

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

The 91st Regatta of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen The 68th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta July 26 to 29, 1973

The Henley Aquatic Association had been founded in 1921 to run the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen's Annual Regatta, and to maintain and improve the Regatta facilities on and around the course. In recent years, two other organizations had been established to manage specific projects. First, the Henley Island Development Association was formed in 1958, and incorporated as Henley Island on September 9, 1960. It was commonly referred to as the "Henley Island development corporation." As that name suggests, it dealt with the development of Henley Island: permanent structures, bridge, roads, expansion, and infilling. The second organization, the 1970 World Rowing Championships Canada Corporation was the group that was incorporated to organize the III World Rowing Championships when the CAAO opted not to get involved in that regatta.

In 1972, it was decided to bring the three groups together under one umbrella. For expediency, and to minimize the legal hurdles involved, it was decided to change the name of the Henley Island corporation, and transfer the assets, liabilities, and responsibilities of the others to it.

On February 16, 1973, Henley Island—the corporation—by Supplementary Letters Patent, had its name legally changed to the Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation. The other two organizations wound down their business and ceased to exist. The last President of the HAA, Tim Rigby, was the first President of the CHRC.

Its mission statement, which sounds very much like the HAA mission statement, reads, in part:

The Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation is a newly-formed St. Catharines organization charged with the responsibility of maintaining and improving the Henley Course at [sic. it should be "and"] its attendant facilities for the betterment of Canadian Rowing. [91st Royal Canadian Henley Regatta (Official Programme), 1973, p.3]

The new group had some new goals, in addition to the duties previously handled by the HAA:

The CHRC will eventually have complete control over all water rights along the Henley Course, a key point having regard to the growing number of housing subdivisions surrounding the waterway. It will administer finish line facilities and Henley Island, now a base of operations for the St. Catharines Rowing Club and its 10 rowing high schools, the Ridley Graduate Boat

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Club, the Brock University Rowing Club and the Old Boys' Association. [91st Royal Canadian Henley Regatta (Official Programme), 1973, p.11]

Spectators and competitors did not notice the change. The transition from the old organizations to the CHRC was seamless.



The photo above was taken in March, 1973. Ontario Hydro had stopped the water flow on the Henley course for the winter. We are at the start, looking towards the finish which is to the right of centre. The white building almost dead centre in the photo is the boathouse complex on Henley Island. In the foreground, the starting gates stretch across the photo. The green shed in the middle above the gates is the starter's shed. That vantage point allowed him to see all the crews. The smaller shed standing alone at the left is the aligner's shed. It is situated on the starting line. After the gates had been moved to accommodate the length of the shells in a race, the aligner would instruct the boat holders to move the shells back or forward until all the bows were on the starting line.

The wood pilings poking out of the water in the lower left are remnants of the tow path which ran along the first and second Welland Canals (1829 to 1887).

Curious readers may be wondering why, while there is no water on the course, there is open water curving and running outside the course. The answer has to do with the natural flow of the Twelve Mile Creek. After it passes beneath the Henley Bridge, it makes a gentle curve to the left—the west—before curving right—north. Its strongest flow does not naturally go down the course. This contributes to the silting problem,

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because the flow of water down the course is not strong enough to carry the silt to Lake Ontario.

Speaking of the Twelve Mile Creek current, a week before the start of the 1973 Regatta, the newly formed Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation negotiated an agreement with Ontario Hydro “by which the water flow will be cut off along the Henley Course during all important rowing meets like this week’s 91st Royal Canadian Henley Regatta,” [91st Royal Canadian Henley Regatta (Official Programme), 1973, p.11] That meant that the current would not be a factor in the times.

As usual, only superlatives were used to describe the 1973 Regatta:

The biggest in history!

....

More than 1,100 competitors from 54 rowing clubs in three countries will face the starter’s gun in 120 races spread over four days of rowing.

....

“[I]t could well be the biggest regatta in the world,” [said Regatta Chairman, Claude Saunders]. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 23, 1973, p.19]

The numbers seem to back up the superlatives. There were 32 races scheduled for Thursday, 47 for Friday, 25 on Saturday, and 17 finals on Sunday. The entries were made up of: 162 singles, 138 fours, 75 eights, 51 pairs, and 38 doubles. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 23, 1973, p.19]

Three teams from Mexico City were on hand: Club Antares and Club España, plus the *Federacion Mexicana de Remo* (Mexican Rowing Federation, aka the Mexican National Team). The three teams combined totalled 46 members. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 24, 1973, p.19]

The 12-member Calgary R.C. team was made up of seven women and five men. [The Calgary *Herald*, July 21, 1973, p.11]

Women contributed to the increased number of competitors and races.

“The women’s entry is away up too,” Mr. Saunders pointed out. “Last year, we rowed only finals in our three women’s events. [sic. There were heats for the Women’s Fours (Coxswain).] This year, we’ve got heats with more than 100 girls rowing.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 23, 1973, p.19]

Although the programme was originally set up to run races at 15-minute intervals, it was decided to significantly shorten the days by trying 10-minute intervals. That meant six races in an hour instead of four.

Weather was a factor in Thursday’s races:

The rain, which all but obscured some of the boats during the four finals, let up late in the afternoon. However, the majority of entries in the subsequent 15 heats designed to narrow the field for today’s [Friday’s] finals rode [sic. It should be “rowed”] in and out of intermittent rain. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, July 27, 1973, p.37]

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On Friday, Thursday's rain was replaced by "a fresh down-course breeze [which] whitecapped the water." [The *Toronto Globe and Mail*, July 28, 1973, p.36]

The *Standard* reporter was a little more graphic:

While the crews could have hoisted sails in the winds which were gusting at times to 20 miles an hour [32 kph] down the Henley Course, the whitecaps proved the obstacle. . . .

In many cases, shells wound up half full of water at the finish. Some singles capsized. One eight sank.

But the program of seven finals and 40 heats was finished only a few minutes behind schedule. [The *St. Catharines Standard*, July 28, 1973, p.27]

Some accommodations for the heats for Saturday's dashes had to be made as a result of the strong southerly wind. Because floating starts from the 1,500-metre pylons were impossible, the dash heats were started from the gates at the top of the course, and finished at the 500-metre pylons.

The eight that sank, or more accurately, swamped, did so in front of the grandstand after a heat for the Women's Eights.

The Radcliffe College eight from Boston caused the biggest commotion after swamping while attempting to turn around at the finish line. The girls swam their shell to the grandstand and found a multitude of willing males to lend a hand.

As the shivering Cliffies stood by, their volunteers emptied the shell and loaded it aboard the Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation's catamaran. The boat was then taken back to the Henley Island shellhouses. [The *St. Catharines Standard*, July 28, 1973, p.27]

In any other year, the big story at Friday's Regatta might have been that one or this one:

Canada's showing during the second day of competition yesterday at the 91st Royal Canadian Henley Regatta was of the coast-to-coast variety.

Mic-Mac Athletic Club [sic] of Dartmouth, N.S., won the junior 145-pound four while the Vancouver Rowing Club took the junior four. And in between, the St. Catharines Rowing Club captured the junior 135-pound eight. [The *Toronto Daily Star*, July 28, 1973, p.43]

However, the big story of the day did not involve an eight swamping, or club races won by Canadian clubs from coast to coast, but the High School Eights. Ridley College, making its debut in the race, beat two other St. Catharines high schools. Perhaps the entry was light because of Ridley's reputation. They had won the Stotesbury Cup in Philadelphia, the Championship Eight at the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association Regatta, and the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at the Henley Royal Regatta. They were, arguably, the best high school crew in the world.

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After that race, the \$50,000 Calder Cleland Memorial Trophy was retired, and the High School Eights was removed. The first High School Eights race had been few, if any, opportunities for against one another. By 1973, the with the number of Henley entries made practical sense. The Calder find a new home at the Canadian Association Championship Regatta competition for the Senior Men's

Regular attendees of the noticed some differences in the Sunday.



from the Henley programme. The taken place in 1925 when there high school crews to compete race had become superfluous, and increasing each year, removing it Cleland Memorial Trophy would Secondary Schools Rowing where it continues to be in Eight.

Canadian Henley might have programme on Saturday and

They might not have realized that the Senior 155-lb. and Senior 135-lb. Singles had been moved from Saturday to Sunday, but they certainly noticed that the two singles dashes had been moved from Sunday to join the eights dash on Saturday.

Although the day was changed, for the sixth time in seven years, Jim Dietz won the open singles dash for the New York A.C.. Bob Kunitz from the Wyandotte B.C. won the 500 Metre Dash, 145-lb. Singles, snapping Larry Klecatsky's string at five. Klecatsky, from New York A.C., finished second.

The final of the Women's Singles included scullers from Canada, Mexico, and the United States. The only American, Gail Pierson, from the Cambridge B.C., was the winner. The two scullers for the Quebec Rowing Federation who finished second and fourth, Elaine Bourbeau and Helen Couture, respectively, had won the double at the trials and were to contest that event at the European Championships in Moscow. For reasons that are not clear—perhaps they did not meet the standard set by the CAAO—that Association would not pay their way. However it gave its permission, and their expenses were paid by the QRF.

The competitors in the Women's Singles illustrate a problem that the CAAO would soon have to deal with: inequality. Gail Pierson, the winner, had a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan, and was an associate professor of economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. [The *New York Times*, August 26, 1976, p.38] She was 32 years old. [The *New York Times*, October 27, 1975, p.34] Monica Boetcher, from the Calgary R.C. who placed sixth, was a 13-year-old high school student. [The *St. Catharines Standard*, July 22, 1974, p.26] As women's events expanded, and entries grew, some accommodation for age, or size, or experience would have to be made to produce fair races.

The Women's Fours (Coxswain) was won by the University of Victoria, which had only recently begun a women's programme. They were to represent Canada at the European Championships in Moscow at the end of August.

Canadian participation at the European Championships was made possible by the financial assistance of the federal government.

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Federal health grants totalling \$270,820 have been awarded to 15 national amateur sports bodies. Seven bodies will receive the bulk of the grants to help defray 1973-74 travel costs for athletes and delegates to a wide range of national and international competitions, seminars and conferences. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 30, 1973, p.38]

The Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen was one of the seven organizations that received a generous grant.

Also going to Moscow, but representing the United States, was the winner of the Women's Eights, Radcliffe College. They had also won their race at the eighth National Women's Rowing Association Championship Regatta in June.

Sunday's finals "took place under virtually perfect weather conditions with the Henley Course water flow cut off." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 30, 1973, p.24]

The New York A.C. put on a sculling clinic on the sun-drenched course, winning five of the six Senior events.

Larry Klecatsky and Don Rose won the first event of the afternoon, the Senior 145-lb. Doubles. In addition to their medals, they were the first recipients of the Tank Trophy which was named for Lou, Bill, Mike and Pete Tank. Among their many Henley wins, Lou and Bill had won the Senior 140-lb. Doubles for the Ecorse B.C. in 1940 and 1941.

The fifth final, the Senior Doubles, was won by Klecatsky and Jim Dietz.

