



2025 St. Catharines Rowing Club Annual Meeting of the Members Vice President Rowing Report for 2024 calendar year

The 2024 rowing and racing season looked a little different for SCRC members, as Henley Island was host to the 2024 “Mega” World Rowing championships in August. This event caused our regular racing schedule to be adjusted, (Henley was one week earlier) and kept us off the water through the better part of August, Although many club members participated as volunteers for this event.

There were many St. Catharines athletes that earned spots to race for Canada as part of the U23 team at this World Championship:

U23 World Championship Team Members from SCRC

Owen Bartel in the M8+ with coach Scott Anderson; Giancarlo Di Pompeo and Owen Kudreikas in the lwt M2x with coach Mike Petrychanko; Teagan Orth in the W4-; Niko Schramm in the lwt M4x; Serafina Dell in the W4+; and Cait Whittard in the W8+.

Senior Canadian National Team Members from SCRC

Kristen Kit coxing the W8+ to Olympic Silver; Laura Court, Dan DeGroot and Jeff Buczek in the Sr. M8+

CanAmMex Team Members from SCRC

Aiden Djerfi and Jack Ciocca

Royal Canadian Henley Regatta Results

SCRC Masters has an exceptional regatta winning 5 Henley Golds and capturing the Masters Efficiency Trophy in the process. SCRC Jr., U23 and Sr. crews won 7 Henley Golds and 6 close finishes in 2nd place. The Sr/U23 Men’s Team once again had great success with 4 Henley Golds. SCRC finished 7th in the Efficiency Trophy standings, which is an accomplishment, given the number of entries we fielded.

SCRC Volunteer Coaches

Our coaches are one of our greatest assets at SCRC, and are recognized widely as being some of the best. Our coaches also demonstrate a commitment and willingness to dedicate endless hours to develop and support our athletes. Thank you to ALL of our coaches listed below for the level of professionalism and excellence that makes the St. Catharines Rowing Club such a great place to coach and row.

SCRC 2024 Summer Coaching Staff

U17 Men: Jacob Tyrer, Hunter Young, Mike Di Benedetto, Owen Powell, Evan Freeman, Alex Hardy

U17 Women: Rich Moreau, Paul Bartel, Pat Morris Hailey Haymes, Nathan VanderVaart, Meridith Hilmeyer

U19 Men: Brian Fisher, Jim Finley, Andrew Barry, Nick Murray-Coplen

U23/Sr Men: Tom Kent, Jared Boles

U23/Sr Women: Liz Iannizzi, Petra Plat-Dekoter

SCRC 2024 Fall Coaching Staff

Jr Women: Michele Fisher, Jim Finley, Liz Iannizzi, Liz Harold, Kestra Harris, Mike Di Benedetto, Owen Powell, Pat Morris

Jr. Men: Brian Fisher, Nic Murray-Coplen, Andrew Carr, Andrew Barry

Sr Women: Joslyn Galloway

Sr Men: Peter Somerwil

Coach Training and Certification

Thanks to Peter Somerwil, a focused effort has been initiated to encourage ALL of our coaches to continue their training and certifications beyond the minimum ECC (Every Coach Certified) requirements. This push will continue through 2025 and will assist in developing our coaches and ultimately club performance.

Youth Rowing Programs

Under the direction of member Erin Sharpe, the Youth Rowing Camp continues to be a popular activity through the summer. Many young athletes are introduced to the sport through this program and continue on to participate with their respective high school programs. This year a Fall novice program was introduced, giving high school students a chance to try rowing before committing to a full winter of dryland training.

Community Sport for All Initiative (CSAI)

SCRC received a second grant from RCA/Sport Canada, allowing us to reach out to our community to offer a rowing experience to those populations who are under-represented in rowing and as a result would not consider rowing a sport in which they could participate. A series of Try-It-Days were organized, opening up the club to many individuals who had not considered rowing previously. Thank you to Erin Sharpe and Lauren Gadsdon for taking the lead on this initiative.

Thank You Peter

Peter Somerwil stepped in at the beginning of June to help the club navigate the summer and fall seasons. His knowledge, energy and 'get-it-done' attitude was so very much appreciated by coaches and athletes alike. Thank you Peter from all of us at SCRC for the time and hard work you have put into the club this past year.

Welcome Greg!

I am very happy to welcome Greg to the position of Head Coach at SCRC. His extensive training and experience will help to move our athletes, coaches and club forward into 2025 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Lancaster

Vice President Rowing

St. Catharines Rowing Club