



Annual General Meeting 2023



Halifax Rowing Club Annual General Meeting

December 4th 2023

Saint Mary's Boat Club

1. Approval of Minutes from Previous AGM (November, 18th 2022)

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Presentation of Reports

3.1 Financial

3.2 Equipment

3.3 Programming and Membership

3.4 Safety

3.5 President's Report

4. Additional Items from the Membership

None added to date

5. Proposed Board Composition

5.1 Departing Board Members

- Holly Davy, Registrar
- Steve Coats, Member at Large
- Hanna Bowers, Secretary
- Meaghan Haycock, Director

5.2 Reoffering Board Members

- President: Daniel Ruzzante
- Vice President: Martha Radice (acting)
- Treasurer: Melissa Barker
- Programs Director: Jasmine Frickleton
- Safety Director: Bonnie Anderson
- Equipment Director: Brian Robinson
- Communications Director: Mieke Hagesteijn
- Director: Kathy Willis

5.3 Vacant Board Positions

- Secretary
- Registrar
- Director
- Director



- Director (Junior Representative)

6. Meeting Closure

Pizza, potluck and celebration to follow



Previous Meeting Minutes



Halifax Rowing Club Annual General Meeting

November 18, 2022 6:15-8 PM

St. Mary's Boat Club

Attendees:

Daniel Ruzzante, Rob Ellis, Steve Coats, Martha Radice, Brian Robinson, Karen Brown, Janice Graham, Dan Chevalier, Janice Palmer, Bonnie Anderson, Meggie Letman, Meaghan Haycock, Jen Devitt, Melissa Barker, Antonia Chircop, Daphne Andreou, Patrick Andreou, Jasmine Frickleton, Hanna Bowers, Connor Booker, Jonathan Tyson, Jay Chevalier, Erin Samchyk, Andrea Samchyk, Kathy Willis, Holly Davy, Ned Zimmerman, Judy, Mike Whitehouse, Juan Zhou, San Patten, Pierre Poirier, Mieke Hagesteijn, Tracey Evans, Lesley Griffiths, Eli Manning, Cooper Bombardier, Jeff Kirby [quorum made]

1 Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (November 24, 2021)

Motion to Approve by Steve, seconded by Bonnie Anderson

2 Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve by Steve, seconded by Jonathan Tyson

3 Presentation of Reports

3.1 Financial

See attached 2022 Financial Report

In summary, we received more grant funding than pre-COVID, less grant money than during COVID. Major expenditures included salaries, some equipment purchases, and coach boat motor repair. We have some cash in hand to cover winter training and startup in the spring.

- Suggest establishment of bursary committee this winter. Challenges moving forward will be junior recruitment and motor repair
- Reminder to the membership that donations through Sport NS Sport Fund Trust are eligible for tax receipts.

Motion to approve by Steve Coats, seconded by Hanna Bowers

3.2 Equipment

See attached 2022 Equipment Report.

No major changes to the boathouse beyond addition of singles racks. Docks have required ongoing repair. Coach boats were maintained thanks to lots of hard work from Jay, Melissa, Jasmine, and others. Ongoing maintenance to footplates

- Suggest establishment of equipment teams to support ongoing maintenance
- Volunteer Wednesday was helpful to Jay this year
 - Strip a boat each Wednesday
- Clean-up discussion – boats that don't go to regattas should be maintained



Motion to approve by Karen Brown, seconded by San Patten

3.3 Membership and Programming

See attached 2022 Membership and Programming Report

Challenges with recovery since COVID. Lots of visitors came through from other regions. Row-Alls are always good for the overall club sense of belonging

- Suggestion for come try rowing
- Suggestion for PSB DND community event

Motion to approve by Karen Brown, seconded by Jonathan Tyson

3.4 Coaching

See attached 2022 Coaching Report

Many thanks to Antonia for stepping up to a leadership role for the summer. Thanks to the fall coaching crew for stepping in when many of us were expecting to be self-coached. Many successful regattas this year, including locally, Henley, and Canada Games.

Motion to approve by Martha Radice, seconded by Steve Coats

3.5 Safety

See attached Safety Report

Updated policies (thank you Martha) and restocked first aid kits (thank you Craig) at the beginning of season. New safety policy has now been adopted and is available on our website. Floor mats have been working well.

