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2022 St. Catharines Rowing Club AGM – VP Finance report for calendar year 2021

I look back 12 months from today and think of the hope and optimism that a “traditional” year of rowing was on the 2021 horizon. We were so much smarter for what we’d experienced the last 9 months, and with vaccines showing up, what could stop us?

Sadly, we all know how 2021 played out.

SCRC members once again chose to not abandon the sport, but instead put more training time into perfecting their skills. It certainly was inspiring to the Club that despite everything, we kept marching forward.

Karl Bowley, the Club’s Treasurer will walk you through the details of our 2021 financial performance, however I wanted to share some commentary to set things up. Before doing that, I wanted to acknowledge Karl, and Wendy Wiebe for their amazing support and work with our finances during 2021. It’s been an amazingly smooth transition to bringing them on board as our Co-Treasurers. Thank you both so much for your give-back care and concern for the Club.

Learning from 2020, our ability to anticipate revenue and manage expenses allowed the Operations side of the Club to turn a modest surplus. Where we saw a significant uptick, was in the success of our Fundraising efforts.

Some of the highlights –

- Louise Hastings, VP Special Projects was successful in generating significant funds from our faithful following of Sponsors, and then topped that with securing a Trillium grant to offset the cost of hiring a Club Captain
- As Rec Rowing pivoted to rejuvenating the Henley Island Helpers, as well as suppling food to the Alumni weekend events, they were incredibly generous in remembering the Club
- An additional CEBA opportunity saw us secure additional cash flow buffer and retain the income portion of the grant
- And we continued to be the recipients of an incredibly generous Community that saw fit to continue their never-ending support of our efforts

The above would be indicative of a successful “normal” year but given the myriad of pandemic challenges we’ve all been affected by; it’s staggering to appreciate the generosity we continue to receive. Thank you so very much for your acceptance of what we do, and the belief it is worthy of your contributions.

As we continue with the rebuild of the Club post pandemic, it was decided to hire Jim Marino as the Club’s full-time Captain. A necessary investment on what will begin the road to recovery - a full High School season, followed by a busy summer and fall of racing.

The Club was incredibly fortunate to once again have an awesome full squad of volunteer Coaches to motivate and encourage athletes to join, train, and improve themselves in any number of ways. For all the planning and strategy the Board may do, without this group the Club does not exist. Thank you to all Coaches for your never-ending dedication and give-back spirit to SCRC.

Brian Fisher