

# Halifax Rowing Club

## 2024 Annual General Meeting

December 4th, 2024



### AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from Previous AGM (December 4th, 2023)
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Presentation of Reports
  - a. Financial
  - b. Equipment
  - c. Programming and Membership
  - d. Safety
  - e. President's Report
4. Additional Items from the Membership
5. Board Composition
  - a. Departing Board Members
  - b. Reoffering Board Members
  - c. Vacant Board Positions
6. Meetings Closure

Attached Reports: Financial, Profit & Loss, Equipment, Programs, Safety, President's, Renovation Committee, Member at Large.



# Halifax Rowing Club Annual General Meeting

December 4th 2023

Saint Mary's Boat Club

Meeting Called to Order: 6:05

Attendance: Melissa, Bonnie, Missy, Ruby, Joan, Hanna, Mieke, Daphne, Antonia, Jenn, Jeff, Jasmine, Karen W, James, Janice, Mike, Marisha, Steven, Alex H, Rob, Brian, Martha, Piere, Mike V, Ned, Trina, Cooper, Tracy, Jonathan, Daniel

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

Motion to Approve: Melissa

Seconded by: Brian

Approved by majority vote

## 2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve: Meslissa

Seconded by: Brian

Approved by majority vote

## 3. Presentation of Reports

### 3.1 Financial

See report for full details

Pre-season

- Programs vs Staffing Hours
- Membership Categories
- Membership Fees
- Operating Costs

Net Income

- 5000 is a grant (not yet spent), 2 payrolls to close out on water season
- Net Income: 9756.16\$
  - No major repairs throughout season (some to be done postseason)

Updates

- Moving toward paying regatta fees online moving forward

### 3.2 Equipment

See report for full details

- Good year for equipment



- Meeting with sport nova scotia about refurbishing wintech singles for adaptive rowing

Issues raised by members:

- Water coming into Withrow
- Why repair the white lightning? - feels it is past its prime
  - Board has yet to discuss boats that were broken at the end of the on the water season

### 3.3 Programming and Membership

See report for full details

Winter training

- Working towards not doing winter training at Studley gym, due to time constraints and inability to access equipment
- Working on different location with Dal - will be updating as we get the information

Numbers

- Numbers held fairly steady
- Development was good this summer, hoping we will see that increase in memberships
- Significant retention from learn to row

LTR

- Significant change in format
- One week intensive or two week intensive
  - Super high uptake on one week intensive
- Ongoing challenge: Cancellation policy in LTR - looking at how we can revamp this policy to offer flexibility but also not lose out of filling LTR spots

Junior Program

- Still a challenge
- LTR and development were quite strong
- Armbrae opportunity
  - Want to start rowing program
  - Issue: they need us to do the coaching
  - Need uptake and support from membership to make this happen - the board can support with developing coaching skills

Recruitment

- Ran social media campaign 3 times
- In school recruitment - this is resource heavy

Programs offered

- Lots of feedback to go forward with
- Events: North end runners
  - Promoted rowing
  - Did not result in memberships



- Sunday Row all

### 3.4 Safety

See report for full details

#### Safety Awards

- Prevention
  - Being visible: Tracy Evans
  - Honorable mention: 7:30 group
- Know what to do when Sh\*t happens
  - Jasmine, everyone in the 8, and coaches
  - Everyone stayed calm, had PFD, coaches were right there and everyone knew what to do
- Learning from our incidents
  - Best report: Jess
- Big shoutout to Janice

#### Incident reports

- Need to be reporting all incidents so that we can learn from them

#### Flipping Clinic / Swimming Abilities

- More attention peoples swimming abilities
  - Swim to survive test: going to be asking people if they can do this. Fall in water, tread for 60 seconds and swim for 50 meters
- Want to run flipping clinics this season once the water warms up

### 3.5 President's Report

See report for full details

## 4. Additional Items from the Membership

#### Moving Thoughts / Building Renovations

- Setting up moving fund to start to plan for this

#### Succession Planning for Boats

- Planning for how long we keep a boat, when to retire a boat, etc.
- Been difficult due to lack of funds
- Jonathan is volunteering to take on this planning or start a committee

## 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
- 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: Alexa Petrie
- Director: Ruby Stocklin Weinberg
- Director: James Davy
- Director (Junior Representative): Daphne Andreou
- Director: Mike
- Member at Large: Janice

New board approved by members in attendance.

