

St.Catharines Rowing Club

President's Report to the Annual General Meeting, January 17, 2017

I am pleased to present this annual report and first want to thank our Board of Directors and Executive for their leadership this past year. Thank you as well to Club Manager and Head Coach Mark Welsh along with a special note of thanks to our Boathouse assistant Ryan Malkowski and to all our Youth Rowing School staff.

We have a number of departing board members; Carl MacCulloch, Janet Lancaster and Jennifer Stephenson. Carl has been associated with this club since 1964 and has been a long time board member and volunteer taking on many duties at the club. He has also spent many years coaching our young athletes and we were pleased to see him take on that role again this past season. Janet has also been a key contributing director and for many years oversaw the youth rowing school program and is one of our most successful competitive Masters athletes. Jennifer has also been a long term board member who has greatly assisted at our events and in the annual coordination of Tag Day, our very successful annual fundraiser. We appreciate all the work these departing directors undertook and hope to continue to see them at the club. Thank you all on behalf of the club!

On a sad note we lost a number of people in our rowing family since our last AGM. Gerry Cheevers, Bruce Gibson, Emily Brettell, John Walker, Dr. Erv Oinonen, June Prytula, Dave Oscar Tasane, Martha Coffey, Daryl Macdonald, Stan Body, William Ewert, and Dorrie Wilson.

It was another successful year for our club that saw us offering programming for over 1000 participants. That programming included youth rowing school, high school, summer and fall club competitive, high performance for athletes with aspirations for the national team, recreational adult, competitive masters, and para rowing. It takes well over 200 coaches and coaching assistants to support all these athletes. We are very fortunate to have these volunteer coaches at our club.

Although we didn't have as many Henley Wins as we had hoped, we did have 33 finalists and of those 38% finished top three at Henley. We also had a great showing at the Provincial Championships with 36% of our athletes medalling. Eleven SCRC athletes rowed on the national team and of those, three represented Canada in Rio at the Olympics. Our club has athletes participating in the sport at all levels from novice to National Team. This is a great accomplishment that we all should be proud of. We also had a series of successful regattas and events and in collaboration with the Rec Rowing league put on two very successful "Try it Days". Thank you to our Rec Rowing League Board and President Bob Ralph for all their work with our adult recreational rowing program.

The Board implemented a number of new policies that have included a code of conduct, new safety guidelines and a return to play policy. All of which are important to keep our most valued asset, our club members, safe when they are participating in activities at the club. Changes and improvements to our Youth Rowing School continued based on feedback from participants and parents and we look forward to future improvements this year to that structure. We have been working with the Niagara bid team working on the 2021 Canada Summer Games bid and look forward to the announcement of the successful host later this spring.

We ended the year with the exciting arrival (just prior to Christmas!) of our new shells purchased with our Trillium grant funding. We were happy to bring into the shell house four new doubles and two new quads and look forward to their official christening this June.

I thank our long time partners and donor organizations the Henley Island Helpers and the St.Catharines Rowing Alumni Association, as well as our many other donors and supporters who have helped us this past year with equipment purchases and support for our athletes. We look forward to a great year for rowing in 2017 as we celebrate Canada 150th, The St.Catharines Rowing Alumni's 60th and the 135th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. I thank all the athletes, coaches, volunteers and staff who make The St.Catharines Rowing Club such a great club. It has been my privilege to represent you as President this past year. Forge Ahead in 2017!

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Kerr
President