

The 2015 Rowing Season provided new opportunities and interesting hurdles for the rowing club and its competitive season. We were awarded and organized the National Rowing Championships, supported the Pan Am games regatta, and dealt with the opening of a new bridge and some major repairs to water mains. Like we seem to always do, we were able to meet these opportunities and challenges head on and operated our rowing programs and regattas in an extremely successful manner.

The 2015 SCRC rowing program, according to our online database, indicated an increase in the number of competitive athletes overall for all programs (Spring, Summer and Fall programs).

Secondary School registration numbers showed that there were approximately 400 athletes attached to our 14 local secondary schools rowing out of SCRC. As well, 80 coaches were involved with those athletes and secondary schools. These number are slightly increased from the 2014 season.

Summer and Fall competitive registration were up from 2014, but the information was a little difficult to disaggregate with our database so the numbers may have some duplication; However, the data indicates that there were 257 competitive summer athletes (U17 - SrA [226], Masters [31]). The Fall registration numbers were 120 (Jr - SrA [80], Masters [40]).

All of our summer programs were able to maintain consistency with their leadership. Our Lead coaches from 2014 were once again in the same roles for 2015. There were 30 summer competitive coaches and 8 fall competitive coaches supporting SCRC athletes in 2015. Adult Recreational Rowing had an additional 15 coaches supporting the two sessions that took place in 2015.

A revamping of the Youth Rowing School had a very positive impact on the numbers of young men and women who were involved in the Youth Rowing School. There were 158 participants ranging in age from 10 - 15 years old. This is an increase of 10% from the previous year and there was a waiting list for the new Learn-to-Train program.

The Pan Am Games Rowing Regatta was held on the Martindale Pond this summer during July 11th to 16th. During this time there were national teams from across North and South America that were present on the island. While the regatta was under way we were unable to train at the club. Therefore, we re-located some of our equipment and training during the regatta to South Niagara Rowing Club and Jordan Harbour Rowing School. Although the regatta was quite short the regatta had an impact of on our facilities from July 6th to July 31st (beyond the racing dates). Certainly there were many positive outcomes one of which was that and most of our young athletes had an opportunity to observe some of the world best athletes training on their own rowing course.

There were four regattas that St. Catharines Rowing Club hosted and organized directly. The regattas were the Early Bird Regatta, Mother's Day Regatta, The SCRC Invitational Regatta, and The National Rowing Championships (NRC). Volunteers were the backbone of each of these events. The Pan Am regatta and the NRC regatta placed an extra load on our volunteers. Although the extra regattas were in place and could possibly overload our volunteers they stepped up and provided great racing opportunities for all athletes.

2015 Racing Season

We competed in over 30 regattas and events throughout the racing season. Athletes from the St. Catharines Rowing Club successfully competed in a wide range of regattas from the Early Bird regatta all the way to the Senior World Championships (with the NRC and Pan Am Regatta tucked into the mix).

Highlights (of local crews and athletes):

- 1. CSSRA**
 - a. 3 Gold, 5 Silver, 7 Bronze
- 2. RowOntario Championships**
 - a. 16 Gold, 11 Silver, 9 Bronze
- 3. Canadian Henley**
 - a. 9 Gold, 7 Silver, 2 Bronze
- 4. Canadian Henley Masters**
 - a. 2 Gold, 4 Silver, 1 Bronze
- 5. Senior World Championships**
 - a. Natalie Mastracci - Bronze Women 8+
 - b. Tim Shrivjer - 4th Men 4-
 - c. Matt Buie - 11th Men 4x
- 6. Pan Am Games**
 - a. Tim Shrivjer - Gold Men 8+, Men 4-
 - b. Matt Buie - Gold Men 4x, Bronze Men 2x
- 7. Senior B (U23) World Championships**
 - a. Matt Finley -Gold Men 4x
 - b. David DeGroot - Bronze Men 4-
 - c. Grayson Gray - Final B
 - d. James Myers - Final B
- 8. Junior (U18) World Championships**
 - a. Brett Vilik - 13th Men 4-
- 9. CanAmMex**
 - a. Hannah Bristowe - Silver Women 8+, Bronze Women 4-
 - b. Skylar Goudswaard - Gold Women 4x, Gold Women 2x
 - c. Anna Maloney - Gold Women 4x, Gold Women 2x
 - d. Nicholas Nero - Gold Men 4-, Silver Men 8+
- 10. FISU (World University Games)**
 - a. Stephanie Mowder
 - b. Taylor Ashwood
 - c. James Potts
 - d. Mark Alm
- 11. National Rowing Championships (NRC)**
 - a. Matt Finley and David DeGroot - 3rd (Final A) Men 2- and 2nd Men U23 2-
 - b. Taylor Ashwood and Grayson Gray - 1st Men Lightweight 2-
 - c. Owen Voelkner and Nick Nero - 2nd Men Junior 2-
 - d. Matt Buie - 1st (Final B) Men 1x
 - e. Dan DeGroot - 2nd U23 Men 1x
 - f. Natalie Mastracci - 2nd (Final A) Women 2-
 - g. Stephanie Mowder - 3rd (Final B) Women 1x

Awards:

- St. Catharines Rowing Club was awarded the
 - **RowOntario 2015 Club of the Year**

The RCA Conference will be taking place in Ottawa, Ontario on January 28 - 30, 2016. We are hopeful that we are being considered for other national awards for the 2015 season.

Major equipment Purchases in 2015:

- 1 - Hudson 4+ (Christened after Athlete, Coach, and Director, Tim Dumont)
- Hudson 2-/2x (Christened after SCRC Athlete and Olympian, Barb Armburst)
- 1 - 14' Polar Kraft Dakota Aluminum Coach Boat
- Yamaha 8HP 4 Stroke Outboard Motor

Prepared by,

Scott Anderson, V. P. Rowing, St. Catharines Rowing Club 2015