Three races later, Klecatsky won his third medal of the afternoon, in the Senior 145-lb. Singles. It was his fifth medal in that event.

The 11th final was Jim Dietz' turn. He won the Championship Singles for the sixth time in seven years.

Larry Klecatsky finished the afternoon with a win in the Senior 155-lb. Singles. It was his fifth consecutive win in that event.

Klecatsky took home four 1973 Henley medals, while Dietz took home three, and New York A.C. accumulated enough points to place second in the final points standings.

The only Senior sculling event not won by New York A.C. was the Senior 135-lb. Singles which was won by Mike Miller from the Wyandotte B.C.. He had won the Junior event in 1972, sculling for the Michigan Athletic Club of Ecorse, Michigan.

The winners of the Senior Fours (Coxswain), St. Catharines R.C., beat Newport Beach R.C. by 10 lengths. They were to represent Canada at the European Championships in Moscow.

The premier sweep oar event of the afternoon, the Senior Eights, was won by the Ridley Graduate B.C., in only its second year of existence.

The St. Catharines R.C. won the Maple Leaf Trophy and the points championship for the 13th consecutive year.

All the winners and times for the 1973 Canadian Henley Regatta can be found in tabular form at: <http://goldmedalphotos.com/records.html>

All the results from all the races in all the Regattas from 1964 to 1999 are available in an appendix at the end of Chapter 6.

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Fifty-four clubs were entered at the 1973 Canadian Henley Regatta. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 23, 1973, p.19] Below is a list of the 41 clubs that made it to the finals. In the parentheses are the number of entries, which gives an idea of the relative size of the club, followed by the number of wins, which suggests the relative strength of the club. [*Entries from heats are not included. I don't have the programmes, and the press did not report the results of the heats. Clubs that have a (?/0) beside their names are mentioned in newspaper stories, but did not make it to the finals.*]

Argonaut R.C.	(9/0)	Toronto, Ontario
Brock University	(3/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Brockville R.C.	(4/0)	Brockville, Ontario
Calgary R.C.	(3/0)	Calgary, Alberta
Chomedey R.C.	(6/1)	Chomedey, Quebec
Don R.C.	(3/0)	Port Credit, Ontario
Leander B.C.	(13/0)	Hamilton, Ontario
Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club	(2/1)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Ottawa R.C.	(5/1)	Ottawa, Ontario
Peterborough R.C.	(?/0)	Peterborough, Ontario
Ridley Graduate B.C.	(4/3)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Quebec Rowing Federation	(6/1)	Montreal, Quebec
St. Catharines R.C.	(30/9)	St. Catharines, Ontario
University of Victoria	(3/1)	Victoria, British Columbia
University of Western Ontario	(7/2)	London, Ontario
Vancouver R.C.	(4/2)	Vancouver, British Columbia
Winnipeg R.C.	(1/0)	Winnipeg, Manitoba

American entries:

Belmont R.C.	(6/0)	Belmont, Massachusetts
Blood Street Sculls	(2/0)	Old Lyme, Connecticut
Cambridge B.C.	(2/2)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
College B.C.	(3/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Detroit B.C.	(11/2)	Detroit, Michigan
Ecorse B.C.	(10/1)	Ecorse, Michigan
Fairmount R.A.	(4/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Florida R.A.	(1/1)	Miami, Florida
Long Beach R.A.	(2/0)	Long Beach, California
Malta B.C.	(3/1)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Minneapolis R.C.	(5/1)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Minnesota B.C.	(12/0)	St. Paul, Minnesota
New York A.C.	(15/6)	New York, New York
Newport Beach R.C.	(9/1)	Newport Beach, California

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Oyster Bay R.A.	(2/1)	Mill Neck, New York
Radcliffe College	(1/1)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Riverside B.C.	(2/0)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Syracuse Chargers R.C.	(4/0)	Syracuse, New York
Undine Barge Club	(2/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Vesper B.C.	(2/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(8/0)	Buffalo, New York
Wyandotte B.C.	(11/3)	Wyandotte, Michigan

Mexican entries:

Club Antares	(2/0)	Mexico City, Mexico
Club España	(6/0)	Mexico City, Mexico
Mexican Rowing Federation	(7/2)	Mexico City, Mexico

High school entries:

Grantham H.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Lakeport S.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Ridley College	(1/1)	St. Catharines, Ontario

Although the CAAO had decided to include women's events at the Summer Canada Games rowing regatta held from August 8 to 11, on British Columbia's Burnaby Lake, no women's event appears on the programme.

In October, Jim Minards, President of the CAAO, resigned his position in protest over the Association's agreement to renew Martin Bielz' contract as Technical Director, with an \$8,000 increase. First Vice-President, Tom Croston became acting President.

The CAAO's annual meeting was held in Hamilton on Saturday, November 10.

The Officers elected for 1974 were:

Past-President: James R. Minards, St. Catharines

President: Thomas Croston, Port Credit

1st Vice-President: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines

2nd Vice-President: Peter King, Ottawa

3rd Vice-President: David Helliwell, Vancouver

Corresponding Secretary: John L. Murray, Kingston

Recording Secretary: Harry Edmondstone, St. Catharines

Treasurer: Barry Morris, Port Credit

Executive Director: Alan Price, Ottawa

Technical Director: Martin Bielz, Ottawa

The 1974 Executive Committee was reduced to nine. No longer listed were the Committee Chairmen from the Coaches, Finance, International Development, and

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Officials Committees. The Domestic Development Committee was splint into two new Committees: Eastern and Western Development.

The 1974 Executive Committee was made up of these Chairmen:

Constitution: Charles Adams, St. Catharines

Eastern Development: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines

Grants: Ben R. TeKamp, Brockville

Historian: John L. Murray, Kingston

Public Relations: Bill Rodda, Toronto

Regatta: Claude Saunders, Hamilton

Trophies: Donald Baker, St. Catharines

Western Development: David Helliwell, Vancouver

Youth Rowing: H.H. Lancaster, St. Catharines

The annual meeting was attended by representatives from 35 clubs and associations, and lasted nine hours. Much of the day's agenda concerned Technical Director Martin Bielz and his plans to develop a strong Canadian team for the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games. They included a proposed international regatta in September in St. Catharines, a national championship regatta in Burnaby, B.C. in July, and moving the Henley Regatta to August. He also outlined an ambitious overseas programme, some, but not all of which, would receive federal grant money. His report also contained an update on the two new national training camps, one in British Columbia, on Burnaby Lake, and the other in Ontario, on Fanshawe Lake.

The technical director's involved report . . . was received with mixed reaction. However, the overriding theme was that delegates were not prepared to pass judgment, having been presented with the proposal Saturday for the first time. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 12, 1973, p.27]

Clubs were asked to respond in writing by mid-December, and the report would be discussed at a meeting in January. By putting off decisions on suggestions proposed in the report, the CAAO was panning the report. Although a national championship regatta might be put together in seven months, there was no way an international regatta could be organized by September, and the CAAO was reluctant to move the Canadian Henley from July to August.

Overshadowing all of this was Dr. Bielz' contract. The Association's agreement in October to increase his salary by \$8,000 to \$30,000 a year had been the impetus for the CAAO President, Jim Minards, to resign in protest. Bielz' contract was tied to the federal government's amateur sports fund called Olympic Game Plan '76.

Originally, the CAAO directors had voted here last July to have their executive sign Dr. Bielz' new contract. But the financial ramifications were ignored.

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In the meantime, Ottawa had indicated that further financial support of all CAAO programs hung on the signing. And it was in the face of this financial threat that the executive agreed to the contract last month. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 12, 1973, p.27]

The CAAO was obligated to pay Dr. Bielz' whatever he asked out of its own limited resources, or forfeit future federal funds.

To put Dr. Bielz' \$30,000 annual salary into perspective, the median Canadian household earned \$9,447 in 1973. [<https://www.chegg.com/homework-help/questions-and-answers/median-canadian-household-earned-9-447-1973-70-900-2018-time-though-cpi-rose-242-1320-inst-q85421464>] Put another way, the average annual earnings for production workers in Canada in 1973 was \$7,884, while the average annual earnings for supervisory and office employees that year was \$10,861. [https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-516-x/sectione/4147438-eng.htm#E60_68].

The rest of the agenda items reported in the press seem small in comparison to those involving Dr. Bielz. However, of the eight other items mentioned, this one deserves to be included here: "Women referees will be trained for CAAO regattas and will officiate as soon as they are licensed." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 12, 1973, p.27]

As part of its Olympic Game Plan '76, the federal government gave Canadian rowing some much-needed start-up money to help develop a national team:

Of an allotted \$44,000 for rowing, executive director Al Price of the oarsmen's national body, reports \$16,000 each for a pool of boats at the two main east and west training centres when they are established.

Technical director Dr. Martin Bielz, a transplanted Romanian, will supervise training camps at two year-round centres, one in Burnaby, B.C., and the other at London's Fanshawe Lake.

....

Main problem for rowers is expensive equipment. The \$32,000 injection from Game Plan will help solve that. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, December 27, 1973, p.33]

So how far would \$32,000 go towards establishing two pools of boats? Although these prices were two years old, this is how much rowing equipment manufactured by Kaschper Racing Shells in Lucan, Ontario cost in 1971:

- eights - \$2,750
- fours (with and without cox) - \$1,750
- doubles and pairs - \$1,275
- singles - \$785
- oars - \$59
- sculls - \$88 a pair [Four Days in a Row (The Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, Official Programme), 1971, p.12]

A good fleet could be assembled for \$32,000.

1973

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The 92nd Regatta of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen The 69th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta July 24 to 28, 1974

In an article by the *Toronto Star's* sports writer, Al Sokol, in which he examines the financial aspects of amateur sports in Canada, we learn that rowing "has only 31 clubs today in four provinces, [sic. Six provinces were represented at the 1973 Regatta.] involving about 2,000 oarsmen." [The *Toronto Daily Star*, January 4, 1974, p.C3]

The CAAO decided to run the 1974 Regatta over five days, an innovation which had not gone over well in 1968. The Association also decided to restructure the Henley programme to provide more balance. Wednesday had 26 Junior heats, but no finals. Thursday now had nine Junior finals. Friday also had nine finals, including the Women's Singles, and two new events, the Senior 155-lb. Pairs, and the Open Quads. Quads had been part of the U.S. National Regatta since 1909, but had never been tried at the Canadian Henley. However, it was now an Olympic event, so, to spur interest, it was added to the programme. Saturday's programme included 10 finals, with the three exciting dashes now at the end of the day. Sunday's programme remained the same as it had been in 1973, with 17 finals. That made 45 finals, spread fairly evenly over four days.

More than 1,000 oarsmen, scullers and oarswomen from 55 Canadian, American and Mexican rowing clubs have filed 494 entries to produce 112 races spread over five days of sweep oar and sculling competition on the Henley Course here. [The *St. Catharines Standard*, July 22, 1974, p.21]

The 112 races were made up of 75 heats, 45 medal finals and two exhibition races. All races were scheduled at 10-minute intervals.

