



Volume 5, Issue 5

# ORC NEWS

P.O. BOX 981, ORILLIA, ONTARIO (705-326-3519) Winter – 2004 - 2005

## LET IT RUN !

Submitted by  
Rhonda Lauer, Past President

At the fall AGM of the Orillia Rowing Club two long standing members of the executive chose to step aside. Dave Barr and Diane Carter have been two steadfast and committed members of the executive to whom we owe a great deal of gratitude. Their contributions towards shaping the club into what it is today are very much appreciated.

Dave and his wife Margaret have been tireless supporters of the ORC. It is due to their enthusiasm, commitment and generosity that the club took such a significant leap from its modest beginnings to procuring an impressive fleet of new and used sculls. The gala dinner and silent auction of May 2001, that Dave and Margaret played such key roles in, was hugely successful and most memorable. For the past 5 years Dave has been the Treasurer for the ORC, a task that in itself is a substantial undertaking. The ORC is very fortunate to have had the involvement of someone who so meticulously executed his duties. As well, Dave has been so much more than the Treasurer. In fact we consider him the "Ambassador of the ORC", so varied and graciously executed were his dealings with the community, supporters and members.

Diane Carter, after 7 years with the Orillia Rowing Club, also retired from the board. Diane is one of the original founding members of the Orillia Rowing Club. Diane, along with a small group, brought the dream of an Orillia club to fruition by determining community interest, gathering support, securing a location and seeking donated boats. They also took on the task of instructing the "Learn to Row" classes. She fondly remembers the early years of instructing the original L.T.R.'s from a kayak. Diane knows first hand the thrill and enjoyment of rowing and sought to have

others become inspired and passionate about the sport she knows and loves. Inspiring others was her goal and it is evident that has been achieved. Diane's most recent area of responsibility on the board was to develop a competitive program in the club. Student and adult rowers alike took up the challenge and have represented the Orillia Rowing Club with enthusiasm and growing success at many regattas thanks to Diane's encouragement and support.

These two wonderful and committed past executive members will be greatly missed. We wish them well and look forward to their continued presence with the Orillia Rowing Club as rowers and supporters. Thank you very much Dave and Diane.

## SQUARE, AND ROW !

The Fall AGM saw some new Executive Members being elected. Please welcome both the returning and the new:

### Directors:

**President:** Barb Pidgen

**Past President:** Rhonda Lauer

**Treasurer:** Ron Pidgen

**Secretary:** Alan Smale

**Social & Public Relations:** Laurie Herd

### Coordinator Positions

**Special Events & Volunteer:** Tena Jackson

**Learn to Row Program:** Volunteer Needed

**Competitive Program:** Volunteer Needed

**Recreational Program:** Kathy Hunt

**Fundraising Program:** Vera Cameron van .A. & Gerry v. Amelvoort

**Equipment, Safety & Maintenance**

**Officers:** Lawrence Boyer / Doug Herd

## ORC ANNUAL DINNER

Submitted by  
Laurie Herd, Events and Publicity Director

The Orillia Rowing Club held the 2004 year end dinner and the Judith Gaudaur-

Savage Memorial Award presentation on Friday, November 5th at Kelsey's Restaurant in Orillia.

This annual celebration was attended by club members, friends, and family of rowing members who came to enjoy the camaraderie, the great food, the wonderful prizes, to honour the achievers and to recap and celebrate a



great season!

(Margo & Rhonda do the "Honours")  
The Judith Gaudaur-Savage Memorial Award went to Stephanie Duquette for outstanding volunteerism and rowing enthusiasm. Stephanie, a 2nd year club member, volunteered for many club events such as: the Canada Day parade and on-water demo, boat support for the Sun-City Swim, and was also a dedicated rowing training, as well as helping out for sessions each day. She competed at several regattas and was the official coxie for the men's eight and fours at the Ontario Summer Games. John Savage, Judy's son, and Christina Gaudaur, her niece, both were in attendance to watch as Judy's name in rowing lives on!

Catherine Barney, our district RowOntario representative, presented Rhonda Lauer a district award for volunteerism, as voted by the club. Barney also presented Margo Herd and Barb Pidgen, in absentia, new

RowOntario pins thanking them for the great leadership roles they took as coaches for the North Central District at the Ontario Summer Games. Two women crews who rowed a coxed four and a quad were honoured with certificates of achievement for finishing in the finals at the championships for RowOntario, July 2004.



