



**SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING - VIRTUAL  
JANUARY 26, 2025**

**Via Zoom Link**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Board of Directors:**

Mike Bryden: Interim Chair, Director  
Lindsay Bergen, Athlete Director  
Jane Stamp, Director at Large  
Charles Minett, Director at Large  
Derek Ventnor, Provincial Director, Treasurer

**RCA Staff and Scrutineer:**

Jennifer Fitzpatrick, Interim CEO  
Alethia Clarke, Membership Services Coordinator  
Susanne Wereley, Communications Manager  
Michael Carmen, Scrutineer

**Regrets:**

Carol Purcer, President  
Tracy Black, Director at Large

Prior to the opening of the meeting, information and assistance regarding online voting was provided by Data on the Spot.

Members in good standing were advised to cast their roll call ballot.

The following RCA Members were present:

<b><u>Club or Association Name</u></b>	<b><u>Weight</u></b>
Alberta Rowing Association	1
Argonaut Rowing Club	6
Association Québécois d'Aviron	1
Aviron Knowlton / Knowlton Rowing	3

Branksome Hall Rowing	2
Brentwood College School	4
Brock Rowing Club	3
Burnaby Lake Rowing Club	4
Canadian Indoor Rowing Association	1
Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association	1
Canadian University Rowing Association	1
Cascadia Regatta Association	1
Central Alberta Rowing Club	1
Central Ontario Rowing Association	1
Claremont Sports Institute Rowing Academy	2
Club d'aviron de Montréal / Montreal Rowing Club	4
Club d'aviron Terrebonne-GPAT	3
Club nautique de Sherbrooke inc.	2
Dominion Day Regatta Association	1
Don Rowing Club of Mississauga	5
Durham Rowing Club	3
False Creek Rowing Club	4
Fort Langley Youth Rowing Society	2
Fredericton Rowing Club	2
Georgian Bay Rowing Club	2
Gorge Narrows Rowing Club	4
Greater Victoria Youth Rowing Society	5
Guelph Rowing Club	4
Halifax Rowing Club	4
Hanlan Boat Club	4
Havergal Rowing Club	2
Island Lake Rowing Club	3
Kamloops Rowing Club	1
Kennebecasis Rowing Club	3
Kingston Rowing Club	4
Lakeland Rowing Club	2
LaSalle Rowing Club	3
Leander Boat Club	4
London Western Rowing Club	3
Manitoba Rowing Association	1
McGill University Rowing	2
Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club	4
Muskoka Rowing Club	2

Nanaimo Rowing Club	3
Nelson Rowing Club	3
Nicomekl Rowing Club	2
North Star Rowing Club	3
OARCA Coastal Rowing	2
Ontario Rowing Association	1
Ottawa New Edinburgh Club	2
Peterborough Rowing Club	4
Pinawa Sailing and Rowing Club	2
Prairie Fire Rowing Club Inc.	1
Prince Albert Drifters Rowing Club	1
Queen's University Rowing	2
Regina Rowing Club	3
Ridley Graduate Boat Club	2
Row Nova Scotia	1
Rowing British Columbia	1
Rowing Newfoundland	1
Rowing PEI / Rowing Prince Edward Island	4
Royal Military College	2
Salt Spring Island Rowing Club	2
Saskatchewan Rowing Association	1
Saskatoon Rowing Club	3
Shawnigan Lake Rowing Club	3
Shuswap Rowing and Paddling Club	2
Somba K'e Paddling Club	1
South Niagara Rowing Club	4
St. Catharines Rowing Club	6
St. Catharines World Rowing	1
St. George's School	2
St. John's Rowing Club	3
St. Michaels University School	2
Sudbury Rowing Club	2
Thunder Bay Rowing Club	2
Toronto Sculling Club	1
Two Rivers Rowing Club	1
University of Calgary Rowing Club	2
University of Toronto	3
University of Western Ontario Boat Club	3
Upper Canada College Rowing	2

Vancouver Rowing Club	6
Vernon Rowing and Dragon Boat Club	3
Victoria City Rowing Club	5
Victoria Rowing Society	1
Wellington Sculling Club	1
Winnipeg Rowing Club	3

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Interim Chair Mike Bryden at 8:45 a.m. PST followed by a Territorial Acknowledgement.

### **RCA Board of Directors in attendance:**

Mike Bryden, Interim Chair, Director at Large  
Derek Ventnor, Provincial Director, Treasurer  
Lindsay Bergen, Athlete Director  
Charles Minett, Director at Large  
Jane Stamp, Director at Large

President Carol Purcer is currently on a temporary, personal leave and was not present.