Women's entries continued to grow. The singles and eights each had six entries, the same as 1973, but the coxed fours had 17 entries. In addition, the CAAO was testing the waters with an exhibition doubles race which had four Canadian and one Mexican entry.

Two groups of rowers from Mexico were on hand. The all-male Mexican Rowing Federation had 17 members, while the Club España team had seven women, seven men, a coach, a manager, and something new for a rowing team, a chaperone. The manager, Jose Bardales, a veteran of several Canadian Henleys, sang the praises of the Regatta:

"This is our favourite regatta, observed Jose Bardales of Club Espana. "It is the one place where we can obtain good competition under perfect rowing conditions year in and year out."

....

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“The Henley is the most important regatta on the North American continent,” he added. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 23, 1974, p.22]

The Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation tried a couple of new things. They erected bleachers for spectators on Henley Island, and were soliciting donations from spectators on the Ann Street vantage point.

With only 85 boat racks in the Henley Island shellhouse, the overflow was being accommodated by storing shells on club trailers, and portable racks which were fabricated for the 1970 III World Rowing Championships.

At a time when plastic recycling was not wide-spread, large, empty, white bleach jugs were plentiful, and many (like my mother’s) found their way to the Henley course to be used by the CHRC for the course’s Albano-style lane markers. Moreover:



Included among the installations are 200 large plastic vinegar bottles being used as buoys. The 80-ounce [2.37 litre] bottles — a gift from Canada Vinegars — are being painted orange to stand out against the well-known Henley brown.

The plastic bottles have proved time and again to be the best kind of buoying available anywhere. They are sturdy, float high and do not throw crews if hit by a sweep oar blade. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 23, 1974, p.22]

The fact that they were free cannot be overemphasized. Every penny not spent was important to the CHRC. Similarly, every extra quarter in the till was important which probably accounts for the fact that the price of a programme was now 75¢, up from 50¢.

The 26 Wednesday afternoon heats were notable for one spectacular accident. No one will be surprised to learn that it involved a Junior straight four. In a heat for the Junior 145-lb. Fours, a Brockville R.C. crew were in Lane 2, on the east side of the course,

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when they began crossing lanes, moving closer to the grandstand. They managed to avoid the Ottawa R.C. crew that was leading, the University of Western Ontario crew that was behind them, and crossed the finish line second, then rowed up onto the presentation float as far as two-seat. Amazingly, there were no injuries and no serious damage to the shell. It's hard to imagine how this could happen, with lanes clearly marked by buoys, and a Referee following and giving instructions and warnings.

A fresh headwind made for slow times during yesterday's [Thursday's] rowing at the 92nd Royal Canadian Henley Regatta.

Nevertheless, officials got the nine finals and 17 heats off on schedule with some exciting finishes keeping the grandstand abuzz. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 26, 1974, p. 21]

A new name made its debut in finals on Thursday: Charles River R.C.. It was a development camp for U.S. college rowers, and produced two winners on the opening day of finals: Junior Fours (Coxswain) and Junior 155-lb. Eights. The Mexican Rowing Federation also had two winners: Junior 155- and 135-lb. Singles won by Edgar Tams and Hugo Enriquez respectively. The only other sculling final was won by Bill Scollie from the Thunder Bay R.C. who was the best of 22 scullers who were entered in the Junior Singles.

The Junior 145-lb. Fours was won by the Ottawa R.C. crew that had won its heat on Wednesday. The Brockville R.C. crew that came second in that heat and rowed up onto the presentation platform, came fifth. In a twist, it was the early leader, the Kennebecasis R.C. crew that had steering problems and finished last.

Thursday's wind changed to Friday's rain.

An early drizzle gave way to sunshine along the Henley Course yesterday [Friday]. But throughout, the conditions were just about perfect

All 2,000 metres of the sheltered course were like a mirror and competitors reported the water as the finest they had rowed on this season. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 27, 1974, p.23]

The Women's Singles had two Canadians, two Mexicans, and two Americans. It was one of the Americans, Pam Behrens, from the Vesper B.C. who won the 1,000 metre race. It was her third Henley medal. She had also won medals in 1972 in the Women's Fours (Coxswain) and Women's Eights. She was the first woman to win three Canadian Henley medals.

One of the new events, the Senior 155-lb. Pairs, was a six-boat final, with one of the three Charles River R.C. crews winning.

The other new event, the Open Quads had five entries, but four scratched, meaning the New York A.C. quad had a row-over. The crew had some familiar names: Larry Klecatsky, Mike Verlin, Sandy Killen, and Jim Dietz.

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Competitors on Saturday experienced “rough going — a stiff tailwind ruffled the Henley Course all afternoon.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 29, 1974, p.21]

The wind contributed to two mishaps. In a heat for the Senior Pairs, a Minnesota B.C. boat overturned within 20 metres of the finish line. The same thing happened in the same place to the Club España boat in the Women’s Doubles (Exhibition).

The first final was the Association Singles, the most heavily-entered event at the 1974 Regatta. Guy Iverson from the Undine Barge Club was the best of the 25 entries, and first winner of the Jack Guest Memorial Trophy. Undine scullers also won the Junior Doubles.

The Women’s Eights was taken by a Vesper B.C. crew that included Pam Behrens. That added a fourth Henley medal to her collection.

The two exhibition races were well subscribed. The Women’s Doubles had five entries, enough to show the CAAO that there was interest, and since it was an Olympic event, it was added to the Henley programme.

Since lightweight men’s events were on the 1974 World Championships programme, it made sense to include an exhibition eights race at the CAAO Regatta. The CAAO’s 155-lb. class was a close, but not exact, equivalent to the FISA Lightweight Men’s class. The CAAO rule was: no oarsman in the crew was allowed to be heavier than 155 lbs. [70.3 kg] on the day of his race. The FISA rule for men was: crew average 70 kg, with no rower over 72.5 kg. In other words, a FISA Lightweight Men’s crew could have members who were up to 159.8 lbs., as long as the crew average was not higher than 154.3 lbs.. Unlike the CAAO, FISA did not distinguish between Junior—those who had not won a Henley race—and Senior—those who had won a Henley race.

New York A.C. scullers Jim Dietz and Larry Klecatsky won the open and lightweight singles dashes respectively, Dietz for the eighth time, and Klecatsky for the sixth.

The finals on Sunday were rowed in excellent conditions.

Perfect rowing conditions greeted an overflow crowd which jammed the Henley Grandstand for yesterday’s final program of the 92nd Royal Canadian Henley Regatta.

With bright sunshine and temperatures hovering in the 80s [mid-20s Celsius], all 2,000 metres of the Henley Course lay like a mill pond. And with the water flow shut off, true times were possible in the 17 senior finals which wound up th [sic] 1974 national rowing championships. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 29, 1974, p.21]

For the third year in a row, Jim Dietz and Larry Klecatsky won the Senior Doubles. It was the third 1974 medal for both men. They had also been together in the quad, and had won their dashes. According to *Globe and Mail* reporter Jeff Goodman, the win in the double was Dietz’ 18th Canadian Henley win. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, July 29, 1974, p.S2]

Thirty minutes later, Klecatsky won the Senior 145-lb. Singles in 7:20.2, which was 9.8 seconds faster than Seán Drea’s time in the Championship Singles. It was the seventh time in eight years that he had won that event.

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After an interval of forty minutes, he won the Senior 155-lb. Singles for the seventh year in a row.

Not usually known for its rowing coverage, the Toronto *Star*, had a lot to say about Klecatsky. The article describing Sunday's finals has the headline: "Physician reaps gold at Henley," and continues:

It was a 34-year-old New York city physician . . . who stole the show as the 92nd renewal of the Canadian Henley was completed yesterday under ideal weather conditions.

Dr. Larry Klecatsky, a one-time member of the Minnesota Boat Club who is now with the New York Athletic Club when not teaching internal medicine at the Albert Einstein Hospital in New York or acting as admitting physician at the Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx, captured five gold medals and the hearts of more than 3,000 spectators.

Earlier in the week the slimly-built Klecatsky won the quads in a row-over when four opposing crews withdrew, then paired up with [Jim] Dietz to take the senior doubles, won the 500-metre lightweight dash and the 145-pound and 155-pound singles.

. . . .

"He just never stops training," said [New York A.C. coach Jack] Sulger." He's out there on Orchard Beach lagoon at 6 o'clock every morning at lest seven months a year and I'll bet he's still winning medals when he's 50." [The Toronto *Daily Star*, July 29, 1974, p.B5]

Sulger would have won that bet.

Although Sulger says that Klecatsky had won 25 Henley medals, that number likely didn't include the three Sunday wins, because Craig Swayze gives the total as 28. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 29, 1974, p.21]

The upset of the afternoon came in the Championship Singles when perennial champion, Jim Dietz, was beaten by eight lengths of open water by Seán Drea. Drea, a 27-year-old native of County Carlow, Ireland, was sculling for the Undine Barge Club while "completing a course in business administration at St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia." [The Toronto *Daily Star*, July 29, 1974, p.B5]

It was not the first time Dietz and Drea had competed against one another on the Henley course. In 1970, at the III World Rowing Championships, Dietz, sculling for the United States, and Drea, sculling for Ireland raced in the *petite-finale*. Dietz won that race, giving him seventh place overall, and Drea placed fourth, for 10th overall.

However, Drea had improved since then. The two had met earlier in the year at the Henley Royal Regatta, where Drea beat Dietz in a heat of the Diamond Challenge Sculls. Drea went on to win the event, for the second year in a row, for the Neptune R.C. of Dublin. He won it again in 1975.

A Potomac B.C. pair won the Senior Pairs, and were the first recipients of the William Hamilton Merritt Trophy.

The Senior Eights was won by a U.S. National Team crew in the best time of the day, 5:52.7. It was the fourth win of the Regatta for U.S. National Team crews. They had also won the Senior Fours on Saturday, and the Senior Fours (Coxswain) and Senior Pairs (Coxswain) earlier Sunday afternoon.

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However, the five wins by St. Catharines R.C. crews on Sunday, sealed the victory in the overall points championship. The Maple Leaf Trophy went to St. Catharines for the 14th year in a row.

All the winners and times for the 1974 Canadian Henley Regatta can be found in tabular form at: <http://goldmedalphotos.com/records.html>

All the results from all the races in all the Regattas from 1964 to 1999 are available in an appendix at the end of Chapter 6.

Below is a list of the 41 clubs that made it to the finals. In the parentheses are the number of entries, which gives an idea of the relative size of the club, followed by the number of wins, which suggests the relative strength of the club. [*Entries from heats are not included. I don't have the programmes, and the press did not report the results of the heats.*]

Although the Ottawa R.C.'s win in the Women's Doubles, and the Vesper B.C.'s win in the FISA Lightweight Men's Eights (the two exhibition races) are include here, they did not count towards the points championship.