## 6. Meeting Closure - 7:30

Motion to adjourn AGM: Jonathan

Seconded by: Hanna

Pizza, potluck and celebration to follow

# HRC Financial Report 2024

November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to October 31<sup>st</sup> 2024



## Accounts Overview

|                           | 2023, October 31 <sup>st</sup> | 2024, October 31 <sup>st</sup> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| General Chequing          | \$ 33,030.55                   | \$ 36,966.35                   |
| Bursary Fund              | \$ 3,786.17                    | \$ 6,248.47                    |
| Boat Fund                 | \$ 36,754.28                   | \$ 32,305.32                   |
| National Sport Trust Fund | \$ 1,065.89                    | \$ 1,040.89                    |
| Moving Fund               | -                              | \$ 5,084.65                    |

## Profit Loss

|            | 2023, October 31 <sup>st</sup> | 2024, October 31 <sup>st</sup> |
|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Income     | \$ 111,682.16                  | \$ 92,316.48 <sup>1</sup>      |
| Expenses   | \$ 93,143.28                   | \$ 85,518.68                   |
| Net Income | \$ 18,538.88                   | \$ 6,797.80                    |

<sup>1</sup> Difference between income is attributed to no grants being received and significant drop in learn-to-row members.

## Income

### 1. Membership Income

The membership fees remained the same as the 2022-2023 season, with the exception of a small increase to the RCA fees, and the board changed the visitor fee from \$30 per row, to \$30 for three rows.

|                           |                                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Membership Fees           | \$55,791.50 (up \$5,441 from 2023)    |
| Learn-to-Row Fees         | \$18,855.50 (down \$10,037 from 2023) |
| Punch Card & Visitor Fees | \$ 3,585.00 (up \$641.00 from 2023)   |

### 2. Grants

We received no grants for the 2023-2024 season.

### 3. Other

- The Club sold various pieces of equipment this year, including one engine and two singles (Ginny & Old Mission).

#### **4. Future Income Considerations**

- Even though we did not receive grants for the 2023-2024 season, aligning grants to staff availability would have remained a challenge. an increase in membership using this option. The Board will need to review/discuss the quantity/number of incremental payments for next season.

### **Expenses**

#### **1. General Expenses**

- Salaries continue to be our major expense, with this year we spent just over \$44,185.00 which is less than last year (\$51,000) and 2021 (\$49,000).
- The Board purchased a new Mercury engine.
- The Board made an initial payment of \$5000 for the Bates repair, with the remaining payment outstanding. The initial payment was required to comply with grant
- This was the second season we offered incremental membership payments. There was requirements. Note: this grant was acquired last year.
- Rent continues to be \$3,450.00 per year and Marine Insurance \$6,782.00 was slightly higher this year.
- The Board acquired additional Directors insurance: \$1,190.00.

#### **2. Future Expenses**

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

- Remainder of the Bates repair is outstanding. Anticipated to be \$2,500-\$3,000 for the remainder of the repair.
- One more payroll expense to close out the on-water season.
- Outstanding shell/boat maintenance, which will appear on the 2024-2025 report.

### **2024-2025 Season - Future Considerations**

1. The junior program saw some growth, but the Club will need to continue to push this membership category, particularly the LTR category. The partnership with Armbrua is a positive new source for junior membership.
2. The bursary fund has received another year of contribution, but the Club still needs a clear direction and policy on how to use and administer these funds. A Bursary Committee needs to be established.
3. The St. Mary's Boat Club renovation is happening, which will require a detailed budget. Sport NS indicated there are possible grants available to help offset costs of relocating.



