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2024 St. Catharines Rowing Club AGM – VP Membership report for 2023 calendar year

Membership is crucial for the St. Catharines Rowing Club. We have under our umbrella a variety of programs: High School; Competitive Summer and Fall; Masters; Youth Rowing Programs; and the Rec League. All participants are registered with Rowing Canada and add to our overall numbers used by RCA for voting purposes.

In the past the club has collected fees that are used for RCA and Row Ontario registration, regatta entry fees, singlets for competing athletes, Captain's Dinner, and day to day operational costs of running the club. In 2022 a pilot project was introduced to harmonize membership fees for all athletes and establish separate fees directed towards racing (race entries and seat fees) with the intent to implement a 'pay to race' system. This year was the project's second year and things went more smoothly than last. Reconciliation took place after the fall racing season and was quite successful, with only a few athletes with less than a \$10 credit, which will be applied to their 2024 fee. The club is looking to continue this approach for the 2024 season.

All of the high schools (8) were represented in the Summer and Fall Club programs with one participant from Western New York, along with university students – mostly from Brock University. This number includes individuals who may have participated in multiple programs – High School, Club and Youth Rowing. Numbers of participants per program in both 2022 and 2023 and percent growth are shown below – there are a number of individuals that may have been in two or more programs over the course of the year:

2022

High School	–	186
Masters	–	51
Junior / Senior	–	121
Youth Rowing	–	158
Rec League	–	193

2023

High School	–	231 (+12.4%)
Masters	–	54 (+10.6%)
Junior / Senior	–	154 (+12.7%)
Youth Rowing	–	218 (+13.8%)
Rec League	–	227 (+11.8%)

Brian Thorne
VP Membership