



**ROWING CANADA AVIRON ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. PDT.**

The 2019 RCA Annual Meeting was held by electronic means via webinar and conference call.

Member clubs and associations in good standing cast their ballots prior to the Annual Meeting via electronic ballot, no proxies, using a secure online voting system for the following agenda items:

1. Acceptance of the Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report
2. Appointment of the Auditor
3. Election of Directors

The agenda for the meeting also included reports by RCA President, Carol Purcer; and CEO, Terry Dillon.

**Notes from the 2019 RCA Annual Meeting**

- The 2019 Annual Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. PDT.
- There were 132 total member clubs and associations in good standing carrying 304 weighted votes.

- 82 members cast a ballot carrying 195 weighted votes - a quorum was established.

## **Report of the President**

The following summary of 2019 activities was presented. A full report on annual activities will be included in the RCA Annual Report published in January 2020 in both French and English.

As always, RCA has been a busy organization both domestically and at the high performance level. We continue to strive for excellence and grow our sport across the country.

### *A Safe Sport for All*

With the Honourable Minister of Science and Sport Kirsty Duncan's announcement regarding Safe Sport in February 2019, the national sport organizations in Canada have reflected on their current practices and as a community developed expectations and processes that include common language, with the goal of demystifying the pathway for support for athletes who have been exposed to abuse, discrimination or harassment in any sport. RCA has participated fully in this exercise with the establishment of a Safe Sport Working Group and the refinement of policies and accessible processes to support RCA's individual members/participants, as well as the creation of an Independent Third Party Complaint process. Please see the Safe Sport section of the RCA website for details. In February, one of our Safe Sport aligned strategic plan initiatives came to fruition with the announcement of our *Every Coach Certified* program. By providing opportunities for all coaches in the sport of rowing to become certified through online modules and

workshops, athletes and parents can be sure that their coach has had safety, ethics, and athlete development training, a standard that is a step forward towards Safe Sport for all.

### *RCA's Place on the World Stage*

After the Senior World Championships in Linz, Austria, I attended the FISA Ordinary Congress. One of the highlights of the day was, of course, the support of the FISA Council and the vote of the nations to award the 2024 World Championships to Canada. It is important to note that Canada is well represented in FISA, with Tricia Smith as FISA Vice President, and five Canadians as Commission members: Julien Bahain on the FISA Athletes Commission; Peter Cookson on the FISA Competitive Rowing Commission; Matt Draper and Bill Schenck on the FISA Events Commission; and Rebecca Orr on the FISA Para Rowing Commission.

### *Hosting World Rowing Events in Canada*

Building on our success in hosting the World Rowing Coastal Championships in 2018, RCA is endeavouring to draw more international competitions to our waterways. RCA supported three communities to put forth bids for three World Rowing Events: the 2022 FISU World University Rowing Championships, the 2023 World Rowing Masters Championships and the 2024 World Rowing Senior (non-Olympic), Under 23 and Junior Championships. It takes a huge amount of work to prepare these bids and RCA would like to thank all those involved from the communities of London, Montreal and St. Catharines. As I have mentioned, Canada was successful in securing the 2024 World Rowing Championships, and we await the decision on the FISU Championships. We will continue to look for opportunities to bring the world to Canada!

## *Our National Team Programs*

During the 2019 World Rowing Championships in Linz, Canada successfully qualified six boats for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Highlights of the regatta included:

- Gold for PR3 Men's Pair, Andrew Todd (Thunder Bay, ON) and Kyle Fredrickson, (Duncan, BC) – successfully defending their title from 2018.
- Silver in the PR2 Men's Single for Jeremy Hall (St. Paul, AB)
- Bronze for Women's Pair, Hillary Janssens (Cloverdale, BC) and Caileigh Filmer (Victoria, BC)

The High Performance Program is currently conducting its 2019 season debrief, which includes key discussions to confirm the potential of any further events to pursue qualification for Tokyo through the Final Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regattas, to be held in May 2020. Congratulations to all of our 2019 representative athletes and coaches at the: CanAmMex Regatta; World Rowing Junior Championships; U21 Trans-Tasman Regatta; World Rowing Under 23 Championships; Gavirate International Para-Rowing Regatta; World Rowing Cups 2 and 3; Pan American Games; and World Rowing Championships.