Motion to approve by Rob Ellis, seconded by Mieke Hagesteijn

3.6 President's Report

See attached President's Report

Thanks to the rest of the Board. We've been helped immensely by folks like Paul, Diane, Jim, and Mike who have done work behind the scenes to keep the club running. Lots of simple but effective innovations were implemented. Began discussions with HRM about the renovations to the Saint Mary's Boat Club.

Motion to approve by Steve Coats, seconded by Martha Radice

4 Additional Items from the Membership

Discussion Items:

- Fun committee – stay tuned
- EDI committee – a non-board committee to suggest.
- Safe Sport discussion – we anticipate that this will be adopted by the beginning of next season.

5 Proposed Board Composition

5.1 Departing Board Members

- Karen Brown, Treasurer, 3 years of service
- Meggie Letman, Secretary, 5 years of service

5.2 Returning Board Members:

- President: Daniel Ruzzante (reoffering)
- Vice President: Connor Booker (reoffering)
- Treasurer: Melissa Barker
- Registrar: Holly Davy (reoffering)
- Programs Director: Jasmine Frickleton
- Communications Director/Secretary: Hanna Bowers (reoffering)
- Directors:
 - Martha Radice
 - Brian Robinson
 - Steve Coats

5.3 New Board Members:

- Equipment Director: Dan Chevalier
- Safety Director: Bonnie Anderson
- Member at Large: Kathy Willis
- Director (Junior Representative): Meaghan Haycock

Vote: unanimous in favour of the new Board.

6 Meeting Closure

Motion to close the meeting by Mieke Hagesteijn, seconded by Ned Zimmerman.

Awards and pizza party to follow



Financial Report

HRC Financial Report 2023

November 1st, 2022 to October 31st 2023



Pre-Season

There was extensive work conducted by the Board in January/February 2023 to critically review and evaluate staffing hours, membership fees and budget estimates. The intent of this review was to financially safeguard the 2023 on-water season, accounting for higher operating costs, staffing costs, uncertainty of grants, etc. Membership fees were discussed extensively, various scenarios were constructed and reviewed, and the Board held several meetings before passing a final vote for the on-water 2023 fees. When calculating membership fees, the Board established base line assumptions, including limited-to-no membership growth and maximum coaching hours.

Accounts Overview

	2022, October 31 st	2023, October 31 st
General Chequing	\$22,621.67	\$33,030.55
Bursary Fund	\$1,270.78	\$3,786.17
Boat Fund	\$31,041.46	\$36,754.28
National Sport Trust Fund	\$1,042.50	\$1,065.89

Profit Loss

	2022, October 31 st	2023, October 31 st
Income	\$101,928	\$111,682.16
Expenses	\$101,415	\$93,143.28
Net Income	\$513	\$18,538.88 *

* Two payroll windows will be withdrawn from this amount to close out the on-water season, refer to Expenses section. The HRM grant to repair the Bates is also included in this total.

Income

1. Membership Income

Compared to 2022, income from fees are up across all categories.

Membership Fees	\$50,350.82 (up \$16,825.82 from 2022)
Learn-to-Row Fees	\$28,892.53 (up \$17,022.53 from 2022)
Punch Card & Visitor Fees	\$ 2,493.94 (up \$ from 2022)
Total	

2. Grants

Received grants for 2023 are \$8,577.80 less than last year (\$22,399.80) as we only had one staff member on a salary related grant. The HRM Community Grant will be utilized in the 2023-2024 fiscal cycle, with a deadline for March 31st, 2024.

HRM Community Grant (Bates Repair)	\$5,000.00
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ParticipACTION Community Challenge Grant	\$5,000.00
Student Summer SKILL Incentive Program (1 employee)	<u>\$3,822.00</u>
Total	\$13,822.00

3. Other

- The Club sold various pieces of equipment this year, including the Whaley, an inflatable boat, and two engines (Mercury 8.0 and Suzuki).

4. Future Income Considerations

- There will be another review of the membership fees, which will account for this year's final membership enrollment.
- There are ongoing challenges aligning staff grant requirements with the available hires. This was a challenge for the 2021-2022 season and again for the 2022-2023 season.

