

SCRC 2023 Annual General Meeting
Club Captain's Report

January 15, 2023

When I began as High School Coordinator in March 2022, right away, we had a high school season to prepare for. There was a lot to coordinate, some things to learn and relearn, as well as a large group of novice athletes to teach the sport of rowing to. I cannot thank the coaches, Rowing Committee, and Board of Directors enough for their response, help and trust with me this season. Schools were out training, getting better, and working together towards having a high school season, this goal was well achieved. We saw the return of Early Bird, Mother's Day, South Niagara Invitational, and CSSRA Championships. A job well done!

After the high school season was completed, I was named Club Captain. I was excited to continue working with the Club and its members. I also knew that there would be further challenges ahead. There had not been a full rowing season for two years, during that time the Club could only operate in a limited capacity. Again, our Board, volunteers, and coaches did an amazing job in getting our athletes rowing and racing. We saw great performances from our coaches and athletes. All major regattas were held and attended by our Club, which is a credit to all rowing clubs and high school programs this year.

This past year, our Club returned to international racing at the Henley Royal Regatta in Henley on Thames, congratulations to our teams who represented SCRC overseas! We also saw the institution of the Jr. Development Program; introducing new athletes to the sport of rowing, and giving an opportunity to high school athletes who did not have a high school season for the past two years. The Rowing Schools were also back up and running, as well as the Recreational Rowing League and our wonderful Henley Island Helpers.

Our competitive programs were also back: U17, U19, U23, Senior and Masters athletes all competed in the cerise and blue for SCRC at CORAs, West Side Regatta, Ontario Championships, and the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, it was a welcome sight. SCRC also returned to the Head of the Charles in Boston, and the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta in Philadelphia this past fall. Though racing and performance was our primary focus, it was great to reconnect with other clubs, volunteers, and our community as well.

A big thank you to all those involved with the regattas: organizers, umpires, volunteers, boat holders, timers and first aid. It takes efforts from many people to have a regatta. Thanks to you, our athletes were able to race, St. Catharines Rowing Club is extremely appreciative for that.

The St. Catharines Rowing Club facilities will be seeing some exciting improvements. Thanks to an extremely generous donation from Jim Minards, the boathouse will be getting a new concrete floor, along with new lighting and new boat racks. An incredible act of generosity, one that will benefit club members now and for years to come. We are also seeing volunteers from our Club give their time to help with moving equipment out and around the boathouse so the new floor can be installed. A big thank you to those volunteers!

It is my goal to improve on my performance last year to help SCRC as much as I can. The knowledge that I have gained over my time as Club Captain will be used in preparation of the upcoming seasons. I want all programs and operations to run smoothly and effectively. I want all of our programs to have the best possible opportunity at success, I believe that SCRC can achieve this.

I consider myself very fortunate to be Club Captain. I want to thank the St. Catharines Rowing Club for giving me this great opportunity. I am excited for SCRC, and I look forward to continuing to help the Club and its members achieve their goals.

Sincerely,
Aaron Thompson