(Catherine Barney & Doug Herd)

Three Certificates of Congratulations, provided by MPP Garfield Dunlop, were given to three doubles crews who made it to the semi finals: Sarah Pidgen and Kirsten Cameron in the Junior Womens event; and Masters competitors Barb Pidgen and Vera Cameron-van Amelsvoort; as well as Patti Freeman and Diane Carter who all rowed on to the finals at the International Regatta, Royal Canadian Henley.

Three young rowers were recognised for their dedication to training, rowing proficiency and club involvement by the Orillia Rowing Club. Margot Herd, ORC's boathouse manager, presented Elizabeth Carter, Tim Herd and Jen Cahill, in absentia, their certificates of achievement. Past-President, Rhonda Lauer, recognised retiring board members Dave Barr and Diane Carter, with certificates, for their leadership, commitment and dedication to the Orillia Rowing Club.

Dave Barr also gave a comical and musical thank you to past-president Rhonda Lauer.

The evening was wonderful and Kelsey's Restaurant and staff are to be commended for great food and wonderful service. Thank you to the Packet reporter Chris Simon for great coverage of the event.

Many businesses contributed to this event by way of donations to our prize table. Please thank & support these companies as they gave so generously to our club: Houser Paint & Wallpaper; Pauline Barratt Aquatics; Val's Rowing Gear; Catherine Barney P.O.E. Design; Windmill Garden Centre; Kewadin Inn; Sunshine Festival Theatre Co.; Marsha's

Flowers and Gifts; Town's Jewellers; Under Construction; Laurie's Collection; Southern Comfort; Art's Clothing & Shoes; Giovanni & Perri; Ray Ralph Mississauga; Paddon & Yorke Inc.; Kelsey's; Kerslake Pottery; The van Amelsvoort Family; and Lance Anderson Music. Also a thank you to Orillia Parks & Recreation.

Here's dreaming of calm water in 2005!

## ORChives

Submitted by Dave Barr

Year 2002 was another busy and memorable period. Tony Kaija, the club's founding president, was honoured by being presented with an award from RowOntario at their AGM on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> recognizing his dedicated commitment to the sport of rowing. It started back in the early 1990's when he and Heather Kerslake founded the Twin Lakes Secondary School rowing club, and in 1998 their efforts along with those of Diane Carter, Kerrie Pellarin and Marci Csumrik established the Orillia Rowing Club. Hats off to Tony and his founding group for a wonderful beginning!

During the year, Don Clune, Ron Pidgen and others built a boat trailer to enable us to transport our equipment to regattas ; this was an outstanding piece of work. A major fundraising event was the raffle under the direction of Wendy Lou Paquette which netted the club \$2600.

On the water, there were many highlights as we competed enthusiastically and successfully in such regattas as the Royal Canadian Henley, Muskoka RC's River Reflections, Dons RC's Tops 'n' Bottoms, Georgian RC's Midland competition, etc. Of course recreational rowing was also an important and enjoyable part of the program. Bantam rowers[ 12-15 years old] enjoyed a summer of rowing , developing their skills. In addition, 13 bantam aged youths took part in a rowing camp offered in conjunction with Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Britany Gordon was our dedicated Boat House Manager ably supported by assistants Alison Sheepway, Lindsay Katarynych and Margot Herd. Barb Davidson efficiently handled payroll duties. We need a book to chronicle all the many activities and accomplishments.

The year 2002 officially concluded with our first "year-end awards dinner". The highlight was the presentation of the Judith Gaudaur Savage Memorial award to Lynsi Henrickson for outstanding volunteerism and rowing enthusiasm. Judy's family and friends donated the trophy in her memory.

*A final word...after 5 enjoyable years, I have passed on the treasurer's mantle. I have appreciated tremendously the wonderful help and camaraderie of so many.*

*Thank you sincerely for a "great row,"*  
Dave Barr

## HEAD OF THE TRENT REGATTA

Submitted by Laurie Herd  
Director of Events/Publicity

Held on the Otonabee River and Trent Canal in Peterborough on Saturday, October 2. This 4.8 km. course is used by Trent University crews and the Peterborough Rowing Club as home waters. However, for this timed "Head Race", university teams as well as city and regional clubs from all over Ontario, Quebec, B.C., some Eastern Provinces, and a few Northern United States participated.

This was an extremely active regatta, held in the middle of Trent University's Homecoming celebrations.

The weather was not however, welcoming, and a downpour of rain mid-morning dampened the spirits of many crews as they were forced to give up their row due to the cold and wet conditions. As this is the final regatta for Orillia R.C. and many other rowing clubs, it is disheartening not to be able to race after weeks of hard work and commitment to training.