Tracey Black, Director at Large, also sent her regrets.

### **RCA Interim CEO Jennifer Fitzpatrick was introduced along with other staff and assistants:**

Alethia Clarke, RCA Membership Services Coordinator  
Susanne Wereley, RCA Communications Manager  
Additional Support: Nicole Golden, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Rowing Association

The 2026 RCA Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda was shared with the membership.

Section 10, Other Business, was added to the agenda:

- Item 10.1 2026 Annual Meeting Date
- Item 10.2 2026 National Conference Dates
- Item 10.3 2027 Semi-Annual Meeting Date

### **Meeting Notes:**

As it was a virtual zoom meeting members were advised to use the chat function in order to be recognized.

All motions were moved and seconded in advance of the meeting.  
Regarding the voting process, each member in good standing confirmed one designated voting representative in advance of the meeting.

### **Memorial Moment:**

Members respected a moment of silence in memory of those in the rowing community who had passed away during the year:

#### **Augusto (Gus) Papini**

- ❖ Gus joined the Don Rowing Club in 1985 or 86 and rowed competitively as a lightweight for many years. He tried hard for the National Team and won Henley in the 4x and the 1x. He was a fountain of knowledge on the sport, trained harder than anyone on and off the water and coached both competitive crews as well as club level rowers.

#### **Betty Storosko**

- ❖ Betty was a Henley Island Helper Volunteer and was proud to be part of the 1948 women's rowing crews, paving the way for numerous women in St. Catharines to have a 'place in the boat'.

#### **Blair Rasmussen**

- ❖ Born in Cornwall, ON, the sixth of seven children, Blair lived a life of adventure, athletic achievement, and travel. His notable achievements in rowing at Western University and later with Canada's national team were followed by a remarkable coaching career. That dedication to coaching took him to Winnipeg, Texas, New Brunswick, Tokyo, and finally to Calgary. In addition to coaching, he managed the Calgary Rowing Club; his witty emails and legendary April Fool's jokes were highlights for the rowers.

#### **Bob Adams**

- ❖ Bob was Department Head of Phys-Ed at St. Catharines Collegiate, teaching and coaching both rowing and football for almost 30 years. More than winning football games or medals at regattas, Bob was focused on instilling these values in the over 6,000 students and athletes he taught and coached during his time at St. Catharines Collegiate. As well as being a coach, Bob was a member and athlete of the St. Catharines Rowing Club, Ridley Graduate Boat Club and the Canadian National Rowing Team.

## **Brian Richardson**

- ❖ Brian was a personable and outgoing character who brought a wealth of skills and experiences to his role as Head Coach with Rowing Canada during two of the most successful periods in Canadian rowing history. From 1993 to 1996, his leadership saw the team achieve multiple World Championship titles, culminating in six medals at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. While Head Coach, he was also the Lead Coach to the Women's Lightweight Double, Wendy Wiebe and Colleen Miller, from 1993 to 1996, and directly coached athletes such as Michelle Darvill, Derek Porter, and Silken Laumann.

## **Carlos Garcia**

- ❖ Carlos was an avid rowing supporter and had been a strong advocate for his community and maintaining the heritage of Port Dalhousie. He had been a city councillor for the Port Dalhousie Ward from 2014-2024, had been the chair of the city budget committee, and previously held the position of regional councillor for St. Catharines.

## **Chris Gulka**

- ❖ Chris was a former University of Victoria biology student and rower. During his time at UVic, he participated in the Canadian University Rowing Championships in 2018-19.

## **Cliff Brimmell**

- ❖ Cliff was an active member of the Ottawa Rowing Club for almost 50 years. Over his many years of coaching, Cliff shaped the lives of countless young rowers, instilling in them not only the skills and discipline required for rowing but also the values of teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship.

## **David Hastings**

- ❖ David was a member of the St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Association (SCRAA) and often worked the Vendors Booth. David was employed for 30 years at General Motors. He was involved with Meals on Wheels, and was always available to help his friends whenever they needed him.

## **Dick McClure**

- ❖ As an athlete, McClure represented Canada at the 1956 Olympics in the men's coxed eight and at the 1958 Commonwealth Games in the men's coxless four, winning silver at both events. McClure coached the Canadian national team at the 1984 and 1996 Olympics, and has coached numerous successful Canadian rowers, including Kathleen Heddle, Mike Rascher, Pat Turner, Brenda Taylor, Megan Belahanty, Laryssa Biesenthal, Tracey Duncan, and Tricia Smith.

