

ORC AGM – February 18, 2010

**OTTAWA ROWING CLUB**  
**Annual General Meeting**

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**When:** February 18, 2010  
**Where:** Rockcliff Library  
**Time:** Meeting started at 7:25

**Attendees:**

<b>Executive</b>	Mike Walker	President
	Jennifer Shortall	Secretary
	Chris Waddell	Vice-President, Administration
	Chris Masson	Vice-President Programs – Competitive
	Andy Hall	Vice-President Programs – Recreational/ Instructional
	Lana Burpee	Registrar
	Derek Howe	Treasurer (Mike Walker had proxy)

Executive Not in Attendance:

Siobhan McLaughlin	Head Coach
Elia Macaluso	Athlete's Representative

**ORC Membership in Attendance:**

Cliff Brimmell	
Graeme Chase	(Mike Walker had proxy)
Michelle Deveau	(Jennifer Shortall had proxy)
Tammy Gomes	(Jennifer Shortall had proxy)
Glenn Seeds	
Wes Kuran	(Mike Walker had proxy)
Ed Fournier	
Kerry Waddell	(Chris Waddell had proxy)
Greg Brown	
Peter Burpee	
Stewart Taylor	
Roberta Gal	(Lana Burpee had proxy)
Maureen MacAvoy	(Lana Burpee had proxy)
Sophie Desaulniers	(Lana Burpee had proxy)

**NOTE: Because we were not able to obtain quorum (needed at least 33 voting members, or 15% of voting members) at this meeting we did not hold an official AGM. We did however have quorum for the ORC Executive so we held an open Exec meeting instead. We will be holding our AGM closer to the opening of the club and will finalize decisions on fees etc when we have quorum.**

Chantal Saunders stated that the Club would need to hold the formal AGM by March 1. There was some discussion on this item and the Exec will look into the legalities of this statement.

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**Wes Kuran Award:** Elia Macaluso won this award. He was not at the AGM and will be presented with the award at the next meeting or most appropriate time.

### Reports of Officers and Directors

**President:** There were a number of good highlights for the year - Club of the year, and a greater sense of satisfaction with members of the Club.

One of the challenges the ORC faces is trying to keep up with the progress within the club. Storage is still a challenge at the club for both singles and club boats. Ideas have been proposed to expand the boathouse but it is difficult to achieve due to site limitations.

The Club also needs to start looking at succession plans for not only the Executive but other roles within the club; Umpires, Coaches etc. There are many individuals who have volunteered their time for a number of years and are looking to move onto new experiences. The ORC must look at bringing in newer members for these roles. A suggestion was provided that instead of one person being responsible for a role look at dividing up tasks. For example with coaching, have one person responsible for on the water and someone else for the administrative tasks. As well with the organizing of the Head of the Rideau, each year Peter Burpee has a co-chair to help out.

Cliff Brimmell asked what had happened to the role of Club Captain. The answer was that it has been replaced by a number of roles – VP Competitive, Head Coach and Club Manager.

**Changes within the Exec:** Derek Howe is stepping down as Treasurer which leaves this position open to someone interested in it. A bookkeeper has been hired to deal with the financial aspects of the treasurer's position.

This will be Mike's last year as President of the ORC and the Exec will be looking for a replacement.

Registration will also be done on line and rowers (competitive) this year have to pay their own regatta fees.

Mel Bryce asked whether or not having rowers pay their own regatta fees would cause problems? In the past, coaches have had to follow up with rowers to get paid for the registration already paid up front. With this process, if a rower has not paid their fees they don't race.

The Club is in the middle of determining which of the two online companies they will use for the online registration this year. A decision will be forthcoming.

Financially the ORC is in good shape with approximately \$150 K which will go to pay the bills and build the new aluminum ramp outside the old boat house.

Over the past year, Mike Walker has attended a number of cross country meetings where the good work done by the ORC has been talked about by our peers in a positive light.

Thanks and Appreciations were handed out to Andy Hall and Chris Waddell for assuming the role as Acting President while Mike was away in Afghanistan. As well to Donna Makin for her role as VP Administration for 9 years and more recently as coordinator of the Interpretative Centre.

Mike also thanked Andy Hall, who is stepping down after three years as Vice-President Programs and Vice-President Recreational and Instructional Programs. He has had a tremendous impact on the growth and popularity of our recreational and instructional programs which go a long way to sustaining our club and creating a positive atmosphere.