The 1974 programme contains something unique: a list containing the names of every team's competitors. The four pages of the programme are reproduced in Appendix G. That list contains 725 names from 48 clubs, while the press tells us that more than 1,000 competitors from 55 clubs were on hand. Some competitors may have scratched and clearly some were added after the programme was printed. Nevertheless, the totals as they appear in the programme are included here in parentheses after the number of entries in finals. (Club España does not appear on that list, but a newspaper article tells us they has 14 competitors.)

To recap, the numbers are: (# of finals(# of competitors)/# of wins). So, Argos had 8 entries in the finals, they had 22 competitors, and they did not win a final.

Argonaut R.C.	(8(22)/0)	Toronto, Ontario
Brock University	(4(14)/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Brockville R.C.	(7(?)/2)	Brockville, Ontario
Don R.C.	(1(12)/0)	Port Credit, Ontario
Kennebecasis R.C.	(3(9)/0)	Rothesay, New Brunswick
Leander B.C.	(9(37)/1)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(0(14)/0)	London, Ontario
Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club	(0(2)/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Ottawa R.C.	(12(26)/2)	Ottawa, Ontario
Ridley Graduate B.C.	(4(16)/1)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Quebec Rowing Federation	(11(2)/2)	Montreal, Quebec
St. Catharines R.C.	(37(125)/7)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Thunder Bay R.C.	(2(2)/1)	Thunder Bay, Ontario
University of Victoria	(0(1)/0)	Victoria, British Columbia
University of Western Ontario	(9(27)/1)	London, Ontario
Windsor Crew	(2(5)/0)	Windsor, Ontario

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American entries:

Belmont R.C.	(4(25)/0)	Belmont, Massachusetts
Boston University	(1(5)/1)	Boston Massachusetts
Charles River R.C.	(9(26)/3)	Boston, Massachusetts
College B.C.	(2(10)/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Dartmouth B.C.	(0(6)/0)	Hanover, New Hampshire
Detroit B.C.	(7(20)/0)	Detroit, Michigan
Ecorse B.C.	(7(41)/0)	Ecorse, Michigan
Fairmount R.A.	(4(5)/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Harvard University	(0(1)/0)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Lincoln Park B.C.	(1(5)/0)	Chicago, Illinois
Long Beach R.A.	(5(16)/)/1)	Long Beach, California
Malta B.C.	(4(9)/1)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Marietta College	(1(3)/0)	Marietta, Ohio
Middletown B.C.	(0(2)/0)	Middletown, Connecticut
Midwest International Rowing Centre		
	(1(5)/0)	Madison, Wisconsin
Minnesota B.C.	(12(18)/1)	St. Paul, Minnesota
Narragansett B.C.	(0(1)/0)	Providence, Rhode Island
New York A.C.	(17(17)/6)	New York, New York
Penn A.C.	(0(2)/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Philadelphia Girls' R.C.	(1(9)/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Potomac B.C.	(4(13)/1)	Washington, District of Columbia
Radcliffe College	(2(6)/0)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Rochester R.C.	(1(?)/0)	Rochester, New York
Spuyten Duyvil R.C.	(0(1)/0)	New York, New York
Sunshine R.C.	(0(1)/0)	
Syracuse Chargers R.C.	(2(35)/0)	Syracuse, New York
Tartar R.C.	(0(5)/0)	Detroit, Michigan
Undine Barge Club	(7(9)/3)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
University of Massachusetts	(1(2)/0)	Amherst, Massachusetts
University of Minnesota	(2(2)/0)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
U.S. National Team	(5(?)/4)	Hanover, New Hampshire
Vesper B.C.	(12(14)/3)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(9(51)/0)	Buffalo, New York
Wyandotte B.C.	(15(31)/3)	Wyandotte, Michigan

Mexican entries:

Club España	(7(14)/0)	Mexico City, Mexico
Mexican Rowing Federation	(12(15)/3)	Mexico City, Mexico

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Something that had not been written about for many years, made a brief appearance in the coverage of the 1974 Henley: moving the Regatta. In an interview with Don McClelland, President of the Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation, Jack Gatecliff, Sports Editor of the *Standard* in his "Through the Sports Gate" column wrote, in part:

"One of our [the CHRC's] major projects at the moment is keeping the Henley right here where it belongs," McClelland told us earlier this week

....

The reason for McClelland's belief that we can't be absolutely sure the Henley will be in St. Catharines indefinitely is an agreement completed several years ago [1972] between the Henley Aquatic [Association] and the CAAO which permitted a change of location "but the regatta could not be elsewhere two consecutive years, as of 1977."

The chief threat to St. Catharines holding the Henley here, without a break, comes from Montreal where Mon. Drapeau and the 1976 Olympic committee is building a \$13 million course (latest but not necessarily final estimate) course. [sic] [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 26, 1974, p.21.]

At an eight-hour meeting held in Hamilton on September 28, the CAAO made some important decisions regarding Henley weight classifications. They were the first changes since 1942 when the 145- and 155-pound classifications were established. The CAAO voted to adopt the FISA

70-kilo category in place of 155-pounds and accept average crew weight rather than individual limits on oarsmen rowing in the 135-pound and 145-pound events.

As a result, the 155-pound category will disappear from the national rowing championships held each summer at St. Catharines. All those races will change to 70 kilos (154 pounds) average crew weight with no one competitor to weigh more than 72.5 kilos or 159½ pounds.

There will be no individual limit for the 135- or 145-pounders though. Only the average weight of the boat is to be taken into account. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, September 30, 1974, p.25]

Switching to average crew weight was a huge change for the CAAO.

A motion to change all the weight classifications to metric, in line with Canada's switch to *System International* units which was to begin on April 1, 1975, was defeated.

Although it was agreed that the 135-pound class be retained, there was discussion about keeping it as a qualifying category. It was suggested that oarsmen who won a Senior 135-pound race, should be allowed to row as Juniors in 145- and 155-pound events. Claude Saunders was to study the matter. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, September 30, 1974, p.25]

In November, the *Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron* held a four-day coaches conference at Seneca College in Toronto, the first time the event had been held

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outside Europe. "Thirty-seven Canadian coaches and assistant coaches conferred with about 50 coaches from 18 other countries, including East Germany, current holder of six of eight world rowing titles." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, November 12, 1974, p.39] While the focus of the FISA conference was coaching, it provided CAAO Executive Director, Alan Price, with an opportunity to extol women's rowing:

A.J. Price, executive director of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen, yesterday predicted that oarswomen, not oarsmen, will be carrying Canada's Olympic hopes in 1976.

Though there were almost no women in the sport as recently as two years ago, the 200 now competing are almost inevitably more enthusiastic and dedicated to the sport than the country's oarsmen, he said.

Olympic rowing planners are also being realistic: European oarsmen are at least 25 years ahead of Canadian oarsmen. Canadian oarswomen, on the other hand, got into the act about the same time as their European sisters.

Oarswomen are also a youthful bunch with plenty of time to develop.

Canada's women's rowing champion [The reporter, Mary Trueman, uses "champion" here to mean a person who is an ardent supporter of a cause.] is a 14-year-old Monica Boettcher of Calgary, a girl "completely devoted to her sport," says Price, and a possible medal candidate for 1976. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, November 12, 1974, p.39]

In that same interview, Price mentions that the number of Canadian participants in rowing had grown to 3,000.

Price was overly optimistic about Canada's chances for medals in 1976, but he was right about women "carrying Canada's hopes." Only one men's crew made it to the finals, but three women's crews were in medal contention, with the eight finishing fourth.

Canadian oarswomen were not unique in being "more enthusiastic and dedicated to the sport than the country's oarsmen." Steve Gladstone, who had never coached oarswomen, handled the candidates for the U.S. team for the 1975 World Rowing Championships while head coach Harry Parker was at the Henley Royal Regatta with his Harvard eight.

Gladstone himself had never seen such a group of strong women rowers, and was somewhat taken aback by their intensity. In terms of rowing experience, the group may have been young and unpolished, but they attacked the water without holding back. To Gladstone it was exciting and impressive to watch, a refreshing change from his normal dealings with oarsmen. [Daniel J. Boyne, *The Red Rose Crew: A True Story of Women, Winning and the Water* (Guilford: The Lyons Press, 2000) p.79.]

In stark contrast to these positive views of women rowing, is what was happening at the Argonaut R.C.. That club was actively discouraging starting a women's programme, even going to the extreme of vigorously denying oarswomen access to the Club's property.

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[W]omen were still not allowed to row at ARC.

....

When U of T [University of Toronto] returned to rowing and the ARC in 1974, they brought female crews with them. While the male UTRC population was in favour of the inclusion of a women's program at the university, the ARC Board was not, and they banned women from the docks. However, to allow the women to get their practice in and finish their season, the U of T men's crews would row their boats off the dock and hot seat with their female counterparts who were waiting further down the watercourse. [Ann Shelton et al., *Perseverance and Glory: The History of the Argonaut Rowing Club*. (Toronto: Argonaut Rowing Club, 2022) p.75.]

At the 2023 Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, Barry Shaw, longtime Argonaut R.C. member and veteran coxie, recounted that story, and then described an incident he was a witness to in which an Argo Board member (whom he mentioned by name) went out to the front of the Club where there was a group of oarswomen standing off the property, pointed at them and said, "They want to turn this place into a whorehouse." [August 11, 2023] According to Shaw, that misogynistic attitude was typical of the Board members.

The CAAO's annual meeting was held in Toronto on Saturday, November 16. The Officers elected for 1975 were:

Past-President: James R. Minards, St. Catharines
President: Thomas Croston, Port Credit
1st Vice-President: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines
2nd Vice-President: Peter King, Ottawa
3rd Vice-President: David Helliwell, Vancouver
Corresponding Secretary: John L. Murray, Kingston
Recording Secretary: Harry Edmondstone, St. Catharines
Treasurer: Barry Morris, Port Credit
Executive Director, Alan Price, Ottawa
Technical Director, Martin Bielz, Ottawa

The 1975 Executive Committee was increased to 10. No longer listed were the Committee Chairmen from the Eastern and Western Development Committees. However, three new Committee Chairmen were added: *Catch*, the CAAO's new publication, Lightweight Rowing, and Veterans [i.e. Masters] Rowing.

The 1975 Executive Committee was made up of these Chairmen:

Catch Magazine: Gordon Leighton, Agincourt
Constitution: Charles Adams, St. Catharines
Grants: Ben R. TeKamp, Brockville
Historian: John L. Murray, Kingston
Lightweight Rowing: Fred Babbie, Toronto
Public Relations: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines

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Regatta: Claude Saunders, Hamilton
Trophies: Donald Baker, St. Catharines
Veterans Rowing: Ted Norris, Toronto
Youth Rowing: H.H. Lancaster, St. Catharines

Lightweight and Women's events were now included in FISA programmes. The CAAO responded by appointing Fred Babbie to handle the Lightweight portfolio, but oarswomen were still not represented on the Executive Committee.

Much of the nine-hour annual meeting was taken up with the logistics of planning trials and camps for the 1975 international season. A new wrinkle was the Canada Closed Championships to be held on the still-unfinished Montreal Olympic course. That regatta, which hadn't happened yet, was being promoted in Montreal as a potential replacement for the Canadian Henley.