## **Doug Patterson**

- ❖ For more than 70 of his 89 years Douglas Albert Patterson was an important and central member of the Leander Boat Club family and a pillar of the rowing community in Ontario. He started rowing at the club in high school in 1954, coached at the club for many years, including being the first women's rowing coach, and served 10 years as President.

## **Eleanor Lancaster**

- ❖ Eleanor was the first woman appointed to the Ontario Environmental Assessment Board, serving as Vice Chair. Over the years, she served on numerous boards, often as Chair or Vice Chair. The lengthy list includes but is not limited to; the Brock University Board of Trustees, the Niagara College Board of Governors, The Lincoln County Board of Education, Hotel Dieu Hospital Board, Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation and United Way Campaign.

## **Fred Marlow**

- ❖ Fred will be remembered by the Canadian Rowing fraternity, especially the St. Catharines Rowing Club, in which he was an active athlete, coach, race starter and internationally sanctioned FISA official for many years. He also founded the Port Dover Rowing Club.

## **Glynn Wilkerson**

- ❖ Glynn was a long-time teacher at Lakeport Secondary School where he taught drafting, was a guidance counsellor, and coached basketball. A rower in his younger years, he was passionate about the sport and was a long time member of the St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Association.

## **Gord (Scotty) McKenna**

- ❖ At age 14, Gord emigrated to Canada with his family and settled in Port Dalhousie. He attended Grantham High School where he became "Scotty" and "One of the Port Boys". As an oarsman, Gord earned medals and trophies with the St. Catharines Rowing Club.

## **Jerry Wilson**

- ❖ Jerry had a competitive spirit and even though he was challenged by congenital heart disease he participated in many sports, but the one dearest to his heart was rowing. He was a Coxswain for the Canadian National team in 1974. He also coached and participated in rowing with the St. Catharines rowing club, Brock University, and the University of Guelph.

## **Jim Joy**

- ❖ Jim dedicated over six decades of his life to the sport of rowing, leaving an indelible mark on countless athletes, coaches, and enthusiasts around the globe. Canadian crews, under his guidance, amassed over 60 medals at various international competitions, including a historic gold medal in the men's eight at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

### **Jim Leach**

- ❖ As a natural athlete, he was equally at home with a basketball (Collegiate/Brock), a Henley oar, or a Skip's broom (Perth Curling Club). Jim was also an umpire for many years.

### **Jimmy Wilson**

- ❖ Jimmy was a St. Catharines Rowing Club Athlete and long-time volunteer.

### **Joan Dick-Maudsley**

- ❖ Joan was a lifetime member of the Henley Island Helpers, St. John's Anglican Church, The Out of the Cold Program and Meals on Wheels. She loved spending time with family, swimming in the pool, cross-country skiing at the Rowing Club and playing cards.

### **Joe Adams**

- ❖ Joe was a Junior Drum Major and trumpet player for the St. Catharines Chessmen Drum Corp., rowed for St. Catharines Rowing Club, and was a Padi certified scuba instructor.

### **Ken Dowd**

- ❖ When Ken's kids grew older, they became active in rowing and Ken was right there with them. He became involved with the Rowing Alumni and could often be seen around Henley Island doing whatever needed to be done. He was a long-time volunteer with the St. Catharines Rowing Club and served as past President of the Rowing Alumni.

### **Lorie Dick**

- ❖ Lore grew up playing several sports, some competitively, including lacrosse, baseball, skiing, rowing, golfing, squash and racquetball. Her proudest moment was carrying the Olympic Torch for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics through Fonthill. More recently, she was a Henley Island Helper Volunteer.

### **Mark Jansen**

- ❖ Mark tragically passed away while racing in a coxed four at the Head of the Welland Regatta. Mark came to rowing later in life and from the 2000 season



forward, was an integral member of the Leander Masters Men's team. He was a member of multiple Henley champion crews and competed successfully at many Head races in both Canada and the United States. Mark was deeply involved off the water, often seen volunteering at Leander or driving the trailer to regattas. His dedication extended to founding the Ancaster High Rowing team, where he coached his son Fraser and daughter Andrea.

### **Mervin Kaye**

- ❖ Mervin was one of three remaining members of the legendary Argo '52 Crew who represented Canada at the Helsinki Olympics and raced heroically through to the semi's despite their shell being destroyed in transit and having to row their races in a training boat.

