

St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Association

295 MAIN STREET
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"FOR THE
BETTERMENT
OF ROWING"



All Summer Long!

"Port Dalhousie's BEST Patio"

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays

4pm-9pm

Thursday - Food Truck

Friday - Beef on a Bun

Saturday - Rec Rowing BBQ

All are Welcome!



Cold Drinks! Lots of seating! Social distancing in place!
St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Association
The Top of Henley Island. 295 Main Street. Port Dalhousie.



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020.

I hope this autumn newsletter is finding you safe and in good health. The glorious summer is behind us and the last few days of an Indian Summer, will dissipate soon, into a dreary November. We shall never forget the summer of the Pandemic. It was a strange one, but we all made an attempt to make the best of it. Rowing competition was shut down for the entire season, our Hall which was booked to capacity throughout the entire summer has been closed inside since March. Revenue streams for the Alumni as well as all our partners on Henley Island dried up in the blink of an eye.

After a lot of discussion and planning the Alumni executive tentatively dipped our toes into the food & beverage game in an effort to keep our membership involved down at the island, and to attempt to drive some revenue in order to maintain our ability to pay our expenses which did not go away. On July 9th we opened our outdoor patio to the members, friends, and neighbours. The first week or so was a little bumpy but as the word got out every week saw revenue and visits improve.

Our members really stepped up to make this thing work. If I tried to thank every one of them I would be certain to miss at least a dozen. Some key players in getting this going were Chris O'Connor and his Port Dalhousie Supply Co craft beer. Chris organized the Pizza Oven Vendor for every Thursday. The artisan pizzas drew many families for a "pizza night on the patio" and they were able to sell out most Thursday's. Chris' beer was so popular that we drank him dry of every can of his fresh inventory by the end of July. How does a beer guy run out of beer? Friday's became our famous Beef on a Bun night. The best beef in the region provided by our own Dave Moukperian out of the kitchens of Monty's on Ontario Street and Fiddler's Pour House downtown. Dave delivered a batch of beef every Friday which was gone almost immediately. Word got out fast on how good it was.

The St. Catharines Recreational Rowing League was another casualty this summer and unable to get on the water for competition or meet at the club after racing for their weekly social. To keep there members involved Bob & Sharon Ralph fired up the BBQ every Saturday serving up everything from Burgers, to Ribs. Sharon then grew the evening by providing live musical entertainment,

which in itself brought in many patrons to the Island for the first time. It has been a thrill to see so many diverse people enjoying what we all know as the best outdoor patio in the city. The guy that kept all the pie plates spinning each weekend was Chris Baker behind the bar and plexi-glass shield. Chris improved the beverage offerings each week adding specialty drinks and concoctions as well as bringing on Bench Brewery to support our craft beer patrons.

It was a pure team effort throughout the summer and it helped engage our members to drop down to the club for some good times and friendship. If you were on housekeeping, garbage detail, or just down for a cool one you helped us through the summer. Thank You. The net sales will enable us to meet our expenses through out the winter into next spring.

It is unfortunate that we will not be able to utilize our clubhouse again this winter, as indoor gatherings continue to be heavily restricted. The Executive will meet on the 26th of October to put together our plan for the winter season. This will most certainly include the postponement of our Christmas Turkey Raffle. We will finalize a plan for winter yard clean up for either the 14th or 21st of November, after the majority of the leaves are down. We will keep you posted on that.

Our bartender not only served drinks each weekend he also accepted membership cards and dues from 5 new members. All our new members, have a long connection to activity on Henley Island. Welcome to the Alumni: *Peter Larsen, Wendy Stafford (Holmes), Sue Harrison, Malcolm Walker, & last but not least, Chris Baker.* Sticking with dues, Your annual membership of \$25.00 is desperately needed this year. A cheque to the mailing

address at the top of the newsletter, or an *e transfer* to scraa01@gmail.com This will get you updated and avoid barb from knocking on your front door.

Over the summer we lost one our senior members. Bill Gee passed on in August in his 94th year. Bill was a regular in the souvenir booth at each CSSRA and Henley Regatta. He enjoyed the customer interaction as he sold our pins and Tee's. Our condolences to Bill's family, and thanks for his service to the Alumni.

There is a great story in the Port Community Paper about the early days of the Island and our Charter Members. I will get permission to reprint it for you to read next month.

In closing the summer went better than anticipated, thank you for your patronage and support. Remember Best Beef on a Bun....Monty's on Ontario Street.

A Thanks to all our sponsors. Remember shop local

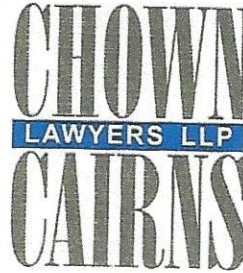
Cheers for now!

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



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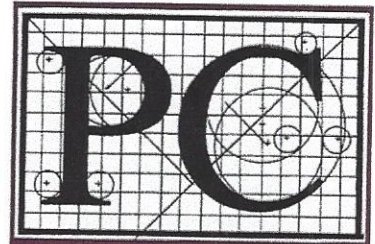
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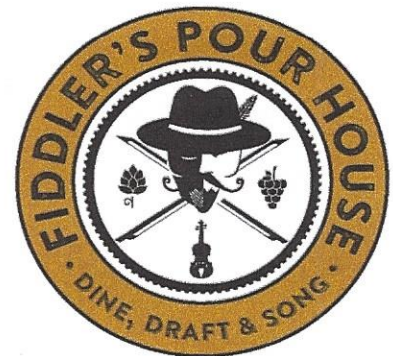
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