## *NextGen Athlete Development*

Iain Brambell, High Performance Director, is encouraged by the growth of the national athlete pool and is keenly focused on ensuring that the High Performance Program is in the best position for success in Paris in 2024. We are pleased with the roll out of the NextGen Athlete Development Strategy, inclusive of the NextGen HUBs. The program continues to work closely with Provincial Rowing Associations' technical leads to develop NextGen rowers trending five to eight years from an

Olympic/Paralympic podium performance. Talent Identification Programming (previously Row to Podium) continues its delivery within the NextGen program as partnerships with clubs, schools and institutions.

### *Development of a New National Training Centre*

Following the successful evaluation and attribution process, RCA continues to work closely with North Cowichan Region in the development of plans for the National Training Centre. In anticipation of a shift in our programs up island, the National Team NextGen and Senior Athletes have been training extensively on Quamichan Lake and Shawnigan Lake, as well as continuing to have a presence on Elk Lake this year.

**In closing**, it is important to note that there is always much to do and much more to give, but it is also helpful to reflect on that which we have achieved. A huge thank you to our CEO, Terry Dillon, and RCA's hardworking staff. Thank you to our Provincial Rowing Associations and to our clubs and their members for the work they are doing. I would also like to thank the current Board for the heavy lifting that they have taken on in this past year. Their commitment of time and passion has made a difference. Please continue to share your ideas and thoughts, they are always welcome. Hearing your perspectives on the work of RCA is highly valued.

## **Chief Executive Officer Report**

*The following staffing additions were noted:*

- Stephen McMurray - Member Services Administrator
- Liz Montroy - Communications and Events Coordinator
- Sukhraj Saraow - Finance and Administration Coordinator

### *Brand Refresh and Website Update*

We continue to take advantage of the refresh of our brand, which makes it easier for us to promote who and what we stand for across all our programs and services. The upgraded website with its intelligent backend can support growth and evolve alongside our community as we are presented with new needs and opportunities.

### *New Membership Model*

We are now more than one year into the introduction of the new 'pay to play' Membership Model. We are pleased to report that most of the early issues with the new process and the system functionality of RegattaCentral are behind us. We are now able to benefit from more robust information about participant activity and we look forward to sharing more of our insight and learning with the membership soon.

### *Alumni Relations*

We have continued to work to build stronger relationships with RCA alumni through hosted events, and we would like to thank the Canadian Rowing Foundation for their continued support. We are pleased to see the Canadian Rowing Hall of Fame continue to grow in its significance as a way of celebrating and recognizing the achievements of the best

people in our sport. We thank the RCA Hall of Fame Committee and look forward to another successful induction event in Burnaby at our National Championships next week. We will be presenting five new trophies at the National Championships, each one commissioned and named to recognize and celebrate some of the greatest of our alumni. We thank Derek Porter, Silken Laumann, Marnie McBean, Kathleen Heddle, George Hungerford and Roger Jackson for their support and generosity in making this possible.

### *Fundraising*

A huge thank you must go out to all of you who have contributed to our fundraising efforts either by giving directly or through your promotion of our campaigns. The Senior Food Campaign successfully raised nearly \$40k from which the athletes are now benefiting through the introduction of food cards. Our NextGen Campaign continues to grow in significance, this year providing \$55k of support to reduce the financial burden on our NextGen athletes.

### *New Strategic Priorities (Including Event Strategy)*

Our current set of strategic priorities are coming to an end, and we will be embarking on a consultation process to establish a new set of priorities for 2020 and beyond. A significant part of this plan will include a broad and wide-ranging events strategy that will include a plan for RCA National events across flat water, masters, indoor and coastal/beach sprints disciplines.