Expenses

1. General Expenses

- Salaries continue to be our major expense, with this year we spent just over \$51,000, which is higher than last year (\$49,000) and 2021 (\$43,700). It is worth noting, there are two more payroll expenses to be withdrawn from the account to close out the 2023 on-water season, but these will not appear until the next 2024 Annual General Meeting Financial Report.
- Purchase of a new Mercury 9.9 engine and Seabright Inflatable Boat (red).
- Rent continues to be \$3,450.00 per year and Marine Insurance \$6,470.00 was slightly higher this year.

2. Future Expenses

Out of the net income, there are several expenses yet to be withdrawn from the accounts, including:

- Bates repair, which will withdraw the \$5,000 HRM grant plus \$2,500-\$3,000 of savings from the Boat Fund.
- Two more payroll expenses to close out the on-water season, approximately \$5,700.

Future

1. Accurate budgeting will continue to be a challenge as we move forward, including challenges around aligning staff with grants, estimating membership numbers as we continue with COVID recovery, staffing hours, weather cancellations, etc.
2. Junior program saw some growth, but the Club will need to continue to push this membership category. Introduction of a 'Summer – July/August' Junior membership will go under review as the 2023 season was the first year for this category.
3. The separation of the AM and PM Adult Fitness memberships will go under review as the 2023 season was the first year for this category.

4. The bursary fund has received two years of contributions, but the Club still needs a clear direction and policy how to use and administer these funds. A Bursary Committee needs to be established.
5. The St. Mary's Boat Club renovation is still a future possibility, which needs to be budgeted.
6. Moving forward, there will be a change how regatta participants pay their fees within HRC. Whenever possible, the Club will no longer pay regatta fees as a lump sum, then collect fees from participants. The expectation going forward will be participants pay their fees online with personal credit cards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Barker', with a stylized, cursive script.

Melissa Barker

Halifax Rowing Club Treasurer

Halifax Rowing Club

Profit and Loss

November 2022 - October 2023

	TOTAL
INCOME	
Adult Competitive Program	13,346.58
Adult Fitness Program AM	17,838.75
Adult Fitness Program PM	5,663.49
Adult Learn to Row	16,128.75
ARC regatta member fees	72.00
Boat storage fees	5,200.00
Cogswell Pelham participant fee	310.00
Cogswell prize money	100.00
Development Program	7,483.75
Erg Rental	60.00
Grant	10,000.00
Grant- Provincial Skills Grant	3,822.00
Icebreaker fees	480.00
Junior Competitive Program	637.00
Junior Development Program	2,366.25
Junior Fitness & Summer Program	2,625.00
Junior Learn to Row	12,763.78
Junior Punch Card	191.25
PEI Beach sprints fees collected	2,120.50
Punch Card	1,510.00
Really chili regatta fees	408.63
Sale of Boat	3,660.00
Sale of Engine	1,660.00
Sprints regatta fees	835.54
Student Competitive	390.00
Uncategorized Income	396.20
Visitor fee	792.69
Winter Training	820.00
Total Income	\$111,682.16
TOTAL INCOME	\$111,682.16
EXPENSES	
Advertising	464.54
Bank charges	102.00
Board Service Gift	60.00
Coach boat	1,781.35
Cogswell Pelham expenses	70.00
Cogswell Pelham prize money	200.00
Come Try Rowing Event	130.00
Courses and training	694.95
Gas	1,104.95
Icebreaker dues	550.00
Insurance	6,470.00
Major Equipment Purchase	3,487.95
motor maintenance	2,615.16
Parts/Hardware	1,051.42

Halifax Rowing Club

Profit and Loss

November 2022 - October 2023

	TOTAL
payroll expenses	425.16
PO Box payment	234.60
Quickbooks	269.10
RCA club fee	440.00
RCA Membership fees	4,547.75
Refund	4,149.50
Regatta - PEI Beach Sprints Fees	1,920.00
Regatta - Really Chili Fees	540.00
Regatta- RowNS Sprint Fees	960.00
Rent or lease payments	3,450.00
Repair and maintenance	11.82
RowNS Club Fee	250.00
RowNS Fees	4,890.00
Safety Equipment	734.37
Salaries	51,114.95
Supplies	132.14
Uncategorized Expense	291.57
Total Expenses	\$93,143.28
BALANCE	\$18,538.88



