



## **2024 St. Catharines Rowing Club AGM – VP Finance report for 2023 calendar year**

Utilizing the incredibly generous Minards-family donation, 2023 was book-ended by significant boathouse renovations.

January started with our Junior Winter training group of athletes showing great volunteerism and providing the muscle in moving every shell at least twice, allowing Rankin Construction to grade and ultimately pour amazing concrete floors in all bays. In doing so, it also forced us to do a lot of sorting, disposing, and organizing ourselves much better as we put things back together. At the end of the 2023 year, in the last few weeks of the fall racing season, we installed proto-type new racking in bay 7 that has proven to be exactly what is needed. Upgrading the racking in the remaining bays will become our primary 2024 infrastructure project.

In between the two events listed above, SCRC had a successful year of providing rowing opportunities to all in the community. All programs saw a jump in membership, along with an amazing performance from our Senior crews with many Henley wins making COVID a distant bad memory. The jump in membership was a significant influencer in taking our financial performance to a much more positive outcome than originally budgeted. With our day-to-day operations traditionally generating a budgeted deficit, we heavily depend on the Fundraising Committee to secure additional funds to offset and put us into a surplus position. Our Treasurer Karl Bowley will share the details of our successful financial outcome for 2023 at the AGM.

Our June boat christening saw one of the largest single-year additions to our fleet thanks to Trillium grants that Louise Hastings secured on behalf of the club. Also, courtesy of Trillium, we were able to offset all coaching education expenses for the newly launched “Every Coach Certified” requirement from RCA/RO, along with underwriting the instructor’s wages for the Youth Rowing School and Junior Development programs.

We were incredibly fortunate this year to reimburse coaches for expenses they incurred in attending regattas, along with a recognition award to show appreciation for the endless hours they give to making our members the best they can be.

Thanks to the Henley Island Helpers and the Rec Rowing program for the consistent generous contributions to SCRC. It’s so impactful and allows us to continue to offer the sport of rowing to so many while keeping fees affordable. In addition, for the second year in a row, in 2024 the club will be the beneficiary of an amazing 100% donation of a new 4+/x. More details on this will follow.

Please know how fortunate the club is to have the services and wisdom of our Co-Treasurers Karl Bowley and Wendy Wiebe. Their financial guidance, reporting, and steady hand-on-the-wheel oversight is invaluable.

Brian Fisher