One of the other agenda items to make it into print was the announcement that the 1974 Henley garnered \$11,385 in entry fees, enough to pay for the Regatta. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 18, 1974, p.31]

1974

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The 93rd Regatta of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen The 70th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta July 30 to August 3, 1975

Since 1971, Martin Bielz had been Technical Director for the CAAO. The relationship had not always been an amicable one. At the Executive meeting held in Hamilton on March 22, he

was relieved of his duties

CAAO member clubs voted to uphold their executive in dismissing Dr. Bielz who came to Canada from Romania in 1971. Dr. Bielz, a former international oarsman, has been in charge of Canada's international rowing program for the past four years.

The vote, which cited Dr. Bielz's refusal to comply with executive authority and his inability to establish a rapport with Canadian oarsmen and coaches, was brought about by his recent signing of a contract for part-time work with COJO, the 1976 Olympic organizing committee in Montreal, contrary to the terms of his CAAO contract. [The *Toronto Globe and Mail*, March 24, 1975, p.56]

With 15 months to go before the Montreal Olympics, Canada had no one running its international programme, a situation which not only was bad for the team, but would not go over well with Sport Canada, the branch of the federal Health and Welfare Department responsible for funding the programme.

The CAAO's assertion that Dr. Bielz was unable "to establish a rapport with Canadian oarsmen" seems to be called into question by the team's reaction:

Canada's 40-member rowing team has unanimously asked the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen to reinstate Dr. Martin Bielz, a CAAO official who was asked to resign last week. Oarsman Jim Walker said the team has asked the CAAO executive for a full explanation of their actions because "We feel the work done by Dr. Bielz in aiding Canadian rowing expertise is beyond reproach and that his absence will definitely be detrimental to Canada's chances for success in Montreal." [The *Toronto Globe and Mail*, March 26, 1975, p.39]

Whether the team got the explanation they wanted or not, is not reported. However, we do learn that Bielz' job for the Montreal Olympic organizing committee was co-ordinator for the Olympic rowing site and competition. [The *Toronto Globe and Mail*, July 16, 1975, p.53] That contract was for 104 days, for which he was to be paid \$10,000. [The *St. Catharines Standard*, March 24, 1975, p.29]

The 30th Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association Championship Regatta added one women's event to its programme: Women's Fours with Cox. The inaugural

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winners were a crew from the Brockville C.I.: Barb Fraser, Irene Cody, Betty Craig, Jane Pal and Marg Tarlington.

The CAAO's position on the new event was expressed by Craig Swayze:

"There has been pressure from high school girls to get involved in rowing," said Craig Swayze, first vice-president of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen, "and we were finding that a number of high school girls were rowing in university programs. The demand has been so great there was no alternative." [The *Toronto Globe and Mail*, June 2, 1975, p.S2]

Not exactly an enthusiastic endorsement of women's rowing.

Daniel J. Boyne has succinctly described the attitude of many officials, including, perhaps, Craig Swayze. Boyne researched women's rowing during this era, focussing on the 1975 U.S. World Rowing Championships eight—a crew made up of most of the same women who won the Women's Eights at the 1975 Canadian Henley. When describing Coach Harry Parker's initial hesitation to take on the women's team, Boyne writes: "Among Parker's colleagues, women's rowing was little more than a curious new phenomenon that was somehow moving forward, against the strong current of cultural resistance." [Daniel J. Boyne, *The Red Rose Crew: A True Story of Women, Winning and the Water* (Guilford: The Lyons Press, 2000) p.56] We can easily substitute "the CAAO" for "Parker's colleagues."

The CAAO Executive meeting on June 7 was full of high drama. At the centre of the heated controversy was a plan put forward by the Quebec Rowing Federation to restructure the CAAO Executive along geographical lines.

These changes . . . guarantee each of Canada's eight rowing provinces representation at the executive level.

Provinces such as New Brunswick and Manitoba with one rowing club each would be elevated to status rivalling that of Ontario which has 14 clubs and the majority of Canada's oarsmen. At the same time, individual clubs would only be represented at the CAAO level through their provincial rowing associations. [The *St. Catharines Standard*, June 9, 1975, p.24]

The concentration of CAAO power in Ontario was the root of the dissatisfaction. "Western Canadian delegates felt they had not been consulted frequently enough by the elected officers who traditionally run the rowing association. The Quebec group wanted more say in CAAO operations." [The *St. Catharines Standard*, June 9, 1975, p.24]

After one heated exchange, President Tom Croston, resigned and left the room, followed by 10 Officers and Executive Committee members.

At that point, a vote of non-confidence in the Executive, introduced by Harry Goetschi of Montreal, the Technical Director of the Quebec Rowing Federation, was held. It passed 48 to 43. Twelve of the 14 Ontario clubs—Brockville and Ottawa were the exceptions—plus the University of British Columbia and Vancouver R.C. supported the old Executive. The rest of the country's clubs voted against them.

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When the 11 men who had resigned were asked to return and vote on the non-confidence motion (doing so would have defeated the motion), they declined and asked that they be recorded as abstaining.

Then they were asked personally by some Ontario club representatives to form an executive. Tom Croston initially refused, but relented and agreed to finish the five months left in his term as President. Craig Swayze refused to return to stand for re-election to his former position as First Vice-President, as did Peter King who turned down his former position of Second Vice-President.

Following the resignations, the interim slate of Officers and Executive looked like this:

Officers:

President: Thomas Croston, Port Credit resigned but reluctantly agreed to finish out the year.

1st Vice-President: David Helliwell, Vancouver - walked out then returned and declared he would not stand for President in November. (Normally, the First Vice-President was elected President.)

2nd Vice-President: Donald Nickless, Montreal

3rd Vice-President: Ben R. TeKamp, Brockville

Corresponding Secretary: John L. Murray, Kingston - walked out then returned

Recording Secretary: Harry Edmondstone, St. Catharines - walked out then returned

Treasurer: Barry Morris, Port Credit - walked out then returned

Executive Director, Alan Price, announced his resignation and intention to join former Technical Director, Martin Bielz, to work for the Olympic organizing committee in Montreal. A week later, the Association was advertising for a new Executive Director.

[The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, June 13, 1975, p.44]

The interim Executive Committee was made up of these Chairmen:

Catch Magazine: Gordon Leighton, Agincourt

Constitution: Charles Adams, St. Catharines - walked out then returned

Grants: Ben R. TeKamp, Brockville - walked out then returned

Historian: John L. Murray, Kingston

Lightweight Rowing: Fred Babbie, Toronto

Public Relations: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines - walked out

Regatta: Claude Saunders, Hamilton - walked out then returned

Trophies: Donald Baker, St. Catharines

Veterans Rowing: Ted Norris, Toronto

Youth Rowing: H.H. Lancaster, St. Catharines - walked out then returned

After six hours of acrimony, heated discussion, resignations, and non-confidence vote, the Officers and Executive were essentially the same as they had been at the beginning of the meeting, except two experienced Officers, Craig Swayze and Peter King were missing, and a novice from Montreal, Don Nickless, had been added. As Bill Scollie from the Thunder Bay R.C. put it, "How dumb we are. . . . No one is winning this one."

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Now we've got to somehow pull it all together again." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, June 9, 1975, p.24]

The story has something of an ironic *dénouement*. The organization that had precipitated the divisive debate, the Quebec Rowing Federation, was supposed to host the national trials and Canadian Closed Championships (the regatta which some people in Montreal were promoting as the replacement for the Canadian Henley) on the new Olympic course. However, the QFR faced two insoluble problems: it had no money to put on the regatta, and the course was not ready. It passed the buck to the CAAO, the organization it had attacked six weeks earlier, and the CAAO approached the Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation to put on the regatta the weekend before the Henley. On short notice, the CHRC postponed its preparations for the Henley, and bailed out the QFR. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 17, 1975, p.25]

All was in order when the 93rd Regatta began on Wednesday, July 30.

The first 24 of 91 elimination heats were held without incident. Conditions were ideal. "Blue skies and flat water with a slight following wind greeted the record field which began the five days of competition." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, July 31, 1975, p.38] That "record field" consisted of 1,062 competitors from 68 Canadian, American, and Mexican rowing clubs. Those clubs filed 532 entries. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 28, 1975, p.22] Five of the 47 events on the programme were women's events: single, double, pair, coxed four, and eight. "[A]proximately 200 girls" [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 2, 1975, p.11] were competing. If that number is accurate, about 19% of the competitors were women.

On Thursday, competitors had to race in "sweltering heat."

A hot sun beat down on the Henley Course for yesterday's [Thursday's] second program of competition at this 93rd Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. Temperatures soared into the mid-90s [mid-30s Celsius] on Henley Island.

A slight following breeze kept times good, but there were several cases of heat prostration among the competitors. It was just too hot to row. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 1, 1975, p.19]

Thursday's programme consisted of 32 races, nine of which were finals. In a change of format, the heats were run first, with the finals coming at the end of the day, the reverse of what had been past practise. It was hoped that the new format would encourage people to drop by after work to see some finals, thereby increasing grandstand attendance.

Although the 155-pound class was now officially the 70-kilo class, the programmes and newspapers continued to refer to it by its traditional name. So, Stan Depman, from the Malta B.C., went into the record books as the winner of the Junior 155-lb. Singles, not the Junior 70-kg Singles.

The fourth final of the Regatta, at 6:40 p.m., the Junior 135-lb. Singles, was half way down the course, when it was stopped

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because of debris in the course. A float plane veering across the waterway on takeoff, hit one of the lane markers, littering the surface with debris.

The aircraft, with two people aboard, cleared the course and surrounding trees, only to crash and burn in a nearby field, killing the occupants. [The *Toronto Globe and Mail*, August 1, 1975, p.25]

The clearest description of what happened is provided by Craig Swayze, City Editor of the *Standard*, and CAAO Public Relations Committee Chairman, who was in the press gallery beside the grandstand, and who had a clear view of the incident:

It might as well have been an air show stunt gone wrong.

Hundreds sat in the Henley Grandstand and watched the big single-engine float plane stutter out onto the course and turn upwind. A gentle murmur [sic] ran through the crowd.

Was he really going to try and takeoff [sic] with those lane markers up and a race already started? Officials looked up from compiling Henley Regatta records and stared.

Then, with a roar from its engine, the silver-skinned seaplane dug in its floats like a pup about to run and thundered up the east side of the rowing course. Everyone watched in fascination.

Spray flew and the roaring engine reverberated from the highbanks [sic] surrounding the waterway. And still the plane stayed on the water.

Past the 1,500-metre pylons, the big plane suddenly turned westward, running diagonally across the racing lanes. A groan went up from the crowd. They feared for the approaching scullers, part of the junior 135-pound singles final.

By now, the oarsmen and officials and spectators crowding Henley Island had stopped to stare. And as the roaring aircraft headed toward them, there were looks of disbelief all around.