Equipment Report

HRC Equipment Report 2023



1. Equipment Sold

1. Coach Boat, Whaly
2. Coach Boat, Inflatable (in storage and not in use)
3. Engine, Mercury 8.0 HP
4. Engine, Suzuki

2. Equipment Purchased

1. Coach Boat, Seabright Inflatable (red & white)
2. Engine, Mercury 9.9 HP
3. Seats, two new Wintech seats (wide training Wintechs)

3. Repairs

1. Review and potentially repair the blue and yellow coach boats. This would be their second repair in two years.
2. Repair of the Flood quad, costs and extents unknown.
3. Repair of the White Lightning, costs and extents unknown.
4. The Bates is in New Brunswick for repair, which will be ready for the 2024 on-water season.
5. Due to shortage of staffing, Volunteer Wednesday did not continue this year after mild success in 2022. The lack of daily repairs was seen in wheel replacement, general club clean up, etc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Barker".

Melissa Barker

Report on HRC Outboard Engines – 2023 Season

HRC owns four outboard engines:

2016 Yamaha 8hp
2016 Mercury 9.9hp
2022 Mercury 9.9hp
2023 Mercury 9.9hp

Our engines see heavy use (300+ hours per season) in corrosive salt water necessitating frequent routine service. Engine oil and gear lube changes were performed every 100hrs, and after 300hrs a more extensive service is performed (spark plugs, fuel filter, thermostat, water pump, general lubrication etc).

Both the 2022 and 2023 Mercury's were our workhorse engines this year, with no extended downtime. The 2016 Mercury and Yamaha are showing their age and both suffered from some downtime while various issues were identified and resolved. The 2016 Mercury was sent to Whitewater Marine to diagnose and repair an idling issue, which took 18 days to complete in the peak of the summer season. All other engine maintenance was performed in-house, saving the club a significant amount of money.

All four engines finished the season in good working condition and were fully winterized. Thanks to Jim Tompkins for his assistance with the winterization process.

The club also disposed of two older engines this year through sales on Kijiji - a 2012 Mercury 8hr was sold for \$260 and a 2015 Suzuki 9.9hp was sold for \$1300.

If anyone is interested in helping with outboard maintenance next season, please reach out to myself or a member of the board. We will hold a training session for basic engine operation early next season – all coaches and volunteer boat drivers will be welcome to attend.

Finally, thank you to all of our coaches and boat drivers who took care of our equipment and for quickly reporting when there were issues with the engines. Next year I plan to start a Slack channel for logging or reporting any engine problems.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Robinson
Director at Large



Programming & Membership Report

Halifax Rowing Club 2022-2023 Program Report

Membership Numbers By Program

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Competitive	25	27	36	29	28	31	6	x	20	18
AM Fitness	41	52	45	27	33	36	59	63	37	23
PM Fitness										12
Weekend										0
Punch Pass				12	10	8			4	8
Student										3*
Adult LTR	81	57	34	53	61	65	x	63	35	51
Adult Development	37	23	18	18	25	15	x	13	14	27
Jr Competitive	11	18	13	25	22	19	4	x	7	1
Jr Fitness	13	14	17	10	9	7	14	11	8	1
Jr Summer Only										5
Jr Punch Pass										6**
Jr LTR	62	54	48	69	44	57	x	31	19	41
Jr Development	39	27	26	44	23	27	x	13	4	13
Visitors									8	14
Total Adult Members	103	102	99	74	86	82	65	76	75	91
Total Jr Members	63	59	56	79	54	53	18	24	12	26
Total HRC Members	166	161	155	153	140	135	83	100	87	117

*All part of the competitive program

**5 Jr Punch Pass Members were first year development rowers who knew they wouldn't row often so opted for the lower cost punch pass. They are included in the development numbers count later in the report.

Winter Training 2022-23

Winter training 2022/23 took place at Studley Gym in the dance studio from December to the end of March. 16 members participated 3 mornings per week in erg based workouts and 32 participated each Saturday in circuit based workouts. Coach Hannah Meeson designed and led the winter training program.

Training at Studley is very limiting, with HRC equipment only available to a few members during the very limited rental times. The cost per month is very high as it is an hourly rental shared amongst a limited group. A winter training location with more flexibility is being pursued so as to improve access to HRC equipment by more HRC members in a wider variety of time slots. However finding space at a reasonable price with the ability to store ergs is not easy. We hope to have options available shortly for members to consider for winter 2023/24.