Melissa Barker

Halifax Rowing Club Treasurer

# Halifax Rowing Club

## Profit and Loss

November 2023 - October 2024

|                                       | TOTAL              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                         |                    |
| Adult Competitive Program             | 15,956.00          |
| Adult Fitness Program AM              | 19,145.50          |
| Adult Fitness Program PM              | 7,027.50           |
| Adult Learn to Row                    | 12,973.40          |
| ARC regatta member fees               | 820.70             |
| Armbrea - Fall Rowing                 | 3,360.00           |
| Armbrea - Sprint Learn to Row         | 1,995.00           |
| Boat storage fees                     | 4,550.00           |
| Cogswell Pelham participant fee       | 456.95             |
| Cogswell Pelham Regatta Cental Income | 322.44             |
| Development Program                   | 5,882.50           |
| HRC Gear/Supplies (Sale)              | 125.00             |
| Icebreaker fees                       | 90.30              |
| Junior Development Program            | 892.50             |
| Junior Learn to Row                   | 3,887.50           |
| Junior Punch Card                     | 292.50             |
| Junior Summer                         | 2,832.50           |
| Junior Summer/Fall                    | 995.00             |
| Payroll Tax Return                    | 222.03             |
| PEI Beach sprints fees collected      | 1,240.00           |
| Punch Card                            | 2,840.00           |
| Really chili regatta fees             | 316.36             |
| Regatta- National Beach Sprints       | 140.30             |
| Sale of Boat                          | 400.00             |
| Sale of Engine                        | 1,250.00           |
| Visitor fee                           | 452.50             |
| Winter Training                       | 3,850.00           |
| <b>Total Income</b>                   | <b>\$92,316.48</b> |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <b>\$92,316.48</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                       |                    |
| Advertising                           | 787.75             |
| AGM expenses                          | 330.00             |
| ARC regatta fees                      | 150.00             |
| Bank charges                          | 79.50              |
| Boathouse expenses                    | 1,955.02           |
| Cogswell Pelham expenses              | 84.00              |
| Cogswell Pelham prize money           | 200.00             |
| Courses and training                  | 262.54             |
| Gas                                   | 769.35             |
| HRC Gear/Supplies                     | 458.85             |
| Icebreaker dues                       | 90.30              |
| Insurance                             | 7,972.00           |
| Major Boat Repair                     | 7,403.13           |
| Major Equipment Purchase              | 3,625.95           |
| motor maintenance                     | 1,884.84           |

# Halifax Rowing Club

## Profit and Loss

November 2023 - October 2024

|                                         | TOTAL              |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Parts/Hardware                          | 118.78             |
| Phone                                   | 25.68              |
| PO Box payment                          | 240.35             |
| Quickbooks                              | 331.20             |
| RCA Membership fees                     | 5,036.25           |
| Refund                                  | 2,461.25           |
| Regatta - PEI Beach Sprints Fees        | 1,320.00           |
| Regatta - Really Chili Fees             | 50.00              |
| Regatta- National Beach Sprints Expense | 210.45             |
| Regatta- RowNS Sprint Fees              | 400.33             |
| Rent or lease payments                  | 3,450.00           |
| RowNS Club Fee                          | 250.00             |
| RowNS Fees                              | 770.00             |
| Safety Equipment                        | 155.01             |
| Salaries                                | 44,185.28          |
| web hosting fees                        | 345.00             |
| Winter Training Expense                 | 115.87             |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                   | <b>\$85,518.68</b> |
| <b>BALANCE</b>                          | <b>\$6,797.80</b>  |

# **Equipment Director Report for the 2024 Season**

**Submitted by: Brian Robinson**

With this being my first year as HRC equipment director, a significant amount of my time was spent learning about the needs of our fleet and how to perform a wide range of repairs. I would not have been able to do the work I did without help from former HRC members Diane D'Arcy and Paul Shaw. They volunteered many hours of their time throughout the season and taught me everything I now know about performing a wide range of hull repairs.

Moving into the equipment director roll, I inherited a number of issues since the club had been without an equipment director since the 2022 season. A short summary of repairs that were completed this season:

- Flood 4x – repaired damaged fin box and other damage to the hull
- White Lightning 8+ – reattached bow
- Jubilen 4x – repaired damage to hull
- Cool Runnings 1x – repaired damage to hull
- Connor 1x – repaired damage to foot track
- Wintech Hwt 1x – broken rigger to be replaced under warranty
- Countless repairs to seats/wheels/tracks/shoes/bow balls/oars/slings

The club disposed of the Mission Lwt 1x by donating it to the Red Sands Rowing Club in PEI. Thank you to Michael Vandenburg for transporting the shell.

HRM was very responsive when we logged service requests for the docks and clubhouse. A number of water leaks and other facility issues were repaired over the season. Thank you to Daniel Ruzzante for coordinating these repairs with the city.

