

2017 SRA  
YEAR IN REVIEW

## President Report

### Summary

The vision going forward is to have engaged VP's appointed to the board of directors. By the first meeting at the start of 2019 each VP will be expected to arrive to the meeting with their respective plans for the year and the budget will be set as a group where funds will be allocated based on plans brought forward, and not by an individual as has been done in the past. This year we will work with the budget set for the year, reviewing it each board meeting to ensure we are on track and reallocate funds as required. To help engage the VP we have a new executive director role.

The reclassification of the administration assistant position to executive director was completed by the board after discussions with SaskSport who supported the move indicating it falls more in line with most other sports. The new executive director is Nicole Golden.

Having a competent individual in the new role that understands Sask Rowing's multi year plan and Sask sports expectations will facilitate the organization to succeed. Last funding cycle Sask rowing lost funding due to poor administration. This last fiscal year the budget due to poor administration our organization appeared to be in a deficit which resulted in reduced spending throughout the year and potentially having to return grant money. The risk of not hiring a competent individual is having future funding being reduced again and having to pay back grant money that could be spent enhancing the sport in the province. By hiring an executive director, the results seen to date is our candidate has the skill set to guide the organization and ensure the organizations goals are met. Based on my observations on the board, Nicole is the first person that has the skill set to apply for grants for programs identified by VP's to increase revenue. Increasing revenue will allow the organization to utilize self help revenue to increase our reserve working towards the recommended 50% annual operating budget as per Sask sport. Our next funding cycle is reviewed in 2019.

## Past President Report

### Summary

I recently attended a very productive PAC meeting in Charlottetown. The PAC group met for three days discussing various issues related to; board governance, club level issues, National level issues to mention a few.

In regard to club level items, the group discussed key issues (positive and negative) that all clubs are dealing with. We also shared what is working for each club, mainly around recruitment of athletes and revenue generating ideas such as:

- Come try it events
- Holding athlete (masters) camps
- Promotional suggestions
  - Re branding using words such as 'Advanced exercise'
  - Hang large banners in visible areas.
  - 'Rowing boutiques' are becoming popular in large centers. Similar to spin classes.
  - Use of punch passes for recreational rower/memberships.
- Taking ergs to elementary schools rather than high schools.
- Week long 'Fun rowing camps'.
- Take trainers to regattas and set up for people who are watching event get a chance to try rowing.
- Officials Clinics
- Coaching clinics.

There were also discussions regarding the high performance side of RCA. They are starting to realize that with all their focus spent primarily on high performance, the grass roots level of rowing is beginning to suffer. RCA is looking at how they can shift some of their focus to (re)growing rowing's base. Athlete numbers are down across the country

I had also asked each provincial rowing association what their governance model was. Some are set up similar to ours; others were the more traditional model with a President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. Some had a combination of both. One common element with all PRA's was an Executive Director. Smaller organizations had part time ED's while larger centres had a full time ED along with up to five full time additional staff.

I had the opportunity to try Coastal Rowing. I was very impressed with the stability of the boats and how well they moved through the water, considering they are a fairly heavy boat. The coastal boats are stable enough that they could be used for Learn to Row programs. I would strongly recommend that clubs consider adding Coastal boats to their LTR inventories when purchasing new trainers. By doing this they could easily set up a Coastal Rowing program, in addition to their LTR programs and would open up another stream of potential rowers as well as provide a means of rowing in rougher conditions.

## VP Administration Report

### Summary

The VP Administration role has been vacant for some time – many thanks to Doug Zolinski for his work in maintaining the duties of this role, along with being President and then Past President. As of March 27, 2018, I am acting as VP Admin.

The 2018-19 Budget was submitted to SaskSport in February and can be found in this meeting package.

The March 31, 2018 Financial Statements and Auditor Report is completed and submitted for adoption.

*Motion: To adopt the 2017-18 Financial Statements and reports from the auditor.*

It is proposed to keep the same auditor for the March 31, 2019 audit.

*Motion: To appoint Marcia Herback as auditor for 2018-19 fiscal year.*

### 2017-18 Highlights

#### 1) Admin support:

Following the resignation of the Administrative Coordinator in January 2018, the Board voted to change the position to an Executive Director, with Nicole Golden filling the position.

This action was supported by SaskSport, which better aligns SRA with administrative structures of other PSGB's and begins to address previous performance deficits in the area of administration.

#### 2) RCA fee changes:

Rowing Canada eliminated separate 'sport' and 'competitive' categories for members in favour of a "pay as you play" model, where all members pay a base fee (\$20) and additional fees are collected through race entries (\$3.25 per entry) at sanctioned events.

The SRA, per RCA recommendation, has also moved to one base membership fee (\$20) with fees to be collected from all participants at regattas hosted in SK (\$1.75 per entry). Clubs will choose how to pass the change in base fees along to program registrants (i.e. potential gradual change in fees).

### 2018-19 Objectives

Working with our SaskSport consultant, we have identified some key goals for the financial management of SRA:

- 1) Build up 50% reserve by allocating membership, registration and assessment fees to self-help.
- 2) Re-categorize budgeted expenses per SaskSport definitions to better reflect true nature of activity as currently carried out, thereby addressing some areas for improvement raised in previous funding assessments.
- 3) Building on the SRA multi-year operational plan, work with VP's to develop annual work plans and ensure budget allocated aligns with planned activities.
- 4) Seek external funding to help SRA fulfill its mandate.
- 5) Streamline admin functions, using technology tools such as collaboration apps.
- 6) Begin preparations for next full funding assessment in fall 2019 to optimize SRA funding allocation from SaskSport.

