

St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Association

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"FOR THE
BETTERMENT
OF ROWING"



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2020.

The year that never was, is almost over, and forever being optimistic let's get back to business by the late spring of 2021. All of our great and aggressive plans for 2020 were all shelved, while our expense burn continued, throughout the year. Of particular interest to our members has been the unforeseen increase in insurance premiums directly related to the pandemic as well as other liability issues. Organizations and clubs such as ours, as well as restaurants, bars, and theatre venues have all incurred in excess of 150% jumps in insurance for the coming year. Any place where large gatherings may take place and or alcohol is available has been impacted. Our club insurance expenses went from \$8600 in 2019 to \$22000 in 2020. To top that off we were virtually idled for the entire year of 2020. The alcohol hosting industry of which we are a part of has a huge issue if these rates continue into 2021.

Two very positive opportunities came to us this summer with the introduction of our *Summer Patio Nites*. The club was able to generate a net revenue, of \$15500 over the 12 week run of the patio. On top of that our partnership with *OLG /Delta Bingo* was able to start up again in the summer months with some innovative offerings

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for their patrons. Although our “bingo” volunteer team has been unable to act as hosts during our allotted timeslots, *OLG- Delta Bingo* has continued to share the receipts of their enterprise. The Board of the Alumni has been most grateful to our partners at *OLG -Delta Bingo* for the monthly revenue sharing, even though we have been unable to assist. Let’s hope we are able to get back at it in 2021.

Our objective for any revenue generated from *OLG- Delta Bingo* is for use to support rowing related programmes, and rowing equipment needs. During this year of the pandemic all major rowing events and activities were put on hold, as our island rowing clubs were mandated into lockdown. For all the rowing clubs including our club, the operating expenses and obligations continued with monthly utility, insurance and maintenance bills still requiring payment. We were authorized to be able to tap into our bingo revenue for this year only to help us stabilize our outgoing costs. If we were unable to use these funds to support our immediate financial requirements, we would most certainly be out of business by January 2021. As a result of the ability to access this revenue streams we will now be able to make it to the other side when our traditional revenue streams open back up and operating such as regatta merchandise sales and rentals, to name but two. Again let’s be optimistic that we are able to turn things around in 2021.

Our *Summer Patio Nites* introduced many locals to the beauty and tranquility of Henley Island. I am always amazed at how many locals are unaware that an island park is located in their own neighbourhood. Many guests were so impressed that they joined our organization and we thank them for their support. Welcome to the Alumni Michael Stevens, son of our historian Bill. We already put him to work on our fall cleanup day. This newsletter contains a sponsor page at the conclusion of the letter. If you have a business or service that you would like to include in our monthly letter it is only \$100 for the year. All we need is a business card of digital logo and we will get it included for 2021. A cheque payable to SCRAA addressed to us (address on top of newsletter) or an e transfer to scraa01@gmail.com Thanks for the continued support of our current sponsors.

Congratulations to Ken Campbell on his induction into the Rowing Ontario Hall of Fame. Ken is entering in the Officials Category in recognition of his

50 years of service to the sport of competitive rowing. Great to hear Jim Minards is back on his feet and back on the Island checking out the new construction taking place down by the boathouse. We wish Jim a great recovery and glad to have him back. Harry Edmonstone is recovering in the Hotel Due Shaver Re -Hab after a nasty shoulder break back in the early fall. Harry you are in the best hands for rehab and wish you well on your recovery. In November we lost Bill Galloway who passed away on November 14th. Bill was very active in the club during the 80's and 90's. A natural born fund raiser, Bill could squeeze every penny out of you. Bill was a member of the Henley 100 Team, the 1999 Worlds Team and his true legacy the funding and building of the Walker YMCA. Also on November 20th saw the passing of Shirley Dick, who was noted as being the "best rower" in the Dick family. Shirley was a member of the very first female rowing crew ever to hit the Henley water. Mother of John, Wayne, Robbie, and Brian, a true Port Family. The Alumni sends our condolences to the Galloway and Dick families.

When we move into 2021 we will assess how our social distancing is progressing. If it is safe to do so, we are contemplating organizing a weekly work party to spruce up the Walt Prytula Room down in our basement. There are hundreds of plaques, memorabilia and pictures to be sorted organized and displayed. A couple of hours one afternoon per week may make for a nice diversion this coming winter. Stay tuned for this.

Our annual Fall shutdown and clean up was fantastic. 21 members were on hand to rake up blow off and haul tables. Our members just want to get out there and do something. It was great to see everybody out and pitching in. In a matter of hours the whole job was complete, and the reward was an adult beverage out on the patio. There were so many gas leaf blowers at work that it even drowned out Joe Martin yapping away as always. Who said gas blowers are annoying.

To all enjoy the holiday season as best you are able. Stay safe. Stay Healthy. We will see you in 2021. It can only get better.

Clubhouse grounds fall clean up: November 21st



Bill & Jim taking a little break



Looks like a City Works Crew



Ross: Outstanding in his field!



The Stevens Boys: Bill & Michael Actually Working



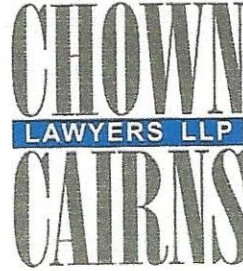
**The 2921 Alumni Men's Heavy 4 during land training session
Absent from workout was coxswain Mark Wilson. Crew sponsored
By Molson Canadian**

Thank you to The St. Catharines Rowing Alumni 2020 Newsletter Sponsors



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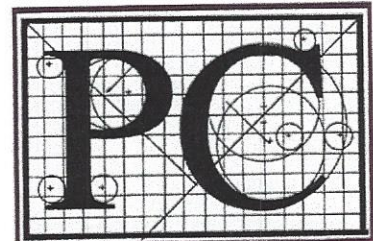
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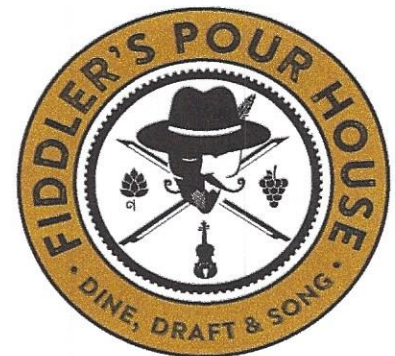
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