It was bad enough to have one of these seaplanes kicking up a wash by trying to take off up the outside of the course on a Henley day. Cutting across the racing portion of the waterway was unheard of.

The fliers got a 60-day notice about the Henley Regatta and there are strict regulations covering the hoisting of the big cables with their plastic lane markers from the pylons. The seaplane base is, for all intents and purposes, closed.

Then the plane was airborne. But still the island crowds watched in fascination. The 1,000-metre cable hung dead ahead.

"I don't know if he saw the cable or the race coming down, but he seemed to try to get back down," said Jim Minards, the regatta official in charge of the Henley Island launching wharfs.

"He dipped and hit the water, then seemed to bounce up in the air right into the No. 5 marker on the 1,000-metre cable. A lot of stuff flew in the air, but he kept going."

Minards thought the plane's left wing may have hit the lane marker, leaving it in shambles. But he doesn't discount the fact that it could have been the propeller too.

"It all happened so fast," he recalled. "But it was obvious he (the pilot) was in trouble. He swung off to his right (westward) and disappeared over the trees. I waited and listened, and then I saw the smoke."

The collision with the lane marker was clearly visible from the Henley Grandstand. And many a spectator had field glasses trained on the plane.

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There was a great gasp from the crowd. Some ran down to the front to try and get a better view and the seaplane staggered off westward out of view.

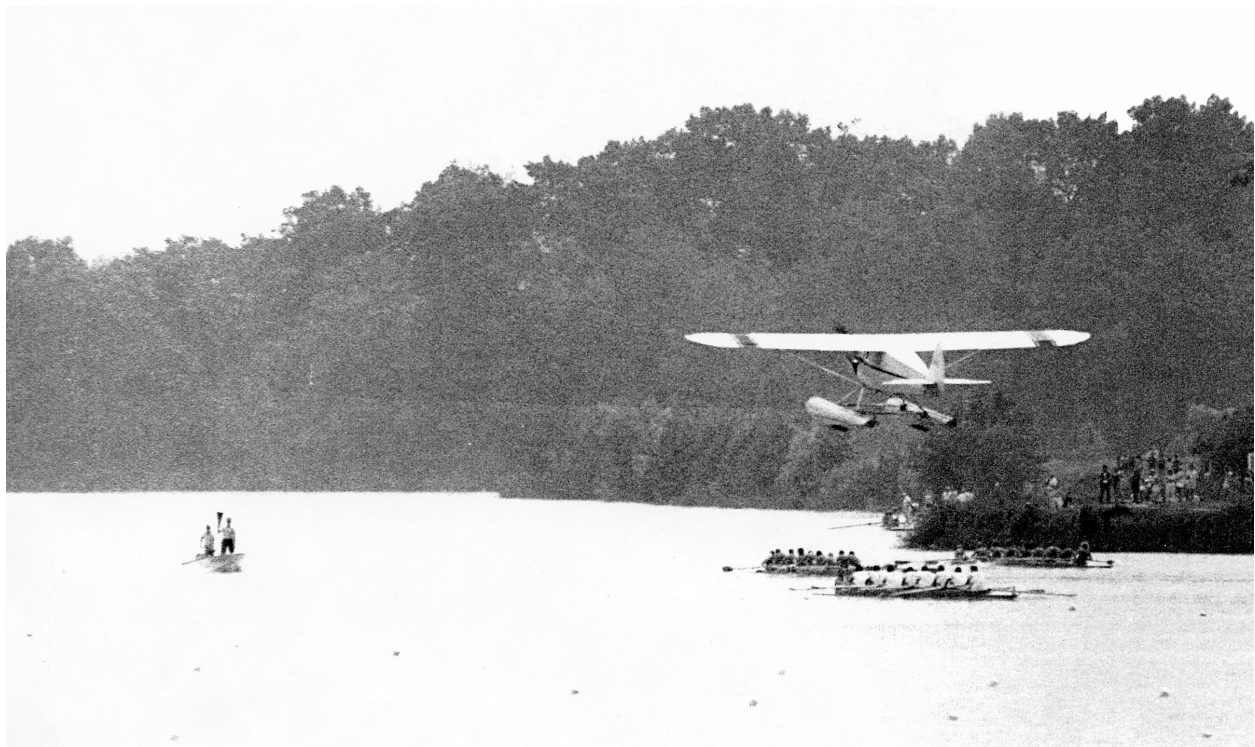
The junior 135-pound singles final? It had to be stopped. There was too much debris floating in the water around the 1,000-metre pylons. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 1, 1975, p.9]

Two other witnesses confirm Jim Minards' version of what happened. Harry Mosher, owner of the St. Catharines Seaplane Service, located in the bay at the northeast corner of Martindale Pond, had just added fuel to the plane's tank. "The air base owner said he watched the accident happen and explained that the plane was 'just a few inches off the water's surface when it struck the marker.'" [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 1, 1975, p.1] And "Rick Stone . . . said the plane looked as though it tried to go under the wire holding the marker. He said it gained altitude but the engine made a sputtering noise as it climbed." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 1, 1975, p. 1] The noise he heard might have been the Lane 5 marker being shattered.

The Department of Transport index card for the file containing the results of its investigation is succinct and dispassionate. It gives the model of the aircraft (Cessna 195), its registration number (CF-EKW), the location of the accident - misspelled (St. Catherines, Ont.) and this description: "The aircraft struck a boat race marker during takeoff. It continued takeoff, struck the top of a tree and contacted the ground inverted." [Canadian Department of Transport, file 5002-050085 index card, 1975]

Killed were the experienced pilot Carl Hand and his wife Nancy from Fonthill, Ontario.

Peter Murdza from the St. Catharines R.C. won the re-row of the Junior 135-lb. Singles at the end of the day.



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The photo above does not show the doomed plane taking off. Although the date of the photo is not known, it was not taken at a Henley Regatta, since this float plane is taking off on the course and there are no overhead lane markers in sight. Incidents like this were fairly common both before and after the crash on July 31, 1975.

Friday's conditions consisted of "a blazing sun scorching the flat-calm Henley course." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 2, 1975, p.36] "[T]he sun-dappled Henley Course was like an oven." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 2, 1975, p.25] Rowers had to race in 35 °C heat.

The first final of the day, the Women's Singles was won by Bev Cameron from the Ottawa R.C.. She was the first Canadian to win that event. An hour and 10 minutes later, she joined her older sister, Trice, to win the first Henley medals for the Women's Doubles.

A 20-year-old steel worker, Mike Miller has the distinction of sculling for every rowing club on the Detroit River. In 1972, he won the Junior 135-lb. Singles for the Michigan Athletic Club in Ecorse, Michigan. He placed second in the Senior. In 1973, he won the Senior 135-lb. Singles for the Wyandotte B.C.. In 1974, he came second in that event, again sculling for the Wyandotte B.C.. In 1975, he was a Junior again. On Thursday, he came sixth in the Junior 155-lb. Singles sculling for the Ecorse B.C.. Twenty minutes later, he changed singlets and came second in the Junior 145-lb. Doubles with Dick Redmond, wearing Detroit B.C. colours! And on Friday, he won the Junior 145-lb. Singles for the Ecorse B.C.. On Sunday, in Ecorse B.C. colours, he combined with Bob Kunitz to come second in the Senior 145-lb. Doubles.

The fact that Miller was allowed to compete as a Junior 145- and 155-pounder after having won Junior and Senior 135-pound races must mean that the CAAO had changed its rule and decided to make 135-pound events non-qualifying. Doing so meant that young, super-lightweights would not be forced to compete against older, more experienced men when they gained weight as they got older. Under the new rule, they would be able to compete as Juniors again in the 145- and 155-pound classes.

A New York A.C. crew had won the Open Quads in a row-over in 1974, after four crews scratched, but in 1975, the same crew had three challengers (two others scratched). Nevertheless, the result was the same: Larry Klecatsky, Mike Verlin, Sandy Killen, and Jim Dietz won by 10 lengths.

The first final on Saturday was the Women's Fours (Coxswain). U.S. National Team crews place first and second.

The Junior Doubles final provided some excitement for the grandstand crowd. With 50 metres to go, the two leading crews, Quebec Rowing Federation and Wyandotte B.C. collided, and the race was stopped. Wyandotte was disqualified, and the race was re-run at the end of the day, with the QRF crew winning.

A new women's event, the pairs, was added to the Saturday programme. It was included because it was an Olympic event. Becky Stevenson and Monica Draeger from the University of Western Ontario were the inaugural winners.

There were no surprises in the sculling dashes: Jim Dietz won the Open event, for the eighth time in nine years, and Larry Klecatsky won the 145-pound event for the New

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York A.C.. It was his seventh win in eight years in the lightweight singles, and was the second 1975 medal for both of them; they had also won the Open Quads on Friday.

They picked up more medals on Sunday. First they won the Senior Doubles for the third year in a row. Then Klecatsky won the Senior 145-lb. Singles, Dietz, the Championship Singles, both for the seventh time, and Klecatsky finished their day with a win in the Senior 155-lb. Singles, also for the seventh time (or the Senior 70-kg Singles for the first time). Jim Dietz' four wins gave him 24 Henley medals, while Larry Klecatsky's five wins gave him 34. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 4, 1975, p.S4]

Sunday's races were rowed under hot and hazy conditions. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 5, 1975, p.17]

The heat at the 1975 Regatta was so memorable, that a quarter of a century later members of the women's U.S. National Team could still recall that "the 101-degree [38 °C] heat had been so intense that thirty-two entrants had scratched." [Daniel J. Boyne, *The Red Rose Crew: A True Story of Women, Winning and the Water* (Guilford: The Lyons Press, 2000) p.135]

The first race of the day, and the first of five wins for the U.S. National Team, was the Women's Eights. Their male counterparts won the last race of the day, the Senior Eights. In between, U.S. National Team crews won the Senior Pairs (Coxswain), and the Senior 155-lb. Eights and Fours.

Although St. Catharines R.C. crews won only two races on Sunday—the Senior Fours (Coxswain) and Senior 145-lb. Eights—the club had accumulated enough points to take the points championship and Maple Leaf Trophy for the 15th year in a row.

All the winners and times for the 1975 Canadian Henley Regatta can be found in tabular form at: <http://goldmedalphotos.com/records.html>

All the results from all the races in all the Regattas from 1964 to 1999 are available in an appendix at the end of Chapter 6.

Below is a list of 50 of the 68 clubs that competed in 1975. The list is made up mostly of clubs that made it to the finals. In the parentheses are the number of entries, which gives an idea of the relative size of the club, followed by the number of wins, which suggests the relative strength of the club. [*Entries from heats are not included. I don't have the programmes, and the press did not report the results of the heats. Clubs that are mentioned in newspaper articles, but which did not make it to the finals have (?/0) beside their names.*]

Although the St. Catharines R.C. won six events, they were bested again by the New York A.C. who won seven. Finishing second and third in the points standings were two national teams. The U.S. National Team won six events and placed second, while the Mexican Rowing Federation finished third with three wins. The dominance of national teams over clubs was an issue the CAAO would have to deal with.

