



2019 St. Catharines Rowing Club AGM – VP Finance Report

With a strict and disciplined financial approach for 2018, we were successful in growing our operating surplus significantly. This was accomplished while not impacting or holding back the operation or performance of the Club.

We knew entering the year it would be a challenge given the introduction of Row Ontario and Rowing Canada's seat fees. With great modelling and input from Brian Thorne, and others, a plan was executed to monitor and minimize the impact of the new membership process. The next significant challenge was the mandatory use of Regatta Central's new "Next Gen Canada only" regatta organizer. An incredibly painful, and untested system, not able to manage the needs of setting up Regatta's, nor administering the entering of crews. So many unnecessary hours were spent, by so many dedicated volunteers to do their best to work within the confines of an incapable yet mandated process. Even with the best effort, it continued to frustrate throughout all of 2018 making something that was once so simple, instead so impossible and painful.

Despite the above, and as always, SCRC found a way to continue to do what we do best. Getting over 1,000 rowers and Coaches on the water, in one of our many programs throughout the year, to enjoy the sport of Rowing.

Other key highlights;

1. Securing a Trillium grant to turn six Rec 8+'s into like-new Hudson racing shells, (Louise Hastings)
2. The successful staging of the CORA Championship regatta.
3. The many current, and SCRC alumni, that represented Canada at various international and World Championship regattas.
4. Being introduced to the beginning plans and concepts of an amazing on-Island training centre for our Members.
5. More Henley success.
6. Another increased contribution from the Rec Rowing League. Many thanks to Bob and Sharon Ralph and their Executive, for their continued oversight and commitment to making this happen.
7. Repeated for yet another year, the ongoing, and in some cases, quiet anonymous donors that continue to recognize and contribute to the needs of the Club. This means so much and benefits so many.
8. High School for credit Rowing courses now being offered at Holy Cross, and St. Francis. From all accounts, more schools will follow.
9. Redesign and replacement of the coach boat launch ramp, and the motor storage building.

However, the challenges continue. The mandating of sanctions on Regattas, the potential for increased seat fees from RCA, and many unfinished areas of concern with RO loom like dark clouds on the horizon.

We all at SCRC owe significant appreciation to our many Supporters and Volunteers. From Coaches, to Directors, to Regatta volunteers, and others that are always there to help, we could not do what we do, without each and everyone of you. A very special thanks and recognition to our departing Treasurer Larry Masse, and his staff at WMKL for once again keeping us disciplined, and financially healthy.

Brian Fisher