Our fleet of outboard motors performed very well during the season. All routine maintenance was performed in-house. Thank you to all the coaches for reporting when there were issues so they could be fixed. The club purchased a new 2024 Mercury 9.9 EFI engine, while the 2016 Yamaha 8.0 was sold and the 2016 Mercury 9.9 was retired and will be kept by the club for spare parts.

Thank you to everyone who worked behind the scenes to help with various small tasks throughout the season. Whether it was fixing a broken wheel, changing out a damage shoe, keeping our towels clean and organized, buying fuel when we were low or simply taking out the trash, every little bit helps!

Finally, I want to thank the entire HRC membership for taking care of our club equipment and reporting when there were issues. For the 2025 season, I plan on starting a Slack channel so that equipment and clubhouse issues can be reported and tracked. I would also like to establish a series of equipment teams with volunteers to help with various tasks around the club:

Oar Repair Team  
Seat Repair Team  
Fuel Purchasing Team  
Clubhouse Cleanup Team  
Rigging Team  
Engine Maintenance Team

And a summary of equipment repairs to be completed in the off-season:

Flood 4x – Realign fin, reinforce buckle in hull with carbon fiber  
Jubilen 4x – Fiberglass repair to gunnel and splash guard  
Great White 4x – Replace fin  
Inspiration 2x – Fiberglass repair to splash guard  
Wintech Trainer 1x – Fiberglass repair to top of hull  
Connor 1x – Fiberglass repair to chip in stern  
Osprey 2x – Repair fin  
Silver Dart 1x – Repair fin, repaint hull  
Water Witch 2x – Repaint hull  
All Wintech Competition 1x – Spot repair of paint chips/scratches (all five shells)  
Double Trouble 2x – Check rigging, check fin alignment  
Davy 1x – Check fin alignment  
Cool Runnings 1x – Check fin alignment  
Withrow 2x – Investigate water ingress – re-caulk fin  
Freedom/Osprey/Silver Dart – Finish upgrading hardware  
Bow balls/shoes – Replace as necessary

## Halifax Rowing Club 2023-2024 Program Report

### Membership Numbers By Program

|                     | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Competitive         | 25   | 27   | 36   | 29   | 28   | 31   | 6    | x    | 20   | 18   | 20   |
| AM Fitness          | 41   | 52   | 45   | 27   | 33   | 36   | 59   | 63   | 37   | 23   | 25   |
| PM Fitness          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 12   | 17   |
| Weekend             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 0    |      |
| Punch Pass          |      |      |      | 12   | 10   | 8    |      |      | 4    | 8    | 11   |
| Student             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 3*   | 3*   |
|                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Adult LTR           | 81   | 57   | 34   | 53   | 61   | 65   | x    | 63   | 35   | 51   | 40   |
| Adult Development   | 37   | 23   | 18   | 18   | 25   | 15   | x    | 13   | 14   | 27   | 22   |
|                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 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    | 7    |
| Jr Punch Pass       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 6    |      |
| Jr Summer & Fall    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 2    |
|                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Jr LTR              | 62   | 54   | 48   | 69   | 44   | 57   | x    | 31   | 19   | 41   | 12   |
| Jr Development      | 39   | 27   | 26   | 44   | 23   | 27   | x    | 13   | 4    | 13   | 5    |
| Armbræ Spring Pilot |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 6    |
| Armbræ Fall         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 10   |
|                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Visitors            |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 8    | 14   | 14   |
|                     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Total Adult Members | 103  | 102  | 99   | 74   | 86   | 82   | 65   | 76   | 75   | 91   | 98   |
| Total Jr Members    | 63   | 59   | 56   | 79   | 54   | 53   | 18   | 24   | 12   | 26   | 30   |
| Total HRC Members   | 166  | 161  | 155  | 153  | 140  | 135  | 83   | 100  | 87   | 117  | 128  |

\*All part of the competitive program

\*\*Due to the lack of competing Jrs we opted to break the program offerings down by season rather than comp or fitness this year

## Winter Training 2024

After much delay and negotiation Winter Training 2024 took place at Dal's Sexton Gym with 16 athletes. It took much longer than hoped to organise which resulted in the start of the program being delayed until January. Ultimately, a deal was reached allowing HRC members to join the Sexton Gym as community members on a monthly basis and use the facility when it was not otherwise in use for our group training. This was a major win as we didn't have to pay additional costly facility rental fees. Winter training was able to run through to the beginning of May allowing members to train right up to getting on the water.