Adult Fitness and Competitive Programs

Adult fitness and competitive programs held fairly steady this season in membership numbers. We saw a number of people returning to rowing both from the HRC family and from other clubs across Canada as well as rowers new to Halifax finding a place in our amazing rowing community.

Competitive athletes represented HRC proudly at 6 local regattas this season winning numerous medals and bringing home the Efficiency Trophy at the Atlantic Rowing Championships. A highlight for many was the Red Island Regatta where HRC fitness and competitive athletes got a crash course in both long distance and beach sprint coastal racing. There is strong hope that in 2024 many of our development and fitness athletes from the 2023 season will slip into snug HRC colours and have a go at racing.

Adult Learn to Row and Development

Adult Learn to Row saw strong numbers this season with 51 participants. This is just shy of the average for the 2014-2019 pre-COVID years of 58. Of the 51 participants 27 continued on into the Development Program. ***This is a 9 year high retention rate of 53%, up significantly from the average of 38% for the years 2014-2019.***

This season we changed the format of Adult LTR. We moved from 2hrs, twice weekly for 3 weeks (12hrs) to offering an intensive one week option (M-F 2hr/day, 10 hrs total) and a two week option (M/W/F/Tues/Thurs and Tues/Thurs/M/W/F, 10 hrs total). This allowed us to complete 3 sessions of LTR every 3 weeks which built momentum more quickly into the Development Program with more athletes joining more quickly.

The one week intensive options were the quickest to fill up when registration opened and we should consider offering a few more of these early in the season for people who are keen. Registration generally was very strong in June and July and then very low in August. It would be ideal to develop a strategy to have full LTR or alternatively pilot a two week Corporate Learn to Row Program in early August so the club could see the maximum financial benefit.

One challenge/opportunity that exists with LTR is our cancellation policy. People register, the course fills, others aren't able to register and then people drop out, often fairly close to the start date. We do our best on the back end to rearrange people and to fill in spaces but it doesn't always work out. An empty seat in LTR is lost revenue for the club. This winter we should look at our cancellation policy to make sure that it is both reasonable for a person signing up to LTR but also seeks to best protect critical club revenue.

Junior Programming

The status of our Junior Program continues to be a major gap in the future of HRC. This season saw strong gains with LTR (41 this year versus 19 last) and Development (18 this year versus 4 last). However there is still a significant need to continue rebuilding numbers. While we had the best year since 2019 it was still less than 50% of the number of athletes the program would have had pre-COVID. Like in other sports there is probably a relationship between a strong junior program now and future adult membership, so this is an area where it could help if all club members work toward supporting and growing the junior program.

Junior Programming - 2024 and Beyond

An opportunity exists for a partnership between Armbrae Academy and HRC. Armbrae has both the strong desire and the funds to start a competitive rowing program that would run in the spring and fall. We have a rowing club and a Junior Program in need of summer participants. We believe that there is great potential for a partnership to benefit both parties, however the challenge that continues to stand in the way is staffing.

Both the Armbrae and our own Junior Program are in need of dedicated coaches. Specifically people passionate about youth involvement in rowing - about fostering a fun, safe and competitive program coupled with the availability to coach weekdays in the spring and fall 4(ish)-6/8PM and in the summer 9:30-11:30AM. Or if not those exact times then alternatives which we could make work with the overall programming at HRC.

This season showed how successful and inspiring club members can be when they turn their eyes to coaching. If you have a passion for youth and for rowing, along with a bit of time each week, please reach out this fall. We'd like to discuss how HRC can support you to develop as a coach and how you could, in turn, support and drive a youth rowing program.

These programs are only going to be successful if we **all** participate to make them successful.

Recruitment - Junior and Adult LTR

Hands down our most successful recruitment was a series of three paid social media ads. These ads saw huge return on investment and were directly responsible for many of our LTR sign ups. It is strongly recommended to budget for these again next season.

To compliment our efforts on socials, physical posters were developed, printed and distributed around Halifax promoting both Adult and Junior LTR. Electronic versions were circulated to our membership for distribution within their networks.

