



**ROWING CANADA AVIRON
ANNUAL MEETING
September 19, 2019
at 5:30 p.m. PDT
Conducted Electronically, via Webinar**

MINUTES

RCA Board of Directors:

Carol Purcer	President
Tom Hawker	Director (Treasurer)
Jennifer Wallinga	Director
Peter McClelland	Athlete Director
Carol Hermansen	Provincial Director
Marisha Roman	Director
Heather Holden	Director

RCA Staff & Scrutineer:

Terry Dillon	Chief Executive Officer
Sid Murdoch	Secretary
Jeff Lay	Scrutineer

The following members in good standing participated in the online voting process and cast their ballots by 12 Noon PDT, September 18, 2019:

Organization	Number of Votes
Alberta Rowing Association	1
Antigonish Rowing Club	2
Argonaut Rowing Club	5
Aviron Knowlton / Knowlton Rowing	2
Aviron Lachine	3
Branksome Hall Rowing	2
Brentwood College School	3
Brock Rowing	3
Burnaby Lake Rowing Club	3
Burnstown Rowing Club	2

Canadian Henley Regatta Joint Commission Corp	1
Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation	1
Canadian Indoor Rowing Association	1
Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association	1
Canadian University Rowing Association	1
Cascadia Regatta Association	1
Central Ontario Rowing Association Inc.	1
Club d'aviron d'Alma	2
Club d'aviron de Boucherville	3
Club d'Aviron de l'Universite de Montreal	2
Club d'aviron de Montreal / Montreal Rowing Club	5
Club d'aviron Terrebonne	3
Cold Lake Rowing Club	1
Cornwall Rowing Club	1
Delta Deas Rowing Club	4
Dominion Day Regatta Association	1
Don Rowing Club	5
Edmonton rowing club	5
False Creek Rowing Club	3
Gorge Narrows Rowing Club	4
Greater Victoria Youth Rowing Society	5
Guelph Rowing Club	4
Hanlan Boat Club	4
Havergal College	2
Inlet Rowing Club	2
Kamloops Rowing Club	1
Kelowna Rowing Club	2
Kenora Rowing Club	2
Lakeland Rowing Club	2
Lillooet Rowing Club	1
Lloydminster rowing club	1
London Rowing Club	3
LYC Rowing	2
Manitoba Rowing Association	1
Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club Rowing	4
Middlesex Western Rowing Club	2
Muskoka Rowing Club	2
Nanaimo Rowing Club	3

Nelson Rowing Club	2
Niagara Falls Rowing Club	3
North Bay Rowing Club	1
North Star Rowing Club	3
Notre Dame Rowing Club	3
Ontario Adventure Rowing Association	2
Ontario Rowing Association	1
Orillia Rowing Club	2
Ottawa New Edinburgh Club	2
Prairie Fire Rowing Club Inc.	1
Regina Rowing Club	3
Rockies Rowing Club	1
Rowing British Columbia	1
Rowing Newfoundland	1
Rowing PEI	2
Rowing Prince Edward Island Ltd.	1
Saskatoon Rowing Club	3
Shawnigan Lake Rowing Club	2
South Cariboo Rowing Club	1
St. Catharines Rowing Club	6
St. Lawrence Rowing Club	2
St. Michaels University School	2
Sudbury Rowing Club	3
Thunder Bay Rowing Club	3
Thunder Rowing Crew	2
Toronto Sculling Club	1
University of Victoria	3
University of Western Ontario Boat Club	3
Vancouver Rowing Club	5
Vernon Rowing and Dragon Boat Club	3
Victoria City Rowing Club	6
Victoria Rowing Society	1
Welland International Flatwater Centre	1
Winnipeg Rowing Club	4

a. Call to Order

President Purcer called the online webinar meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. PDT.

b. Establishment of a quorum.

- The RCA Board of Directors appointed Jeff Lay as Scrutineer for the Annual Meeting.
- The Scrutineer stated that there were 132 total members in good standing recorded in the books of CARA at the close of business on the day immediately preceding the day on which the notice of the meeting was given. Those members carried 304 weighted votes - a quorum is 153 votes.
- 82 members cast a ballot, carrying 195 weighted votes; therefore, a quorum was present in accordance with paragraph 5.2 of the CARA By-Laws.

c. Report of the Scrutineer

- notice of the Annual Meeting was sent to all members at least 21 days prior to the meeting;
- adequate explanation of the balloting procedure under the by-laws was provided to all members;
- all members in good standing had the opportunity to cast their ballot;
- each person sent a ballot was the duly authorized representative for that member;
- ballots were appropriately weighted according to each member's number of registered participants and coaches;
- Rowing Canada Aviron provided adequate information for members to make an informed decision;
- members only cast their ballot once; and
- only members in good standing, who had submitted their annual declaration, submitted a ballot.
- voting opened August 30th and closed at 12 Noon PDT, September 18, 2019.

d. Report of the President and Chief Executive Officer

Report - President Carol Purcer:

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 includes common language, with the goal of demystifying the pathway for support for athletes that 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, the refinement of policies and accessible processes to support RCA's individual members/participants as well as creating an Independent Third Party Complaint process. Please see our website under Safe Sport for details.