Dal was happy with the arrangement and is keen to welcome HRC back for fall/winter 2024/2025. It is imperative that we maintain a strong relationship with Dal as during the last season we investigated dozens of other options for winter training locations, all of which ended as not suitable for reasons of space, facility or cost.

A major thanks is owed to Kathy Spurr for her role in connecting us to the correct decision maker within the Dal Facility Department and for getting the negotiations started.

## Adult Fitness and Competitive Programs

The adult competitive program saw a small boost in numbers while adult fitness saw some nice gains, particularly in the evening fitness and punch pass groups. These membership options are proving to be desirable with the community and should continue to be offered.

Competitive athletes represented HRC at 6 local regattas this season winning numerous medals. This year's highlight was definitely the fall racing season. We saw the Armbrae Team hitting the water to race for the first time in the school's history. We saw Jr athletes representing HRC at the Cogswell, Atlantic Rowing Championships and Really Chili for the first time since 2019. Members of the Fitness and Development Programs pushed their limits with some of their first ever races. It was amazing to see HRC with entries in so many categories and new athletes discovering the racing side of the sport. We are hopeful there's more to come in 2025!

## Adult Learn to Row and Development

Adult Learn to Row saw less uptake this season with just 40 participants. This was despite the same social media advertising as was very successful last year and the addition of 2 rounds of road side signage. However the positive side of those numbers are that of the 40 participants 22 continued on into the Development Program. ***This is a 10 year high retention rate of 55%, up significantly from the average of 38% for the years 2014-2019 and besting the great retention we saw last year!***

## **Junior Programming**

This season saw a major dip in LTR numbers despite a variety of recruitment efforts, including ones that were very fruitful last season. In school recruitment poses a challenge because we don't always have coaches with availability to attend gym classes through the work day.

The Jrs we did have active in the program were very dedicated and showed tremendous improvements over the season.

## **HRC x Armbrae Academy**

Thanks to the commitment of James Davy and Antonia Chircop this spring we were able to run a successful pilot with Armbrae Academy. The program was a once weekly session running through May where 6 students learned to row after school.

HRC Coach Rob and Krista went to the Armbrae Sports Fair in early September and promoted rowing as a great sports option for Armbrae students. Their efforts paid off with 10 students joining the Armbrae Fall Rowing Program. Students rowed alongside HRC Jrs 2 days a week with an option to attend a third or use it as a weather make up day. Athletes from this program proudly represented Armbrae/HRC at the Atlantic Rowing Championships and Really Chili Regatta.

A massive thank you goes to Coach Maddie, Hani, Jen and Antonia for their consistency and commitment to making this new program such a success. The youth who participated this fall are keen to continue and we are excited to build on the success of the program into the spring season.

## **Come Try Rowing: Jr Edition**

We organised but ultimately cancelled a Come Try Rowing Event in June that was targeted at Jrs. Weather didn't cooperate and the decision was made that the high volunteer effort for likely very low turnout wasn't the correct balance. It is recommended that we schedule this again next year and promote it widely in advance with an option to run it as a land only session if the weather isn't good.

## **Final Thoughts**

Despite the lower than ideal Learn to Row numbers we managed to have a very successful season in large part due to the commitment, energy and skill of our coaching team. The coaches last year and again this year have done an exceptional job of fostering a positive learning environment where everyone can develop a passion for rowing. This has resulted in critical retention and growth within HRC programs.

Jasmine Frickleton  
Program Director, Volunteer  
Halifax Rowing Club

# **HRC Safety report**

2024

## 1. Continued from last year

Radios

Flow pattern

Hi-viz clothing

Lights on boats

## 2. New this year

On -line Incident report (thanks Rob for setting up and coaches for filling in)

Tipping clinic (thanks Krista) 16 -18 people participated.

Swimming requirement 50 m plus 1 minute treading water

Sign out/sign in log book

## 3. Plans for next year

Bowing, coxing, docking clinic early in season

More tipping clinics

Get coaches radio training early in season

Continued emphasis on following flow pattern

## Incidents

Police were called twice this summer. Once when there was a Burning boat just off our dock and again when Rocks were through windows on the north side of the building causing damage to some boats inside the boat house.

