



2021 St. Catharines Rowing Club AGM – VP Finance Report

What can be said about 2020 that has not already been said so many times?

Instead, I'd prefer to concentrate on where we are now, and how we got here.

Looking back as COVID and the SCRC had a head-on collision mid March, the Club did what it has done for the last 117 years. We adapted and did what had to be done. We got on with it.

Budgets were reworked, plans thought up, tried, and then back to creating a better one. Zoom calls, debates, more Zoom calls, more debates. The more restrictions and requirements, the more creative the Club got. With the benefit of hindsight, and certainly different kinds of challenges, it's probably not that much of a stretch to compare this to what the SCRC leadership went through in the 60's relocating to the Island and tasked with digging a road into a field from Main St to the water.

We had to reinvent what we offered this summer (1X's only for so long) and attempt to meet the never-ending hunger from the Community to get on the water. Four shifts of our 1X's hitting the water each day. The hindsight of investing and growing our 1X Club inventory over the last number of years quickly was genius.

Given so many unknowns in the Spring, we anticipated offering a condensed program would draw down on the Club's reserves from previous years. As things progressed and unfolded through the year, and with a sincere thanks to CHRC for suspending our quarterly contribution to the Island Capital Reserve Fund, we managed to finish with a modest surplus. We offered a "summer" program that exceeded our planned numbers, and then met the unexpected demand for a "fall" program, one that was extended at no extra cost into the days just before Christmas as the lockdown was announced.

I am confident history will judge this as one of SCRC's most significant logistical accomplishments. One I hope we all feel proud to be a part of.

It's mentioned every year for a reason. What gets done over the course of any 12 months at the Club is because of the selfless, passionate people that continue to "give back" as Volunteers. The gate keepers logging people in and out in June and July, Club Directors, and the committed and always doing-what's-required Coaches. Where would we be without you all?

As the following reports will show, once again this year we all were so very fortunate to have the many Friends of SCRC step forward with financial donations to the Club. Without this ongoing generosity, we operate at a loss. Thank you so very much for your acceptance of what we do, and the belief it is worthy of your contributions.

Brian Fisher