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### Vice President Administration

Chris Waddell welcomed the Club's officer from the City of Ottawa to the meeting –Lynn Ferguson-Bourguignon.

Boat house and ramp – we will be purchasing a new aluminum ramp to be placed in front of the old boathouse. It will provide accessibility for adaptive athletes to our docks.

There is a new budget line to purchase a new coach boat and motor every year. As well a trolley is being constructed for the coach boat/motor. If it is successful the Club will look into additional ones.

The ORC has received approval to remove the fill beside the compound which means the Club can proceed with putting down grass or gravel. This would also allow the Club to investigate the possibility of expanding its storage area.

Interpretative Centre: The Club has 7 or 8 bookings for next year. Money has been put aside to upgrade the facilities and we will be getting new table that can be rented to users of the facility.

For the past 2 years, the Canada Summer Job has sponsored the Youth Camp counsellor with grants. The Club will be approaching them again this year.

The Club Manager attended the Rowing Canada coaching conference this year. This year the Club Manager will be focussed more on boat maintenance and the running of the Interpretative Centre and less on administration which will see a decrease in his hours.

### Vice President Recreational and Instructional Programs

As this was Andy Hall's last meeting as VP Recreational and Instructional Programs and he took the opportunity to thank everyone for their help and hard work over the last four years.

Dillon Dodge was recognized for his work with the Learn to Row program. There has been a large turnover from the LTR program to Recreational which is phenomenal.

Matt Waddell and Andrea were recognized for their work on the Youth Camp

Greg Brown, Cliff Brimmell, Martin Rowland were thanked for coaching rec. With over 120 members this has been a large task and their hard work and dedication is appreciated. This year also saw a number of rec rowers move over to Masters such. Derek Howe was thanked for the acquisition of the Hudson 8+ for use by the rec rowers

Andy did talk about the pressure on the docks during the ARL season and the new organizers will need to work closely with the recreational rowers to manage this better. The price for ARL did go up slightly but no immediate impact on numbers was seen this year. The ARL program had 210 members.

Andy suggested that the new VP Recreational and Instructional programs may want to look into getting recreational rowers more involved in races and other club activities.

**ARL report:** Mel Bryce commented on the work that has been done on ARL over the last few years and wished the new coordinators luck with the new season. She thanked all of those involved in ARL and said that ARL brought in over \$40,000 last year to the clubs revenue.

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**Recreational Report:** It was another great year for Rec rowing. Thanks went out to all the coaches and to Andy for the support given to the program.

A request was made to change the start date of the Fall Recreational Program to August 1 from August 15 which was accepted.

### **Vice-President Competitive Program**

The Head Coach could not be at the meeting so Chris Masson spoke for her.

This year saw another increase with over 141 competitive members in the program. As well, Mark Wisner was named “Coach of the Year” by both Row Ontario and Rowing Canada and the women’s under 23 8+ won the Row Ontario Crew of the Year and the Ottawa Sports Awards Team of the Year (first time a sport outside of the mainstream was given this award)

There is a continued focus on sculling as per the Head Coach’s long term athlete development model. The Head Coach has gone above and beyond her requirements both on and off the water in regards to crew training, incorporating sports psychologists into the programs, nutrition and working with the athletes. She is also working on a mentoring program.

A large thank you was sent out to all of the competitive coaches for their time and dedication over the past season.

The VP Competitive also informed the group that interviews were almost completed for the assistant coach. The question was asked as to the role of the assistant coach. This person will be responsible for the junior and Master’s program, to relieve the Head Coach of many administrative duties and to look after coaching the coaches.

### **Registrar**

The Ottawa Rowing Club is Canada’s second largest rowing club. In 2009, growth in registration across competitive, sport and non-rowing categories brought our participant number to over 900.

#### Competitive Highlights for 2009

Approx 15% of our rowers are in the competitive stream giving the ORC the distinction of being the second largest competitive club in the country.

Competitive rowers registered as full or seasonal members. In 2009 competitive registrations surpassed our budget predictions. Full membership registrations were strong, but the total head count was buoyed by university-aged rowers choosing the ORC as their club for the Henley season. SrB rowers displaced Masters as the largest competitive age group. A new registration option of “spring & summer” kept high school athletes rowing in Ottawa before heading to out-of- town universities in the fall. **The ORC continues to field more competitive rowers than most provinces.**

Junior Development, introduced in 2008, supported the competitive stream by providing skill development for 30 students last summer.

