by Carl MacCulloch highlighting the presenters' and the winners' achievements ran during the presentations. The Spring Silent Auction was managed by Kathy Boyes and the Senior Women's program. Funds raised went back to support that program.

For a number of years, the idea of a move to a Fall dinner to celebrate the just-finished season has been a topic of discussion. Under President Rick Crooker's leadership the move was made. Chaired by Nancy Love and MC'd by Rick, the November 23rd dinner was an overwhelming success! Some format changes were made in the program and service – 225 member and guests attended and loved the very successful evening. Rick's announcement of Sir Matthew Pinsent's April 2020 visit to SCRC, the Athlete Awards presented by Mark Welsh and Carl MacCulloch's video loop and were highlights of the evening. The Auction, in support of our Henley Royal Athletes, was managed by Michele Fisher and Tracey Newman.

The 2020 Captain's Dinner is set for Saturday November 21, 2020 at the Holiday Inn and will be chaired by Kate Hingston.

TAG DAY:

Tag Day, ably chaired by Tracey Newman was held on Saturday May 11, when 225 high school athletes at 27 community locations raised just over \$10,500. Thanks to our enthusiastic athletes and coaches and to the community businesses who gave permission for our athletes to sell tags at their locations.

Thank you too, to the members of the Board and other volunteers who donated their time driving to the locations from Grimsby to Niagara Falls to collect from the taggers.

We are hoping for another successful Tag Day again under Tracey's leadership in 2020 - save the date – **Saturday May 9, 2020.**

TRY-IT DAY:

Try-It, 2019 was held on Sunday May 5 in partnership with the Adult Rec. League. The purpose of TRY-IT is to open the club to any member of the community – any age to TRY-IT – to get into a boat and row. We are always grateful to volunteers from the Junior programs who cox and row with our guests and to our coaches who volunteer to guide the boats. Our junior athletes also volunteer as tour guides and erg-demonstrators. Almost 80 people came and rowed and were so impressed with what we have at SCRC. TRY-IT 2020 is scheduled for the weekend on May 2, exact day and time will be confirmed very soon.

CHRISTENING:

The annual Christening, chaired by Nancy Love and MC'd by Michelle Kerr, was held on Sunday, June 10 at Henley Island. Boats were named for Olympians Lesleh Anderson Wright (1984), Rick Crooker (1968) and the following Rec. League Friends and Sponsors:

- 2019 Rec. League Executive
- Canadian Safety Group
- Excel Environmental
- Filter Media Plus Inc
- Steve Burrows

The 2019 Student Athlete Bursaries awarded to athletes heading to Canadian universities, are a gift to the Club from a generous anonymous donor. The 2019 bursaries were awarded to Isabel Frolick, Lucas

Celia and Nicholas Murray-Coplen. Thank you to Nancy and her crew of volunteers for arranging this lovely event. The 2020 Christening will be held on Sunday June 14.

PASTA DINNER:

The Annual St. Catharines Pasta Dinner, led by Lorna Hay-Gaudet, was held on the Tuesday and Wednesday of Henley Week, August 6 and 7. Over 300 athletes, coaches and friends attended over the two nights. A huge thank you to the Nuticelli family who volunteered to “manage” the event. They decorated the room and purchased and prepared and cooked ALL the amazing food! A total of just under \$1700.00 was raised for the Club – and many times that amount in goodwill!! Thank you to Lorna, the Nuticellis, and to the host of volunteers who helped out.

It should be noted that attendance on Tuesday August 6 was significantly impacted by a MAJOR rain/wind/thunderstorm that resulted in the calling of racing for the second time that day at about 5:00p.m. We served some very wet athletes and coaches and many of our volunteers went home to soggy basements and other major damage.

COME HOME TO HENELY:

Held on the Saturday of Henley week, August 10 and directed at attracting SCRC alumni and past Henley participants, the event attracted 130 guests who paid a \$25.00 entrance which included a buffet and raised \$7000.00 towards the 2020 Henley Royal trip. Plans are already underway for repeat of this really fun event on **Saturday August 8, 2020.**

BRING-A-FRIEND DAY:

This event, held on a gorgeous Saturday September 22, was modelled after our recent TRY-IT Days but directed at the high schools. Athletes who had rowed high-school were asked to “bring-a-friend”. We had enthusiastic support and participation from the schools and saw over 50 participants. Thanks to Eileen McRae and Tracey Newman for putting this successful day together. – the first of many to come.

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Always fun, the Christmas Party was held on Monday December 23 at Scorecard’s – the guests enjoyed Mike’s pizza and wings and generously filled the Community Care barrels with items of non-perishable food.

INFO DAY:

We had information tables at the PEN Centre and Fairview Mall on Saturday January 4, 2020. A great new brochure describing Club activities and programs was available as a hand-out. As well, there will be an erg at each location with a club athlete demonstrating “how-to”. The tables were staffed by members of the Board and Rec. League Executive.

Respectfully Submitted,

Louise Hastings
Vice President, Special Projects
January 21, 2020