Incidents included numerous flips, collisions with moored boats and other shells, and close calls. Also, for first time, a shark was seen in the arm when we were rowing. No major injuries were reported.

Respectfully submitted

Bonnie Anderson

## President's report December 2023 to November 2024 season – Daniel Ruzzante

November 10, 2024

### Thanks/Acknowledgements:

- **Coaches:** Rob Richards. We also thank Daphne Andreou, Jen Devitt, Steve Coates, Hanika Nakagawa, Katie Pearson, Krista Loewen, Linda Lee, Maddie Murphy, Matthew Thompson, Antonia Chircop and Susan Bustin, 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), 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 Jasmine Fickleton, Melissa Barker, Kathy Willis, and Alexa Petrie for their time on the board.

### Some highlights of the 2024 rowing season:

**Bates (8+):** The Hudson 8+ has been repaired and will be delivered to HRC at the beginning of next “on-the-water” season.

**Equipment:** The club acquired a new engine in each of the last 3 years (2022, 2023, 2024). But this is not the main reason we had no engine malfunctions during this last season as without maintenance even new engines break down with the heavy use in seawater that we put them through. We had no engine break down primarily thanks to **Brian Robinson's** many weekend hours spent throughout the season doing engine maintenance! A big thank you Brian!

**Programs:** This year once again, Jasmine Fickleton put an awful lot of time and effort into program development including the development of a program with Ambrae Academy and we all owe Jas and the various coaches who participated in this program in the Spring and Fall (James Davy, Antonia Chircop, Maddie, Jenn) a huge thank you!

**Safety and flipping workshop:** A big thank you to **Bonnie Anderson** for organizing it. It was a big success! The club has VHF radios in use. This year attempts to have a clinic on how to use the radios were unsuccessful but I suspect Bonnie will try to arrange another such clinic with Judy Robertson next season.

**Winter training:** Towards the end of last year the board invested a lot of effort into finding a more suitable place for winter training than what we had at that point, which was an expensive proposition at Dalplex. As Jas pointed out, a special thank you goes to Katie Spurr who brokered the deal we currently have at the Sexton campus through her professional contacts at Dalplex.

**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! Well done everyone!

**Building renovation:** Thanks Martha Radice for chairing the renovations committee. We are told that the city has retained a program manager but at this point it is unclear how soon we can expect the renovations to start. When they do start, HRC will have to find alternative accommodation for our equipment. This is not likely to happen however, until at least the Fall of 2025 at the earliest. The latest news on this issue (as of Nov 12, 2024) is that work is underway now with the heritage planning staff. I was told we should expect some final dates within the next few weeks.

**Competitive rowers:** Thanks also to all competitive rowers who participated in local, regional and sometime (further afield) regattas.

**HRC's role in the sport of rowing:** HRC current members comprise approximately ½ of active East Coast rowing umpires. These are Leslie, Bonnie, Jeff, Jess, Jim Tompkins, John Taiani. Adding former HRC members Linda, Joan, and Yetta brings the number to 9 active umpires. This increases HRC contribution to approx. three-quarters of all active East Coast umpires. To these 9 umpires we add Brian Robinson who is the official statistician at regattas. Way to go HRC!

Thanks also to **Jonathan Tyson** for representing HRC as VP at ROWNS.

Thanks to **Pierre Poirier** for volunteering to join the trailer committee

*Daniel Ruzzante*

Daniel Ruzzante, HRC President

## **HRC AGM 2024 - Renovations Committee report**

The board decided to form a subcommittee to deal with the proposed renovations to St Mary's Boat Club, specifically: 1) leading HRC's communications with HRM and input into the new design, and 2) figuring out what to do when the SMBC closes.

An invitation to join the Renovations Committee went out to all club members in July 2024. There was strong interest, and the committee members are: Owen Falkenham; Janice Graham\*; Chloe Greisman; Jess Houtsma; Jeff Kirby; Jonathan Langdon; Martha Radice\*; Daniel Ruzzante\*; Jim Tompkins (\*on HRC Board of Directors). Collectively, the Committee has considerable planning and organizational experience.