## Provincial Coach Report

### 2017 Canada Summer Games

Team Sask earned 1 silver (Lightweight Women's 2x), and two bronze medals (Men's 1x and Women's Four) at the 2017 Canada Summer Games regatta in Kenora, ON. The women ranked 3rd overall and men 4th overall in Canada Games flag points. This is an improvement by one spot for both men and women compared to the 2013 Canada Summer Games.

Full results are available at: [https://cg2017.gems.pro/Result/Event\\_List.aspx?Sport\\_GUID=0f976863-1313-4c39-baa2-f9ae01b826f9&SetLanguage=en-CA](https://cg2017.gems.pro/Result/Event_List.aspx?Sport_GUID=0f976863-1313-4c39-baa2-f9ae01b826f9&SetLanguage=en-CA)

### National Rowing Championships/Canada Cup- Burnaby, BC

This year Saskatchewan had 6 entries across 4 events at the National Championships. Canada Cup was the last day of competition in Burnaby and we entered a Lightweight double (3rd), a composite Mens 4x (5th) and a Composite womens 8+ with Alberta (3rd)

Larissa Werbicki Gold in the U23 Lightweight 1x, also, 2nd in the Open Lightweight 1x

Gillian Cattet 9th overall women's 2-

Brammon Edwards 18th U23 men's 1x

Kate Morstad 9th U23 lightweight women's 1x

Eric Chateigner 13th U23 lightweight men's 1x

Sarah Craven 4th U23 lightweight women's 1x

### Coaching Certification

Garrett conducted an RCA Learn to Row Coach in Saskatoon on April 14/15. He will be running another RCA Learn to Row Coach Clinic in Lloydminster on July 14/15. All SRA member clubs are encouraged to submit requests to the SRA for RCA Learn to Row or RCA Coach Clinics to be hosted at their home club before March 31 of a given year for planning and scheduling purposes.

On Water Training/Indoor Training \*Program available upon request

### CSSRAs

We recently attended the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association Championship Regatta, June 1-3 in St. Catharines, ON. Six athletes, three each from Saskatoon and Regina, participated. Of this group, 4 are eligible for the 2021 Canada Summer Games. In the 11 events these athletes raced in, 7 finals were made and two medals were won.

Thomas Markewich (Regina) Silver – Mens Senior 72kg 1x /5th – Mens Senior 1x

Lauren Matai (Saskatoon) Bronze – Womens Junior 1x/6th – Womens Senior 63kg 1x

Rogan Noble (Regina) 4th – Mens Junior 1x

Matthew Johner (Saskatoon) 5th – Mens Junior 1x /Semi-Final – 6th – Mens Senior 72kg 1x

Elana Gelineau (Saskatoon) 5th - Womens Senior 63kg 1x / Heat – 4th – Womens Senior 1x

Wardah Mahmood (Regina) Semi-Final 6th-Womens Senior 63kg 1x/Heat 5th Womens Senior 1x

### Speed Orders

Larissa Werbicki (Saskatoon), Sarah Craven (Saskatoon), Kate Morstad (Regina), and Thomas Markewich (Regina) will all be participating in the Rowing Canada Aviron National Team try-outs for Senior, U23, and U21 teams on June 22-24. All four of these athletes have a good chance of making a national team this summer, with Larissa being competitive for the Senior World Championships, and definitive for the U23 World Championships (she has raced there for the past three years). Sarah, Kate and Thomas all have competitive chances at the U21 team that will be racing in the Trans Tasman Regatta representing Canada against New Zealand and Australia.

### Development

We are mindful of rowing beyond 2017 Canada Summer Games. On the 2017 CSG Team, there were 7 athletes that are eligible for the 2021 CSGs. This is significant compared to 2013 Games where we had 3 athletes eligible. We will continue to work with the club in transitioning their junior learn to row participants into competitive junior members.

Prepared by: Karen Tilsley

Date: June 8, 2018

## Saskatoon Rowing Club Report

### Summary

I represented Saskatoon on the SRA board until March 2018. SRC President, Sash Broda, is currently seeking a new club representative for SRA.

### Staff

- Morgan Fedrau has taken over in the role of Club Manager
- Lauren Ritchie and Gillian Cattet are hired as club coaches for seniors, masters and development programs
- John Haver coaches the junior / high performance group

### Programs and Memberships

- A new program called 8-weeks to sprints was introduced and uptake was excellent. Participant feedback will be considered to help improve the program in future years.
- Learn-to-row sessions are planned for throughout the summer, with four coaches in place, including two new coaches who recently completed the LTR coaching clinic offered this year.
- Membership numbers are down so far this year, notably due to many CSG athletes having moved on.

Prepared by: Michelle Lopez

Date: June 10, 2018

## Lloydminster Rowing Club Report

### Summary

We currently have 22 members. Our main project this year is the construction of a new dock system. This will be a huge upgrade from our current dock and will be valuable for years to come. We are working on the overall general maintenance of our building and property. We have a great core base of volunteers that have been so helpful in completing these tasks.

We will be hosting a learn to coach to row clinic on July 14-15, 2018. There has been a lot of interest. This will be a great opportunity to advance our clubs knowledge about rowing and bring everyone to a common level of understanding.

Dr. Raff Sayeed continues to be our main coach and with the training opportunity in July we are excited to have other members share in the responsibility of leading our members.

We are still seeking support to help us get our boats in better working order and learn proper repair and maintenance. Future support from the SRA as well as previous rowers, Brian Paul, has and will continue to be an asset.