Even so, Barb Pidgen, in the Women's Masters single event, rowing the Pidgen shell, had a strong race with a time of 22:27 coming 6th out of 13 competitors.

The Recreational Eight, in a rented Peterborough boat, was rowed by Gerry van Amelsvoort, Barb Davidson, Heather Kerslake, Laurie Herd, Sarah Houlden, Al Smale, Lawrence Boyer, Doug Herd and coxie Jurgen from P.R.C.. They finished with a time of 19:09, placing 6th out of 14 crews.

Masters Men Bob Wink and Brad Ingleton, rowing Gold Barr, braved the wet conditions and finished 4th out of 6 (15 were entered) with a time of 19:09. While Master's Women Patti Freeman and Diane Carter finished in 21:25 for 4th place out of 9 with 11 entered.

Unfortunately, the Club's Coxed Four Women's, with crew of Tena Jackson, Rhonda Lauer, Jackie Wink, Vera Cameron-van Amelsvoort and coxie Kirsten Cameron, were not able to compete. Only 13 boats, out of the 28 entered, finished this race. In the Recreational Coxed Four, the ORC crew, rowing the Jim Wilson Chevrolet Ashleigh, of Kathy Hunt, Heather Kerslake, Barb Davidson, Sarah Houlden and coxie Tena Jackson (below) placed 8th out of 11 of 14 entered with a time of 17:53. They were the only all women crew competing against all men's or mixed crew!



The Orillia Rowing Club is proud to have 6 club members who are involved with rowing at the University level. Cait Beresford, one of ORC's Boathouse assistants for 2004 is in her 3rd year at the University of Western Ontario and is coaching a novice women's crew while Laura Pidgen, in 2nd year at U.W.O., is rowing for a second year in the varsity women's eight. Her crew was unable to complete at the Head of the Trent race due to the cold and wet conditions.

Sarah Cameron, a 2nd year varsity rower for McMaster University, has been off the roster due to an elbow dislocation injury but hopes to be back in the eight by month's end to compete in the Ontario University Championships to be held in London, Ontario.

Margot Herd, ORC's 2004 Boathouse Manager, is the only 1st year rowing varsity for Ottawa University. Herd rowed 3 seat in a coxed four and her crew placed 8th of 9 out of 11 entered at Trent with a finish time of 21:42.

Sarah Gilchrist, a 1st year ORC member, rows in the Women's Novice eight for Queens University. Her crew

placed 9th out of 17 with a time of 16:18 on the shortened Trent course.

Brad Cutler, also a 1st year rower with ORC, rows for Trent University in the heavy weight Men's eight.

Great work, all of you!

## Annual Touring Meeting 2004

Oct. 16, 2004 at Trent University  
Summary of Minutes

### Rowing Tours:

- Discussion of 10 touring events held during 2004 (including our Jake Gaudaur Tour organized by Kathy Hunt)
- stress early registration to ensure firm commitments
- discussed expenses such as trailering of boats, logistics -such as food, etc
- noted that cancellation at short notice should be avoided to prevent frustration of participants.

### Business arising:

- Efforts underway to foster founding

Merrickville RC and later on Touring Centre

- Several Clubs complained about cracking seats on the T11. Clubs are to send complaints to RowOntario for discussion with Hudson

### Mobile Touring Centre

- Quinte RC has touring trailer and 3 T11s, with one more they could offer a mobile touring Centre to serve the Ontario tours.
- Submission to RowOntario for discussion of (a) expenses such as boats, gas to drive to the tours; and (b) commitment to how many tours will be served

### Insurance

- A recent incident in Eastern Europe reminds all tour organizers to consider both liability & boat insurance .
- Row Ontario boats are insured & liability is covered under Rowing Canada plan

### Boats

- RowOntario intends to sell 2 boats, "Moessner "and "Bursztyn"

at depreciated value. Bids are welcome. Priority to youngest clubs.

- All other boats and trailers again open for hosting -apply to RowOntario

### Touring 2005

- The following tours are being planned:  
Jan 23 - Georgian Bay Skiing (confirmed); May 15 - Scugog Icebreaker (confirmed); June 10-12 - French River (confirmed); June 18 - Jake Gaudaur - Orillia (to be confirmed); June 18-26 FISA 2005 (Netherlands, confirmed); July 9 & 10 Algonquin (to be confirmed); July 26-Aug 5 - Rideau 05 (to be confirmed); July 30-31 - Lower Ottawa (confirmed); July 30 - NB tour (to be confirmed); Aug 8 -21 - Yukon Wilderness (confirmed); Aug.28 - Canadian Sculling Marathon (to be confirmed); Oct 2 - Scugog Fall (confirmed); Oct 22 - Wilson Island Marathon (confirmed )

Clubs are cordially invited to report their own tours to RowOntario and to use the WebPages for listing.