Meetings:

- Aug 7, 2024: 'RenoCom' inaugural meeting
- Sept 10, 2024: Martha, Daniel, Chloe, Jeff, and Jim met with Lee Moore (manager of Youth Programs, HRM) and Kaitlyn (manager of programs at SMBC and Fleming Park)

Summary of salient issues:

- HRM has not yet hired the project manager who would be in charge of the SMBC renovations (among other projects).
- There are no actual architectural plans for the renovated boat house yet. We do have some very inadequate plans were made in 2013 when the idea was first floated.
- We have composed and shared with Kaitlyn and Lee a wish list of features we want to see (see next page).
- The SMBC site has 'heritage site' status, largely on the basis of rowing history.
- Ultimately, RenoCom would like to see a new SMBC as a beacon for public access to the Northwest Arm.
- We will have to move out when the renovations take place, for at least one season. Initially the building was going to be 2026, but since there is no project manager hired yet, it may well be later.
- The HRM side of SMBC will simply be closing down and dispersing operations to other sites, so we cannot go with them.
- The committee has various ideas for alternative avenues to pursue during renovations.

I will call a second meeting of RenoCom in the new year.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Radice (VP of HRC Board, Chair of RenoCom)

|                       | ESSENTIAL                                                                                                                                                                     | WANT TO HAVE                                             | DREAMING BIG                                          |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ACCESS</b>         | Space to bring boats, including the 8+, between parking lot and boathouse safely.                                                                                             |                                                          |                                                       |
|                       | Safe access between parking lot and dock level for people with mobility challenges                                                                                            |                                                          |                                                       |
|                       | Ramps to water extended more than twice the length of the planned raising of the boathouse. (At low tide, current ramps are not safe for pararowers or folks carrying boats.) |                                                          |                                                       |
|                       | Access to wet launch (for coastal boats)                                                                                                                                      | Railroad launching (for coastal boats and accessibility) |                                                       |
| <b>HYGIENE</b>        | Accessible washrooms                                                                                                                                                          | Accessible showers                                       | Dehumidifier or A/C (assuming doors closed)           |
|                       |                                                                                                                                                                               | Accessible washroom at dock level (downstairs)           |                                                       |
| <b>BOAT STORAGE</b>   | Additional bay space                                                                                                                                                          | Retractable racks / racks using space more efficiently   |                                                       |
|                       | Coastal boat storage space (potentially outside on north side, with access)                                                                                                   |                                                          |                                                       |
| <b>OPERATIONS</b>     | Workspace and workbench for repairs                                                                                                                                           |                                                          |                                                       |
|                       | Storage space for repair equipment etc.                                                                                                                                       |                                                          |                                                       |
|                       | Desk for coach office                                                                                                                                                         |                                                          |                                                       |
| <b>FACILITIES</b>     | Flooring that is non-slip when wet                                                                                                                                            | Access to kitchen facilities                             | Café/canteen/bar (leased or operated by HRM) upstairs |
|                       | Strong lighting                                                                                                                                                               | Winter training room upstairs (with storage for ergs)    |                                                       |
| <b>CLIMATE CRISIS</b> | Futureproofing against sea-level rise and hurricane surges                                                                                                                    |                                                          |                                                       |

## Member-at-Large (M@L) Report 2024

Purpose of Position: A member-at-large typically serves to communicate between the Board and members of the HRC community, and liaisons between the two.

1. Representation: While I had begun the season hoping to be able to row in all three time slots (5:30a, 7:30a and 5:30p) and thereby meet with and hear from all three groups, time and time limited that aspiration. By late summer I realized that the best opportunity to fraternize with alternate groups was during the weekend row-all.

Possible options for more effective representation:

- 1) Every group has a M@L;
  - 2) HRC has more socials/ice breakers to get to know folks in the other groups;
  - 3) M@L more actively seeks out feedback from all rowers;
  - 4) All Board members act as conduits for bringing rowers' issues to Board;
  - 5) Ensure HRC Board meetings are open to all rowers
2. Issues heard on the dock:
    - a. Generally, everyone seemed really happy this year, thanks to remarkably well maintained equipment, clubhouse, and docks; THANK YOU all Volunteers.
    - b. Slack doesn't work for everyone; how can we keep both members and Board more reliably informed of events in a timely manner?

Thank you HRC rowers, staff and volunteers. We have an awesome club.

Respectfully submitted after the annual end of season Club cleanup.

Janice Graham

4 November 2024