### *CEO Closing*

We look forward to seeing our best athletes at the National Rowing Championships and the whole community at the National Conference in

Ottawa this coming January. We are changing things up this year, trying a two-day conference instead of a three-day conference. We will be looking to include a balance of content for club administration as well as content for our coaching community. There will continue to be a significant focus on Safe Sport.

Finally, I would like to re-iterate the thanks to the RCA team for all their hard work this year. As has been said, we have achieved a lot and we know there remains much still to do. None of this would be possible without the many hours of hard work and dedication we see from staff each and every day.

### **2019 RCA Annual Meeting Voting Results:**

3 questions considered by the membership:

1. Audited Financial Statement
2. Appointment of the Auditor
3. Election of Directors at Large.

### **1. Annual Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor**

Moved by: Nanaimo Rowing Club

Seconded by: Don Rowing Club

*That RCA accept the audited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2019 as reported on by Grant Thornton LLP, Chartered Accountants.*

Voting Results - for: 157 weighted votes / against 0 / abstained 38



MOTION CARRIED

## **2. Appointment of the Auditor**

Moved by: Nanaimo Rowing Club

Seconded by: Don Rowing Club:

*That RCA appoint Grant Thornton LLP, Chartered Accountants, as auditors for the year ending March 31, 2020 at a fee to be decided by the Board of Directors.*

Voting Results: 167 weighted votes / against 0 / abstained 28

MOTION CARRIED.

## **3. Announcement of the Election of Directors**

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION - RCA ANNUAL MEETING  
2019 FINAL REPORT from the Nominating Committee:

Under the terms of Section 11 of the RCA By-Laws, the RCA Nominating Committee submitted to the membership an initial slate of candidates (posted here) for the Board of Directors to be elected at the 2019 RCA Annual Meeting.

In accordance with paragraph 11.6, members in good standing were able to resubmit nominations or submit further nominations for election to the Board of Directors, provided such nominations meet the eligibility requirements set out in paragraph 9.3 and are received by the

registered office of CARA in the form set out in paragraphs 11.7 and 11.8 no later than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting (August 20, 2019).

We note that the final closing date has passed and one additional nomination for Director at Large was received.

***Elected by Acclamation:***

*Athlete Director to a term to end at the 2021 Annual Meeting:*

Current National Team athletes have nominated retired National Team athlete Douglas Vandor to this position. Douglas Vandor has confirmed his intention to have his name stand for election.

In accordance with paragraph 11.4 of the RCA Bylaws, the Nominating Committee endorses the nomination of Douglas Vandor to this position.

***Candidates for Election - Final:***

*Directors at Large (2) to a term to end at the 2021 Annual Meeting:*

The Nominating Committee conducted an open call for Expressions of Interest and reviewed potential candidates for these roles. For the two positions of Director at Large, three candidates have been endorsed by the Nominating Committee and one additional candidate was nominated by the St. Catharines Rowing Club and the Canadian Henley Regatta Joint Commission Corporation as follows (sorted in reverse alphabetical order by last name):

- Jennifer Walinga

- Marisha Roman
- Jim Marino
- Peter McClelland

Voting results are listed in order, highest number of weighted votes:

- Jennifer Walinga # 115 weighted votes
- Peter McClelland # 93 weighted votes
- Marisha Roman # 92 weighted votes
- Jim Marino # 74 weighted votes

Therefore, Jennifer Walinga and Peter McClelland were elected to the RCA Board of Directors for two-year terms.

**Douglas Vandor**, Athlete Director; **Jennifer Walinga**, Director; and **Peter McClelland**, Director were congratulated by the President.

Marisha Roman's contributions to RCA over the past two years were recognized, along with Jim Marino for allowing his name to stand for election.

There was a special thank you to the RCA Nominating Committee led by the Chair, Andrew Lamont; Heather Holden; Tracy Brooks; and Susan Wilkinson.

Those that attended the 2019 Annual Meeting webinar were acknowledged and all members invited to the RCA National Conference and Semi-Annual Meeting, to be held January 24 - 26, 2020, in Ottawa, Ontario.