#### Recreational Highlights for 2009

Recreational rowing successfully combined coached rows, social activities and recreational regattas. Great organization and program value had Recreational members returning to the water in 2009.

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Quality ‘feeder’ programs of Learn-to-Row and the Adult Rowing League added 49 new members. The Guest membership, started in 2007, remained popular with those visiting Ottawa in the summer. Recreational membership exceeded budget expectations by some 40% bringing Recreational members to 14% of the club total.

### High School and University Rowing in 2009

Seven high school programs operated out of the Ottawa Rowing Club in 2009. These programs trained over 150 rowers from beginners to CCSRA contenders. Most importantly, these programs supported both Junior Competitive and Junior Development programs during the summer: 40% of participants from the spring season stayed on with the ORC for the summer. High school rowing registrations met budget expectations.

Two universities --Carleton U and UOttawa -- train and race out of the Ottawa Rowing Club each fall. In 2009, UOttawa experienced the larger growth than Carleton’s program. High school and university programs combined accounted for 25% of ORC participants.

### Other Programs

Other registrations included: Adult Rowing League, Learn-to-Row, Youth Camps as well as non-rowers such as umpires, coaches and volunteers.

The Adult Rowing League continued to be one of the Ottawa Rowing Club’s most popular programs, selling over 200 seats before the first boat went onto the water. This program contributed 23% of 2009’s rowing participants. Learn-to-Row introduced another 110 people to the sport last summer. Of these LTR participants, 17% joined as a Recreational member – a number consistent with 2008. Youth Camps continue to strengthen each year, and in 2009 met the budget target. The ORC registered more coaches than any other club in Canada. These non-rowers made our competitive, recreational and instructional programs possible.

All competitive, sport and non-rowing participants were registered with Rowing Canada (RCA) and RowOntario (RO) in accordance with the rules governing these bodies. One benefit of this registration is the liability insurance provided to rowers. As a result, the ORC continues to permit rowers on the water only when each membership registration has been completed in full.

In 2009, the ORC began to investigate on-line – paperless – registration, payment and waivers. This initiative will go live for 2010 registrations. Later in 2010, the ORC will pilot an integrated registration system under development by RCA.

### **Athlete’s Representative:**

Elia was unable to attend the meeting but he did send along a report which is posted online. This has been another good year for competitive athletes. As the club moves forward and increases in size it is recommended that more consultations be held with the club writ large. It is a challenge to obtain everyone’s feedback on issues concerning the club.

**Secretary:** The Club received quite a few requests from individuals wanting information about rentals, guest memberships, and programs and in October a request for filming. Over the Thanksgiving weekend, a Quebec television company came to the ORC to film a special about activities for couples in and around Montreal. Mike Walker, Sophie Desaulniers and Martin Rowland took the couple and the film crew out for a morning of rowing.

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**Treasurer:** The Club saw an increase in the number of members involved in winter training. There was also an increase in the number of rec members due to turn over from other programs such as learn to row and arl. The Club received donations from two areas for new boats.

### **Election of Officers**

Vice President Administration – Chris Waddell to be reappointed for a 2 year term

Moved: Mike Walker

Seconded: Jennifer Shortall

Approved: All

Registrar – Lana Burpee to be reappointed for a 2 year term

Moved: Mike Walker

Seconded: Jennifer Shortall

Approved: All

Vice President Recreational and Instructional Programs –Steve Higgins to be appointed for a 2 year term

Moved: Andy Hall

Seconded: Mike Walker

Approved: All

**New Business:** Rackage Committee Chair Stewart Taylor described the lottery system for assigning new permanent rack spots in the Andy Binda Boathouse. When one or more rack spots are vacated permanently by a departing member who has an allocated spot, current Rack Occupants who have asked to move, in addition to the number of people at the top of the waiting list corresponding to available rack spots, will be assigned the available spots by lottery. No permanent Rack Occupant will be forced to move through the lottery system but it provides an opportunity for those who wish to move to be given a different rack spot allocation.

### **Adjournment of meeting:**

Moved – Lana Burpee

Seconded – Chris Waddell

Approved – All

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.