Aligned with Safe Sport, in February one of our strategic plan initiatives came to fruition, RCA announced our *Every Coach Certified* program. Providing opportunities for all coaches of the sport of rowing to become certified through on-line modules and

workshops, athletes and parents can know that their coach has had safety, ethics and athlete development training, a standard that is a step forward in Safe Sport.

Rowing Canada's Place on the World Stage

After the Senior World Championships in Linz, Austria, I attended the Ordinary Congress of FISA. 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 the FISA organization 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 are both on the FISA Events Commission; and Rebecca Orr is 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 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 Rowing Canada 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 for 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 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 & 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 the high performance program is in the best position for success in Paris for 2024. We are pleased with 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 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, 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 for your organization. Please continue to share your ideas and thoughts, they are always welcome. Hearing your perspectives on the work of the RCA organization is highly valued.

Report - CEO Terry Dillon:

Staffing Changes

The following new staff members were welcomed to the team:

- 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 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 more than a year now into the introduction of the new 'pay to play' Membership Model. We are pleased to report that most of the early issues with new processes 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 the 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 RCA 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 HoF Committee and look forward to another successful induction event in Burnaby at our National Championships next week. We will be presenting 5 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 that 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. AND this year's 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.

Closing Remark

Look forward to seeing our best athletes at National Rowing Championships next week, and the whole community at the National Conference in Ottawa this coming January. We are changing things up this year, trying a 2-day instead of a 3-day conference. We will be looking to include balanced content for club administration as well our coaching community. There will continue to be a significant focus on making our sport Safe for All.

The RCA Team were thanked for their hard work this year. As has been said we have achieved a lot and we know there remains much still to do. AND none of this would be possible without the many hours of hard work and dedication we see from staff each and every day.

Voting at the 2019 RCA Annual Meeting:

There were 3 questions considered by the members:

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

e. Annual Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor

MOTION 1:

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.

f. Appointment of Auditor

MOTION 2:

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

g. 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. Therefore,

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):

- Current incumbent Jennifer Walinga has submitted her intent to let her name stand for re-election. The Nominating Committee supports the nomination of Jennifer

Walinga for election to a Director at Large position based on her expertise and experience.

- Current incumbent Marisha Roman has submitted her intent to let her name stand for re-election. The Nominating Committee supports the nomination of Marisha Roman for election to a Director at Large position based on her expertise and experience.
- Jim Marino has submitted his intent to let his name stand for election and has been nominated by the St. Catharines Rowing Club and the Canadian Henley Regatta Joint Commission Corporation. These organizations support the nomination of Jim Marino for election to a Director at Large position based on his expertise and experience.
- Peter McClelland has submitted his intent to let his name stand for election. The Nominating Committee supports the nomination of Peter McClelland for election to a Director at Large position based on his expertise and experience.

Voting Results 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

Jennifer Walinga and **Peter McClelland** were elected to the RCA Board of Directors.

Douglas Vandor, Athlete Director; **Jennifer Walinga**, Director; and **Peter McClelland** Director were congratulated - the 2 year terms for our new Directors begin on September 20th, 2019.

RCA Board of Directors for 2019-2020 are:

- Carol Purcer, President
- Tom Hawker, Director (Treasurer)
- Carol Hermansen, Provincial Director
- Douglas Vandor, Athlete Director
- Peter McClelland, Director
- Jennifer Walinga, Director
- Heather Holden, Director

Marisha Roman was thanked for her enormous contribution to the Board over the past 2 years.

Jim Marino was also thanked for allowing his name to stand for election.

The RCA Nominating Committee were thanked for their contribution: led by the Chair, Andrew Lamont; Heather Holden; Tracy Brooks; and Susan Wilkinson.

h. Adjournment

Members were invited to attend the RCA National Conference and Semi-Annual Meeting, to be held January 24 - 26, 2020 in Ottawa, Ontario

The meeting was adjourned by President Purcer at 6:10 p.m. PDT.