Efforts were also made to reinvigorate our in-school recruitment with Coach Rob reaching out to most of the Junior Highs and High Schools in the area. After setting up a few sessions with teachers most were disappointingly cancelled by the schools at the last minute. Coaches did manage to run 2 sessions at Goresbrook which were very well received by students.

While the sessions went well and many students were enthusiastic, there was no support from the school in getting the word to parents around Learn to Row or the fact that the sessions had taken place.

Since those sessions we've worked with a contact at the school and have a plan in place for next season, which will include HRC info in the school newsletter that gets emailed to parents. This will hopefully increase parent awareness of the recruitment sessions, HRC in general, and have an impact on students from the school coming to LTR.

Program Pilots

The Program Committee launched a few pilot membership options as well as introducing the Sunday Row All this season to broaden program offerings, appeal to more potential members and add value for everyone.

Weekend Membership

There was no uptake on the weekend option, likely because a Punch Pass provided similar value and more flexibility.

Evening Adult Fitness

There was very strong uptake on the evening option. We've received extremely helpful feedback from members around the split of the Fitness Memberships into the two groups, which will be very useful in planning for the 2024 season.

Junior Summer Only

Most returning Junior Members opted for the Summer Only Membership.

Sunday Row All

The Sunday Row All was a strong addition to the schedule this season. It provided more options for social club rowing and also was a welcome alternative to Saturdays when weather didn't cooperate. We will seek to have it included again next season.

Come Try Rowing: HRC x North End Runners

We organized and held a Come Try Rowing event through a partnership with North End Runners facilitated by Jen Devitt. The event saw 12 runners try out stationary rowing, oar handling, tethered in-boat rowing and finally an "out and back" row to the middle of the arm. There was great feedback from all who participated thanks to the hard work and positive attitude of all 12 HRC volunteers who made it happen. It was an excellent first rowing experience for all but unfortunately didn't result in anyone signing up for Learn to Row or continuing in their rowing journey, at least not yet.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Focused Grants

Strong funding applications were submitted to 3 different grantors seeking to provide fully paid Learn to Row and Development Memberships to youth underrepresented in the sport of rowing. One application was successful and we received \$5000. Thanks to Participaction and The Government of Canada, 8 youth were able to participate in Jr Learn to Row and the Jr Development Program free of charge. A huge thank you is owed to San Patten for all her work behind the scenes to find and communicate with participants and families for this program. Thanks is also owed to Mieke and Meggie for coming down to assist during some of these sessions.

Final Thoughts

I'd like to thank each and every HRC member and our wonderful team of coaches for everything you did this season to make all of our programs warm, inviting, fun and successful. Thank you for doing small things, and not so small things, to foster our community and contribute to one another's love of this sport. Your efforts, large and small, are seen, felt and appreciated.

Jasmine Frickleton
Program Director, Volunteer
Halifax Rowing Club



Safety Report

HRC Safety Report

2023

Radios and training - the club now has 3 VHF radios. Judy Robertson trained 4 coaches and 4 volunteers. We now have 7 licensed radio operators.

Visibility on the arm - rowers were encouraged to wear hi-viz clothing when rowing.

Crew Sign in sign out - a white board was mounted at the front of the club where crews and boat assignments were posted. Next year I will be reminding people to put the time they left the dock and then to check their boats off when they return.

Mike H replaced worn out shingles on the dock

Tracy Evans found the perfect rowing headlight

One incident on the dock resulted in a broken ankle. Thankfully that rower has made a good recovery and managed a few rows at the end of the season.

Numerous flips but no injuries that I was made aware of. One collision where a boat was damaged.

One rower being waked intentionally and continuously by a zodiac. They were identified and spoken to by their employer.

Next year

More emphasis on an ability to swim. I would encourage everyone to include swimming in your winter training plan. You must be able to tread water for one minute and swim 50 meters.

Wear your PFD - they are useless if they are in the bottom of the boat and sink to the bottom of the arm when you flip. They also get wet and the CO2 canisters corrode and need to be replaced at almost \$35 apiece.

Have every crew actually sign out and sign in so we know exactly who is on the water and in what boat.

Have a report for each incident (flipping, injury, damage to boats and close calls) so we can identify areas of safety on which to focus.

Flipping clinic - when the water warms up next summer.