Argonaut R.C.	(13/2)	Toronto, Ontario
Brentwood R.C.	(1/0)	Mill Bay, British Columbia
Brock University	(8/1)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Brockville R.C.	(6/1)	Brockville, Ontario

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Burnaby Lake Aquatic Club	(5/2)	Burnaby, British Columbia
Don R.C.	(4/1)	Port Credit, Ontario
Edmonton R.C.	(1/0)	Edmonton, Alberta
Kennebecasis R.C.	(?/0)	Rothesay, New Brunswick
Leander B.C.	(8/0)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(3/0)	London, Ontario
Ottawa R.C.	(6/3)	Ottawa, Ontario
Oxford B.C.	(3/0)	Woodstock, Ontario
Ridley Graduate B.C.	(6/2)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Quebec Rowing Federation	(3/1)	Montreal, Quebec
St. Catharines R.C.	(29/6)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Thunder Bay R.C.	(1/0)	Thunder Bay, Ontario
University of Victoria	(2/0)	Victoria, British Columbia
University of Western Ontario	(10/4)	London, Ontario
Vancouver R.C.	(3/0)	Vancouver, British Columbia
Victoria City R.C.	(4/0)	Victoria, British Columbia
Windsor Crew	(1/0)	Windsor, Ontario

American entries:

Belmont R.C.	(1/0)	Belmont, Massachusetts
Cornell University	(3/0)	Ithaca, New York
Detroit B.C.	(15/1)	Detroit, Michigan
Duluth R.C.	(1/0)	Duluth, Minnesota
Ecorse B.C.	(16/1)	Ecorse, Michigan
Hyde Park R.A.	(1/0)	Staatsburgh, New York
Kansas State University	(1/0)	Manhattan, Kansas
Lincoln Park B.C.	(1/0)	Chicago, Illinois
Malta B.C.	(10/2)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Minnesota B.C.	(8/0)	St. Paul, Minnesota
New York A.C.	(12/7)	New York, New York
Oklahoma State University	(3/0)	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Philadelphia Girls' R.C.	(2/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Potomac B.C.	(1/0)	Washington, District of Columbia
Rochester R.C.	(2/0)	Rochester, New York
Stanford Crew	(2/1)	Stanford, California
Syracuse Chargers R.C.	(3/1)	Syracuse, New York
Undine Barge Club	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
University of Massachusetts	(1/0)	Amherst, Massachusetts
University of New Hampshire	(1/0)	Nashua, New Hampshire
University of Wisconsin	(3/0)	Madison, Wisconsin
U.S. Coast Guard	(1/0)	New London, Connecticut
U.S. National Team	(8/6)	

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Vesper B.C.	(2/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(10/1)	Buffalo, New York
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	(1/0)	Worcester, Massachusetts
Wyandotte B.C.	(8/1)	Wyandotte, Michigan

Mexican entries:

Club España	(2/0)	Mexico City, Mexico
Mexican Rowing Federation	(17/3)	Mexico City, Mexico

The CAAO's annual meeting was held in Montreal on Saturday and Sunday, November 22 and 23.

Although Craig Swayze had resigned and refused to stand for re-election to his former position as First Vice-President during the stormy meeting in June, he was, nevertheless, elected President. True to his word, David Helliwell left the First Vice-President's office and did not stand for election to any other position, and Donald Nickless who took over Peter King's Second Vice-President's office after he resigned also did not stand for re-election. The positions of Corresponding and Recording Secretary were combined again, and John L. Murray, who had been the CAAO's Secretary since 1931, resigned.

So, the slate of Officers for 1976 looked like this:

Past-President: Thomas Croston, Mississauga
President: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines
1st Vice-President: Ben R. TeKamp, Brockville
2nd Vice-President: Gordon Leighton, Agincourt
3rd Vice-President: Herb Challier, Vancouver
Secretary: H.H. Lancaster, St. Catharines
Treasurer: William C. Smiley, Lincoln

The 1976 Executive Committee was made up of these Chairmen:

Award of Merit: James Minards, St. Catharines
Constitution: Herb Challier, Vancouver
Finance: William Smiley, Lincoln
Grants: Donald Nickless, Pierrefonds
Historian: John L. Murray, Kingston
Judges-Referees: William Dann, St. Catharines
Past-Presidents: Thomas Croston, Mississauga
Public Relations: Gordon Leighton, Agincourt
Regatta: Claude Saunders, Hamilton
Technical: Daryl MacDonald, Oshawa
Trophies: Donald Baker, St. Catharines

Although the number of women rowing in Canada was growing, and the Henley now had five women's events, women were still not represented on the Executive. There

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were eight men on the Technical Committee, including two in charge of youth and masters rowing, but no one was overseeing women's rowing.

After his election, the new President spoke about the fiery meeting in June at which he had resigned. Craig Swayze put it bluntly:

Too much regional politics has clouded the Canadian rowing picture of late.

.....
In stressing the importance of putting past differences behind them, Swayze told the delegates from 35 rowing clubs and associations that the oarsmen and oarswomen "Should be the only people who matter as far as this organization is concerned." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 24, 1975, p.33]

Perhaps an example of the "regional politics" to which Swayze referred was this item discussed at the meeting: "Learned that Montreal had made a tentative bid on the 1981 World Rowing Championships without obtaining CAAO sanction." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 24, 1975, p.33]

The other big item on the agenda was the formal endorsement of the national team concept to select the Canadian team for the 1976 Olympics. The United States had already established its national team programme, and members of the CAAO had seen both the U.S. men's and women's teams competing and winning at Henley. Now in charge of the Canadian programme was Daryl MacDonald. Still to be arranged was the funding.

One of the other agenda items addressed a problem that had been growing in recent years; elite camp and national crews competing against club crews. The meeting: "Considered rowing several open elite events at the Henley to keep 'national entries' from competing against club crews at the regatta." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 24, 1975, p.33]

The 1975 Ontario Universities Athletic Association championship regatta added an innovation. Women's crews were popular, and most universities had more than one eight, so the rowing arm of the OUAA did the obvious thing; they copied the traditional men's programme and created two classes: Varsity and Junior Varsity. Unlike Henley, where all the women's events were open, and novices might have to compete against Olympians, the university model allowed for more equality between crews.

The 1975 results for the two events were identical: the University of Western Ontario won both, beating Brock, Trent and McMaster in that order.

1975

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The 94th Regatta of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen The 71st Royal Canadian Henley Regatta July 28 to August 1, 1976

In February, the CAAO was still looking for an Executive Director. An ad in the *Globe and Mail* tells us that the salary was in the \$12,000 to \$15,000 range. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, February 24, 1976, p.36] By the time the programmes for the 94th Regatta were printed, the position had been filled by James Ball, since his name appears there.

Although there were roughly the same number of competitors at the 1976 Regatta as there were in 1975—more than 1,000—other numbers were down: 44 Canadian, American and Mexican clubs—down from 68— filed 415 entries—down from 532. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 27, 1976, p.25]

Wednesday's programme consisted of 20 heats for Thursday's finals, run at 10 minute intervals.

Regular Henley spectators, competitors and officials were used to races taking place in heat, or rain, or wind. However, Thursday's weather was something new:

A blanket of heavy fog hid the course for most of yesterday's [Thursday's] races and the 200 fans in the grandstand could only pick up the race for the final 250 metres. A cool breeze and the dampness made it a rather dismal day to be rowing. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 30, 1976, p.35]

One of the founding clubs of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen in 1880, was the Peterboro [as it was then spelled] Rowing Club. However, It wasn't until 1976, that the Peterborough [as it is now spelled] Rowing Club won its first race at the CAAO Regatta: the Junior Fours (Coxswain). A Peterborough R.C. crew also won the Junior Eights on Saturday.

The Junior 135-lb. Singles was a rare eight-boat race, with Mike Bozenski from the Wyandotte B.C. winning. He also won the Senior 135-lb. Singles—a two-boat race— on Sunday.

Women's races had fewer entries than usual, possibly because the best Canadian and American women had been in Montreal for the Olympic Games, and they were prohibited by the CAAO from competing at the Canadian Henley.

As a result, only two women contested the Women's Singles on Friday. Barbra O'Reilly from the Long Beach R.A. beat Catalina Trapaga from Club España.

Catalina got a medal later in the day when she combined with her sister Aurora to win the Women's Doubles.

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In the Open Quads, perennial winners, New York A.C., were missing two key men, Jim Dietz and Larry Klecatsky, who had competed at the Olympics, and were prohibited from competing at the 1976 Henley. As a result, the New York A.C. crew finished second to a Malta B.C. quad.

The winning Ecorse B.C. crew in the Junior 145-lb. Fours (Coxswain) had a familiar name in it. Mike Miller won his third Junior medal. He had won two as a sculler: Junior 135-lb. Singles in 1972 for the Michigan Athletic Club in Ecorse, Michigan, and Junior 145-lb. Singles in 1975 for the Ecorse B.C.. Switching to sweep oar allowed him to compete as a Junior yet again. He also collected a medal on Sunday when that crew won the Senior 145-lb. Fours (Coxswain).

Bad weather plagued Saturday's schedule which also included the last 10 qualifying heats of the five-day regatta. Heavy rain accompanied by thunder and lightning delayed the start of the first race 35 minutes.

Once the races began, officials moved them through on a stepped-up pace and the day finished at the scheduled time despite two more heavy rainfalls. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 3, 1976, p.24]

Saturday's 10 finals were won by nine clubs. Only Brock University won two races, the two women's events: coxed four and pair. Brock women also took the Women's Eights on Sunday, giving the St. Catharines university a clean sweep of the women's sweep oar events

The final race of the day, 500 Metre Dash, 145-lb. Singles, was won by John Alexander from the Victoria City R.C.. "That race was contested in the pouring rain." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 3, 1976, p.24]

Wyandotte B.C.'s Mike Bozenski was a double winner on Sunday. First he stroked a Wyandotte eight to a win in the Senior 135-lb. Eights, then he won the Senior 135-lb. Singles to match his win in the Junior 135-lb. Singles on Thursday.

Sunday also saw a new club win in its first two Canadian Henley races. The Hanlan B.C. from Toronto, won both the Senior Pairs (Coxswain), and 50 minutes later, the Senior Pairs. Mike Evans and Tim Britton-Foster crewed both boats, with Craig Mallman as their coxie.

The West Side R.C. won the Senior 135-lb. Fours. West Side crews were competing with a serious handicap. The year before, on July 30, their club was destroyed by fire. Fortunately, some equipment was saved because it was in St. Catharines for the 1975 Henley.

The premier sweep oar event, the Senior Eights, was won by the St. Catharines R.C..

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The St. Catharines R.C. also took the premier sculling event, the Championship Singles, which was won by Brian Thorne. It was event 41, the seventh-last race of the Regatta. That means that the pictured plaque should have been the seventh-last one with this design to be presented because the Association changed its name in November to Canadian Amateur Rowing Association. However, plaques with the new design, featuring the new name, were not presented until 1978.