### **Michael Fellin**

- ❖ One of his proudest moments was winning the masters men's 4+ at Royal Canadian Henley in 2000, along with Barry, HR Bremner and Derek Cardy. Mike was a loyal and caring friend."

### **Mrs. Marilyn Hainer**

- ❖ A few of Marilyn's greatest joys outside of her family were her employees and customers at Hainer's Tire & Auto. Her contagious smile, friendly and welcoming demeanor, and listening ear were always a guarantee. She was also a Henley Island Helper Volunteer.

### **Pat Desjardins**

- ❖ Pat was a long-term rower from childhood to adulthood and ended up rowing at the international level as a Masters rower.

### **Rick Rasmussen**

- ❖ Rick was a dedicated leader, Ridley Boat Club coach, mentor, volunteer, teacher and exemplary human being in terms of service to others in every capacity.

### **Richard Facey-Crowthers**

- ❖ Richard was a great athlete excelling in hockey, long distance running, rowing, cross country skiing and tennis. While pond hockey was his first love, it was rowing however, that put him on the world stage where he had the privilege of representing Canada in a number of world championships between 1972 and 1979. He was named Oarsman of the Year by the St. Catharines Rowing Club in 1973, an achievement he was very proud of. In 2023 he and his rowing team mates were inducted into the Western University Mustang Hall of Fame.

### **Ron Winterbottom**

- ❖ Ron was a member of the St. Catharines Rowing Club. He volunteered as a media colour commentator for the first World Rowing Championship held on the Henley Course and worked many regattas as a finish line judge and clerk of the scales.

### **Steve Beatty**

- ❖ Steve was a distinguished member of the Canadian coxless four crew at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games and also competed in the men's eight at the 1983 World Rowing Championships in Duisburg, Germany.

### **Wayne Philbrick**

- ❖ Wayne was a proud alumnus of the St. Catharines Rowing Club, where he made lifelong friendships and created countless cherished memories on the water.

### **Eli Manning**

- ❖ Eli was a valued member of the Halifax Rowing Club and was also a past rower at Victoria and Winnipeg Rowing Clubs.

### **Brian Flood**

- ❖ Brian was a valued member of the Kennebecasis Rowing Club.

### **Isabel Gray**

- ❖ Isabel was a huge supporter of rowing as a volunteer and board member of the Guelph Rowing Club.

### **Notice of Meeting:**

Notice of Meeting was read by the Acting Secretary, Alethia Clarke.

## **2. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

### **Verification of Credentials:**

The credentials of the meeting participants were verified by the Acting Secretary.

### **Quorum:**

Prior to the meeting there were 148 members in good standing representing 344 total weighted votes. A quorum is 173 votes.

Following roll call, the total number of members currently in attendance was 88, representing 220 weighted votes, in person or by proxy.

A majority of voting rights were present and a quorum was verified by the Acting Secretary under Article 5.12 of the RCA By-Laws.

### **3. IDENTIFICATION OF THE SCRUTINEER**

The Scrutineer for the Semi-Annual Meeting was Michael Carmen, from Data on the Spot.

### **4. READING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2024 RCA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

#### **MOTION 1: 2025 RCA Semi Annual Meeting Agenda**

That the agenda of the 2025 RCA Semi Annual Meeting be approved.

MOVED: Alberta Rowing Association

SECONDED: Prince Albert Drifters

MOTION CARRIED.

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#### **MOTION 2:**

That we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2024 RCA Annual Meeting.

MOVED: Dominion Day Regatta Association

SECONDED: RowOntario

MOTION CARRIED.

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#### **MOTION 3: 2024 RCA Annual Meeting Minutes**

That the minutes of the 2024 RCA Annual Meeting be accepted.

MOVED: Ottawa Rowing Club

SECONDED: Row Nova Scotia

MOTION CARRIED.

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## **5. READING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2024 RCA SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

MOTION 4:

That we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2024 RCA Semi-Annual Meeting.

MOVED: Association Québécoise d'Aviron

SECONDED: Winnipeg Rowing Club

MOTION CARRIED.

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MOTION 5: 2024 RCA Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes

That the minutes of the 2024 RCA Semi-Annual Meeting be accepted as amended.

Amendment:

- Tom Hawker was not present and was removed.
- Charles Minnet and Mike Bryden were added as present.

MOVED: University of Western Ontario Boat Club

SECONDED: Regina Rowing Club

MOTION CARRIED.

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## **6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

A link to the 2024 RCA Annual Report was provided to the membership.

### **MOTION 6: Committee of the Whole**

That the 2025 Rowing Canada Aviron Semi-Annual Meeting be moved into the committee of the whole.