Have every board member and coach complete the Safe sport modules.



President's Report

President's report December 2022 to November 2023 season – Daniel Ruzzante

October 23, 2023

Outline

Thanks/Acknowledgements:

- **Coaches:** Rob Richards, Daphne Andreou, and Meaghan Haycock. We also thank Jen Devitt, Aaron Lane, Ben Peterson, Antonia Chircop, Hanika Nakagawa, Krista Loewen, and Sigi Davis all of whom came forward to help coaching when needed. A big thank you to all of you!
- **All current board members,** we all know that a small organization like HRC runs thanks to the time and effort put on by volunteers. This is also to encourage the rowers in the audience who have not been on the board to think about volunteering in the future! It is a very rewarding activity!
- **Rowers who work in the background** without being board members (Jim Tomkins, Tracey Evans, Pierre Poirier, Fiona Crean, Mike Hilchey, Juan Zhou), or even without being current club members (Linda Lee, Paul Shaw, Diane Darcy).
- **ALL ROWERS** for making this club a place where we want to spend time!
- **Retiring board members:** We thank Steve Coats, Connor Booker, Hanna Bowers, Meaghan Haycock, Holly Davy and Dan Chevalier for their time on the board.
- **Welcome new board members:** Ruby Stocklin Weinberg (Director), Daphne Andreou (Junior Rep), Alexa Petrie (Registrar), James Davy (Director, we seem to always have a Davy on board).

Some highlights of the 2023 rowing season:

Bates (8+): The Hudson 8+ repairs are well underway, there have been no major surprises during the repairs – the boat is expected to be returned fully repaired and repainted in the spring of 2024. The FRC trailer repair has however been deferred to the Spring, so this may affect how soon we can have the boat back.

Engines: The club acquired a new engine in 2022 and a second new engine in the spring of 2023. This past season there were no major issues with engine breakdowns, a problem that plagued previous seasons! I want to stress that this is primarily due to **Brian Robinson's** many weekend hours spent throughout the season doing engine maintenance! A big thank you Brian!

Coach boats: At the end of the 2022 rowing season, the club acquired a new rigid hull Whaly coach boat, attracted by its durability. Unfortunately, the boat turned out to be too heavy and slow given the Transport Canada imposed maximum 10 HP engine. The Whaly was therefore unable to plane and keep up with our rowing shells on the water. The board then decided to sell it and acquire a lighter and smaller boat (Seabright 320 Inflatable). The club now has 3 working coach boats.

Safety:

- **Radio communications:** A major improvement in our safety regulations has been the adoption of radio communication! The club acquired 2 VHF radios and 4 coaches and 4 volunteers were trained in their use by Judy Robertson. **Thanks to Bonnie Anderson, our safety board member, for spearheading this initiative!**
- **Docks:** Docks continue to be an issue regarding safety. This season we unfortunately had one rower (Janice Graham) suffer an accident on the docks which prevented her from rowing for much of the remainder of the season.
- **Cogswell Regatta:** Many thanks to **Brian Robinson and Linda Lee** for, once again, organizing the Cogswell Regatta! Thanks also to all the volunteers who helped during that day! It was a spectacular Fall racing day with 21 entries in all! Well done everyone!
- **Building renovation:** In the Fall of 2022 the board made contact and met with Waye Mason, city Councilor, Halifax South Downtown and his team of city employees. At that point we were told that architects would be retained in the fall of 2023 to design and prepare for the renovations during 2023-2024 with the renovations starting in 2024. I contacted Waye Mason during the Fall of 2023 and was told everything was put on hold because of the forest fires and floods experienced in NS during this past summer. More recently, I sent Councilor Mason pictures of the SMBC taken during high tide, when the sea level nearly reached the building concrete floor level. Councilor Waye Mason then sent the pictures to Parks personnel. Last year we were told that HRC will be part of discussions for the design of building renovations whenever these take place. Renovations are expected to take place over an 18-month period. During renovations our boats will have to be moved elsewhere on the NW Arm, possibly Dingle Park. Boats to be stored in Containers during that time. (SMBC has the same problem and HRC will likely move where SMBC moves)
- **Competitive rowers:** Thanks also to all competitive rowers who participate in local, regional and sometime (further afield) regattas.