## FUNDRAISING

Submitted by

Vera Cameron van Amelsvoort &  
Gerry van Amelsvoort,  
Fundraising Co-chairs

- Due to the high demand for more rowing shells, 2005 promises to be an ambitious year for the fundraising committee.
- Thanks to everyone who purchased water at the general meeting in October - every last case of water was sold. For those of you who went "beyond the call of duty" to ensure not one bottle of water was left - a big thank you. At the end of the day, in fact, we ran short as we could have sold more. Profit from water sales totaled in excess of \$1000.00. In spring 2005 we plan on having another water fundraiser.
- Orillia Charity Bingo was approached (thanks AI) as a possible fundraising option. Though currently no new applications are being accepted, our plan is to get on the waiting list should a window of opportunity present itself in the future.

- April 8 and April 9 marks the date of our silent auction at the Orillia Square Mall. Arrangements have been made to bring a racing shell to the mall to be put on display for these days. This week-end will provide a great opportunity to not only raise much needed funds, but to also promote the ORC and hopefully solicit new members. All Rowing Club Members should start thinking about auction items you can collect - everyone's help will be needed.
- Thanks to Barb Pidgen for her fantastic initiative in preparing sponsorship letters for oars, seats and boats. Numerous individuals have already been personally approached, with more such visits planned in early 2005.
- A grant was received from the City of Orillia, presented by Mayor Ron Stevens & Councillor Wayne Gardy (Dave & Laurie receiving- below)



Should anyone have any fundraising ideas or wish to get involved on the committee please e-mail Gerry and I at Vera\_row@hotmail.com.

## Row-for-Gold Rowing Camp

Submitted by

Laurie Herd, Events and Publicity Director

For a week last August, 7 young people between the ages of 12 and 14 years took up the Row-for-Gold challenge and participated in Orillia Rowing Club's 1 week long 1/2 day camp. Orillia Parks and Recreation were the co-sponsors of this endeavour which saw these young athletes learn the basics of rowing; including equipment recognition, safety procedures, crew formation and racing strategies. In fact, the campers had a mini regatta, the girls against the boys, to

finish off this week of rowing fun! Boathouse Manager Margot Herd and assistant Sarah Pidgen coached with the help of many of our student rowers. Thank you all for helping to motivate these future rowers.



Plans are in the works, again in conjunction with Orillia Parks & Recreation, for another for rowing camp 2005. The club is hoping to expand the camp format and run more sessions. There has been interest from some businesses to support the Orillia Rowing Club by way of camper sponsorship. If you know of any young people who would love to explore this fun and invigorating sport please contact club president, Barb Pidgen.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Winter Conditioning and High School Rowing Introduction

The Orillia Rowing Club is hoping to develop a winter conditioning program for returning rowers and/or a small High School Rowing Intro session for young rower "wan-a-bees". These sessions would take place the end of March - April and quite possibly run through to the end of May. Program format and structure are still in the planning stages so input from club members and others would be appreciated.

If you are interested in learning more about rowing, would like to take part or help in a conditioning program or have some input and ideas about these programs please contact Laurie Herd at 326-7023.

## WINTER EVENTS

Sunday, January 23 - Georgian Bay Ski day (Midland)

Sunday, January 31 - Canadian Indoor Rowing Championships (CBC Centre, Toronto)  
 Sunday, March 6 - RowOntario Erg Championships (Ridley College, St. Catharine's)

### Cross Country Skiing

Submitted by Brenda Jenkins

Don and I discussed hosting another cross country ski day and thought it might be fun to do a moonlight ski at Horseshoe resort.

There are certain nights they have been set, based on a full moon. They are Sat Jan 15th, Sat Feb 12th and Sat Mar 12th. Feb 12th would likely be best with us, but the Jan. 15th night might be OK too. We thought, perhaps, people could come here for chilli or something, in the late afternoon and then head out to the trails right after for the evening.

The trails are not difficult and are lit up with lanterns and there is a bonfire with hot apple cider at the midway point.

Afterwards, we can warm up in the chalet and have dessert if we bring something. We've done it often and it's a lot of fun. Let me know what you think.

The Orillia Rowing Club would like to acknowledge the support of the:

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