MOVED: Rowing British Columbia

SECONDED: Saskatchewan Rowing Association

MOTION CARRIED.

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### **President, Interim CEO and Treasurer's Reports:**

A full electronic version of the President, Interim CEO and Treasurer's Reports was provided to the membership within the 2024 RCA Annual Report. Rather than reading the full reports, a summary was provided due to time constraints.

### **President's Report Summary.**

President Purcer's report noted that RCA has recognized the power of diversity and inclusion. Also the importance of growing our sport through a variety of programming including beach sprints, indoor and classic rowing programming.

National team athletes were recognized for their accomplishments on the world stage at the Paris Olympics, PARA Olympics and World Championships.

Volunteers were also thanked for their contribution along with RCA staff and management including former CEO Terry Dillon, Interim CEO Jennifer Fitzpatrick and recently hired CEO Jeff Powell.

### **Interim CEO Summary Report:**

Jennifer noted that RCA's Annual Report included a variety of interesting demographic information - much more detailed than in prior years.

Jennifer also thanked RCA member clubs, provincial association leadership, volunteers and staff for their support during her interim period as CEO.

*There was a comment regarding the need to increase the amount of time allotted during the online voting process.*

RCA will allow more time between reading the motion and casting ballots.

*There was a question regarding meeting procedures with respect to going into the Committee of the Whole.*

The Committee of the Whole section of the meeting enables less formal dialogue prior to the voting process.

### **Treasurer Vantor's Summary Report:**

RCA's audited statements reflected a clean audit for fiscal year end March 31, 2024 with a surplus of approximately \$247,000.

RCA continues to manage finances according to the constraints of its funding through several mitigation processes. Accounting processes will also be modernized and statements produced by RCA will reflect the same format as the audited statements.

## **7. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DUES AND FEES**

The Committee's recommendation was reviewed with the membership at a webinar on November 21<sup>st</sup> and during Saturday's plenary session. The good work by the Committee during a very short time frame was recognized by the Treasurer.

### **Recommendations:**

- a. The Dues and Fees Committee recommends an increase of approximately\* 7% to the Base Participant Fee (\$27.50 to \$29.40) and Seat Fee (\$4.00 to \$4.30) which, while insufficient to fully keep up with increasing costs, is intended to limit their impact in the short term.
- b. The Dues and Fees Committee also recommends an increase of approximately\* 7% in Club Membership Dues (\$460 to \$490), Special Association/Associate Organization Dues (\$575 to \$615) and Provincial Rowing Association Dues (\$800 to \$855).
- c. \* rounded for simplified planning and accounting purposes

### **Note:**

There can be no amendments to the fees if the Committee's recommendations are not approved by the membership at the Semi-Annual Meeting.

### **MOTION 7: Out of Committee of the Whole**

That the 2025 Rowing Canada Aviron Semi-Annual Meeting be moved out of committee of the whole.

MOVED: Aviron Knowlton / Knowlton Rowing

SECONDED: Shawnigan Lake Rowing Club

MOTION CARRIED.

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### **MOTION 8: 2024 Rowing Canada Aviron Annual Report**

That the 2024 Rowing Canada Aviron Annual Report be accepted:

MOVED: University of Victoria Rowing Club

SECONDED: University of Calgary Rowing Club

MOTION CARRIED.

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MOTION 9: Committee on Dues and Fees Report and Recommendations

That the report and recommendations of the 2024 Rowing Canada Aviron Committee on Dues and Fees be accepted.

MOVED: ROWONTARIO

SECONDED: Argonaut Rowing Club

MOTION CARRIED.

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Data on the Sport staff were thanked for their voting assistance during the meeting.

## **8. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS (none)**

## **9. PROPOSALS FROM MEMBERS (none, 90 days notice required)**

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS – RCA MEETINGS**

10.1 RCA Annual Meeting – September 25, 2025 Via Zoom Link.

10.2 Semi-Annual Meeting – January 25, 2026. Location and format to be confirmed.

10.3 RCA National Conference – January 23 to 24, 2026. Location and format to be confirmed.

Prior to Adjournment, members were thanked for their attendance.

Organizers of the National Conference and Semi-Annual Meeting were recognized for their contributions including:

Colleen Miller

Alethia Clarke

Susanne Wereley

Coleen Coderre

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The 2025 RCA Semi-Annual Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. PST.

Members were reminded to stay online for RCA's 2024 Excellence Awards presentation, followed by an RCA Strategy session.