

Vice President Rowing Report 2019

As this was my first year in the position of Vice President Rowing, I would like to start by thanking all those that supported me in my role over the year. I want to send special thanks to Mark Welsh and Brian Fisher for guiding and supporting me through all the issues and expectations that this role entails.

I became immersed in the behind the scenes details of the St. Catharines Rowing Club (SCRC) and have a better appreciation of what makes this club as successful as it is. With our compliment of Lead Coaches, we provided athletes of all levels, the access to further their skills on their path to excellence in rowing.

Competitive Rowing Lead Coaches 2018

Junior B Women: Janet Lancaster	Junior B Men: Mary Rao
Junior A Women: Michele Fisher	Junior A Men: Brian Fisher
Senior A&B Women: Kathy Boyes	Senior A & B Men: Matt Schenck
Senior A & B Lwt. Women: Dave Wright & Swede Burak	Senior Lwt. A & B Men: Scott Anderson & Tom Kent
Fall Junior Women: Murray Scott & Michelle Fisher	Fall Junior Men: Brian Fisher & Andrew Carr
Masters: Rob Walton & Brian Davis	

I would like to thank the Lead Coaches and the numerous Assistant Coaches for all the hard work and dedication that make our athletes the best that can be. These people are the backbone of The St. Catharines Rowing Club, providing our competitive athletes excellent training programs and leading them to personal and club successes.

All the above Coaches have agreed to take on their roles in the 2019 year with the exception of Sr. A & B Men. We are currently trying to fill this position.

Host Regattas 2018

The SCRC hosted the following regattas

High School Season

Early Bird
Mother's Day
Jr. National Team Eastern Selection Trial

Summer Competitive Season

Central Ontario Rowing Association (CORA)
St. Catharines Invitational
Head of the Raging Basshole

I would like to thank all the Regatta Leads and the countless volunteers that put in the many hours to host these regattas, without them, we wouldn't be able to run such events. I would particularly like to thank Regatta Chair; Brian Fisher, Chief Umpire; Louise Hastings and Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Kovacs for the

many extra hours leading up to regatta day. With the challenges of the new Regatta Central and Sanctioning process there were many new issues to deal with this year in hosting these regattas, and more hours were required than any previous year to make these regattas happen.

Racing Season (See Appendix I for a full list of Regattas)

The SCRC had another full season of racing. Competing started with the Indoor Ergometer Racing and ended with the Head of the Fish in the fall. Boats were on the water for most of the year as ice would allow limited access. The main season started in late March when the High Schools began their on water training and concluded in December with the Development Program for our Junior Athletes on the water. Our successes were many and our friendships were lasting.

Highlight of the racing season

1. CSSRA	Gold-1 Silver-7 Bronze-6
2. RowOntario Championships	Gold-9 Silver-7 Bronze-3
3. Royal Canadian Henley Regatta	Gold-6 Silver-9 Bronze-9
4. Canadian Henley Masters	Gold-2 Silver-3 Bronze-1
5. Sr. World Championships	Laura Court Tim Schrijver Matt Buie David DeGroot Kristen Kit
6. Under 23 World Championships	Dan DeGroot Laura Court
7. Junior World Championships	Mitch Rodgers Emma Dockray
8. CanAmMex	Hailey Mercuri Lauren Kelly
9. Trans-Tasmanian	Brenna Randall Anna Maloney

Awards

The legacy of excellence with the SCRC was recognized again this year and I would like to acknowledge the success of the following award winners.

RowOntario Competitive Coach of the Year-Brian Fisher

RowOntario Male Umpire of the Year- Gord Duncan

St. Catharines Sports Hall of Fame Induction- Buffy Alexander

Athlete Development

The Development Program for Junior Athletes continued again this year. This is an initiative that supports SCRC athletes who are interested in moving to the next level in their rowing career. These athletes train as a group through the year, with indoor training at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School and on water sessions throughout the fall, winter and spring as weather permits.

A new program established in 2018 was the Rowing High School Course. This initiative started in the fall semester at St. Francis Catholic High School and Holy Cross Catholic High School in partnership with the SCRC. Students in the course participate in on water, in class and in gym sessions developing skills much like a physical education course with a focus on rowing. Thanks to Mark Welsh for developing this program along with the Administration of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. With the success of the program, Sir Winston Secondary School will begin a course in the fall of 2019.

Major Equipment Purchases

We are very fortunate in the equipment that the SCRC has and continues to acquire year after year. With the support of generous donors and the Ontario Trillium Foundation we were able to secure additional equipment to help our athletes succeed.

- Ontario Trillium Foundation contributed funds to have six Recreational Rowing League shells refurbished by Hudson Boat Works.
- One Pair/Double cost share with St. Francis
- One Single
- One Quad
- Two CII Ergometer Bikes
- Two Coach Boats and Motors

Future of Rowing

Part of being a board member of the SCRC is to ensure the success of the sport of rowing for future generations of athletes. The decisions made today by the broader rowing community have direct impact on every club, volunteer and athlete. Over the last year, the executive has continued to have discussions with RowOntario on topics such as seat fees, regatta sanctioning, the elimination of lightweight rowing and the impact and timing of mandatory requirements on coaches and volunteers. I remain hopeful that together we can resolve these issues with a focus on strengthening rowing and creating more access, not less to the sport we all love.

Safety

The SCRC continues to update the policies to ensure a safe environment of athletes and volunteers. We are working with the other organizations on Henley Island as well as experts in the field of safety, to ensure ongoing safety. This has been and always will be a priority of the St. Catharines Rowing Club.

In closing, I would again like to thank every member of the SCRC community for their hard work and dedication that make the St. Catharines Rowing Club the envy of clubs everywhere. Without the many people that contribute to all the activities on and off the Island, we wouldn't be the club we are today.

Prepared by,

Bob Schenck

Vice President Rowing, St. Catharines Rowing Club

Appendix I

Indoor:

Canadian Indoor Ergometer Championships
Rudernkreig Ergometer Championships
DM Novice Ergometer Sprints
Ontario Ergometer Championships

Secondary School:

Early Bird Regatta
John Bennet (Buffalo) Invitational
Head of the Martindale
Mother's Day Regatta
Stotesbury Cup Regatta
South Niagara Invitational Regatta
US Scholastics
London WOSSA
CSSRA

Summer:

Tony Biernacki
Dominion Day Regatta
CORA London
Westside Invitational
US Club Nationals
CORA St. Catharines
RowOntario Masters Championships
St. Catharines Invitational Regatta
RowOntario Championships
Royal Canadian Henley Masters
Royal Canadian Henley
US Masters Championships

Fall:

Muskoka Fall Classic
Head of the Welland
Head of the Raging Basshole
Head of the Charles
Head of the Fish