In total, the St. Catharines R.C., with 150 competitors, won four races on Sunday, 10 of the 47 finals, and the Maple Leaf Trophy, emblematic of the Regatta points championship, for the 16th consecutive year.

All the winners and times for the 1976 Canadian Henley Regatta can be found in tabular form at: <http://goldmedalphotos.com/records.html>

All the results from all the races in all the Regattas from 1964 to 1999 are available in an appendix at the end of Chapter 6.

Below is a list of the 48 clubs that competed at the 1976 Regatta. (Four clubs must have submitted entries after the draw, because the original published number was 44.) In the parentheses are the number of entries, which gives an idea of the relative size of the club, followed by the number of wins, which suggests the relative strength of the club. [*Entries from Friday and Saturday heats are not included. I don't have the programmes, and the press did not report the results of the heats.*]

We would not expect that the absence of two men from a team would have a significant impact, unless those two men were Larry Klecatsky and Jim Dietz. Since they were on the U.S. national team at the Montreal Olympics, they could not compete for the New York A.C.. As a consequence, that club won only one race in 1976, compared to the seven it won in 1975. Klecatsky and/or Dietz were involved in all seven of those wins.



Argonaut R.C.	(19/1)	Toronto, Ontario
Brock University	(8/3)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Brockville R.C.	(6/1)	Brockville, Ontario
Dalhousie R.C.	(1/0)	Halifax, Nova Scotia
Don R.C.	(5/0)	Port Credit, Ontario

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Edmonton R.C.	(4/0)	Edmonton, Alberta
Fredericton R.C.	(1/0)	Fredericton, New Brunswick
Hanlan B.C.	(10/2)	Toronto, Ontario
Kennebecasis R.C.	(4/0)	Rothesay, New Brunswick
Leander B.C.	(20/2)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(9/0)	London, Ontario
Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club	(2/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
North Star R.C.	(2/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Ottawa R.C.	(8/0)	Ottawa, Ontario
Peterborough R.C.	(7/2)	Peterborough, Ontario
Ridley Graduate B.C.	(7/2)	St. Catharines, Ontario
St. Catharines R.C.	(51/10)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Thunder Bay R.C.	(10/2)	Thunder Bay, Ontario
University of Western Ontario	(15/1)	London, Ontario
Vancouver R.C.	(1/0)	Vancouver, British Columbia
Victoria City R.C.	(5/1)	Victoria, British Columbia
Windsor Crew	(2/0)	Windsor, Ontario
Winnipeg R.C.	(2/0)	Winnipeg, Manitoba

American entries:

Belmont R.C.	(2/0)	Belmont, Massachusetts
Cambridge B.C.	(2/0)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Dartmouth R.C.	(9/0)	Hanover, New Hampshire
Detroit B.C.	(18/2)	Detroit, Michigan
Ecorse B.C.	(15/3)	Ecorse, Michigan
Fairmount R.A.	(4/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Flamboro B.C.	(1/0)	?
Florida Athletic Club	(4/0)	Orlando, Florida
Independent B.C.	(1/0)	?
Ithaca College	(1/0)	Ithaca, New York
Lincoln Park B.C.	(3/0)	Chicago, Illinois
Long Beach R.A.	(1/1)	Long Beach, California
Malta B.C.	(10/3)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Minneapolis R.C.	(1/0)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Minnesota B.C.	(17/2)	St. Paul, Minnesota
New York A.C.	(14/1)	New York, New York
Philadelphia Girls' R.C.	(2/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Poughkeepsie R.C.	(1/0)	Poughkeepsie, New York
Potomac B.C.	(9/1)	Washington, District of Columbia
Syracuse Chargers R.C.	(8/2)	Syracuse, New York
Undine Barge Club	(8/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
University of Minnesota	(1/0)	Minneapolis, Minnesota

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West Side R.C.	(11/1)	Buffalo, New York
Wyandotte B.C.	(17/3)	Wyandotte, Michigan

Mexican entries:

Club España	(2/1)	Mexico City, Mexico
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The CAAO's final annual meeting was held in St. Catharines on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 19, 20, and 21.

The Officers for 1977 were the same as 1976, except Ben TeKamp resigned as First Vice-President because of family and business pressures, and was replaced by Wes Kuran. The first Officers of CARA were:

Past-President: Thomas Croston, Mississauga
President: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines
1st Vice-President: Wes Kuran, Ottawa
2nd Vice-President: Gordon Leighton, Agincourt
3rd Vice-President: Herb Challier, Vancouver
Secretary: H.H. Lancaster, St. Catharines
Treasurer: William C. Smiley, Lincoln
Executive Director: James Ball

The 1977 Executive Committee was made up of these Chairmen:

Award of Merit: James Minards, St. Catharines
Constitution: Herb Challier, Vancouver
Finance: William Smiley, Lincoln
Grants: Wes Kuran, Ottawa
Historian: John L. Murray, Kingston
Judges-Referees: Charles Ryan, Oakville
Past-Presidents: Thomas Croston, Mississauga
Public Relations: Sam Craig, Toronto
Regatta: Claude Saunders, Hamilton
Technical: Tudor Bompa, Maple
Trophies: Donald Baker, St. Catharines

The Technical Committee had 12 members. For the first time, women had representation. Former Polish national team coach, Kris Korzeniowski, was in charge of the elite (i.e. international) women's programme. Unfortunately, after some success with the women's team, in September, 1977, Korzeniowski left his position as a volunteer coach in Canada to assume a paid position at Princeton University. [The London *Free Press*, September 7, 1977, p.19] Over the next 40+ years, except for 1993 when he coached the national team of China, he was one of the most successful and respected coaches of both women and men in the United States. He is in the U.S. National Rowing Hall of Fame twice: once with his 1980 U.S. Olympic women's eight, and again with his

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

1987 FISA World Championships U.S. men's heavy eight. The CAAO could have hired this outstanding coach in 1977, but opted not to.

The three-day annual meeting was a productive one.

Delegates from 30 rowing clubs and five provincial rowing associations were on hand, bolstered by the executive officers, committee chairmen, area rowing observers and several members of the 1976 Olympic Rowing Team. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 22, 1976, p.21]

The agenda item that got the headlines was the Association's name change. Since its founding in 1880, the organization had been the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen. However, the increasing number of women participating in the sport meant it made good sense to reflect that by changing the name to the Canadian Amateur Rowing Association.

The name change seems to have been a decision made without a lot of preparation. The new logo does not appear in the programmes or on the plaques for two years, 1978.

The big constitutional change was spurred by Sport Canada, the federal funding office, which mandated coast-to-coast representation at the board level for organizations receiving federal funding. CARA's model looked like this: at directors', or regular meetings, only one representative per province would meet with the Officers. To avoid the problem of having a province with one club having the same voting power as a province with many clubs—a major point of dispute when this idea was first proposed at the raucous meeting on June 7, 1975—"[t]he provinces will have their votes weighted in direct relation to the number of member clubs within these associations." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 22, 1976, p.21] In other words, when the Manitoba delegate voted, he was casting one vote, but when the Ontario delegate voted, he was casting 17 votes, one for each Ontario club. At annual meetings, individual clubs would continue to have voting rights, with the provincial representative giving up a vote for every member club on hand.

The meeting also "[a]pproved in principle the registration of all competitors." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 22, 1976, p.21] Although it is not stated in the press, the word "registration" probably implies a paid membership.

The only reference to the Quebec Rowing Federation in the press coverage of the meeting was the statement "that the Quebec Rowing Federation still owes CARA \$10,000 from 1974. The monies are Quebec's share of sending a team to the IV World Rowing Championships at Lucerne." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 22, 1976, p.21]

Although Olympic athletes may have passed on their views on what went right/wrong at the Olympics in years past, the Association formalized that feedback. It:

Arranged for all 1976 Olympic Team members to be canvassed for suggestions and criticisms toward improving the 1977 national program. Team members Brian Love, Mike Neary and Carol

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

Eastmure are drawing up the questionnaire. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 22, 1976, p.21]

The significance of having an oarswoman involved cannot be overstated.

Carol Eastmure was a member of Canada's most successful crew at the Montreal Olympics, the women's eight, which finished fourth. Two other women's crews qualified for the finals, while only one men's crew did. On the international scene, Canadian women were establishing a name for themselves, and it behooved CARA to allow women to be involved in the Association's business.

1976

**The 95th Regatta
of the
Canadian Amateur Rowing Association
The 72nd Royal Canadian Henley Regatta
July 27 to 31, 1977**

A Port Dalhousie landmark—the gate-yard building—which had served as a boathouse for visiting crews at Henley from 1903 to 1966, was razed in March and April.

After a drop in numbers because of the Montreal Olympics in 1976, the 1977 Henley numbers were up: there were 1,126 competitors from 64 clubs, who filed 532 entries in 139 races.

On Thursday, the first final of the Regatta, the Junior Pairs (Coxswain), was won by Kent School (aka Kent Crew). Ridgley Johnson, Tom Kiefer, and coxie Neil Jackson, would also win the Senior on Sunday.

The fifth final of the 95th Regatta, the Junior Singles, was won by Bruce Ford from the Victoria City R.C.. Only the winners of the six heats on Wednesday had advanced to the final. Ford was the best of the 31 competitors in that event.

Friday's first final, Women's Singles, was won by Sandra Kirby from the Victoria City R.C.. She had been in the Canadian women's coxed quad at the 1976 Olympics. An hour and 10 minutes later, she joined Katie Burke—who had finished sixth in the single—to win the Women's Doubles. Perhaps as a consequence of women's events being added to the Olympic rowing programme, entries in the women's events at the 1977 Regatta were very strong. For instance, Sandra Kirby was one of 19 entrants in the Women's Singles, and her Victoria City double was one of nine entered in the Women's Doubles.

Although the Henley course had eight lanes, races featuring eight competitors were rare because the heats were designed to produce six-boat finals which were easier for officials to manage. However, when there were only eight entries in the Junior 145-lb. Eights, they were all put into one final. And so, on Friday, the spectators in the grandstand were treated to eight eights racing: 64 oars churning up the course. The race was won by the Wyandotte B.C. crew.

Friday's programme finished with two exhibition races: FISA Lightweight Men's Eights and FISA Lightweight Men's Fours. The former was won by the U.S. National Team, and the latter by the St. Catharines R.C..

Saturday's heats and finals were rowed "under perfect weather conditions." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 2, 1977, p.25]

Saturday's first final, Women's Fours (Coxswain), was the most heavily-subscribed women's event with 31 entries. Only the winners of the six Friday heats moved on to the final which was won by a St. Catharines R.C. crew. Late-comers to women's rowing, St. Catharines now had enough women to boat four crews in the event, three of which made it to the final.

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The last race of the day was another exhibition eights race. This one was testing the waters of including open/elite races on the Henley programme, and pitted the Canadian National Men's Team against the U.S. National Men's Team. The Canadians won.

Attendance on Sunday "was close to 2,500 at the grandstand in addition to another to [sic] 1,000 others dotted along the banks of the Henley course and island." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 2, 1977, p.25]

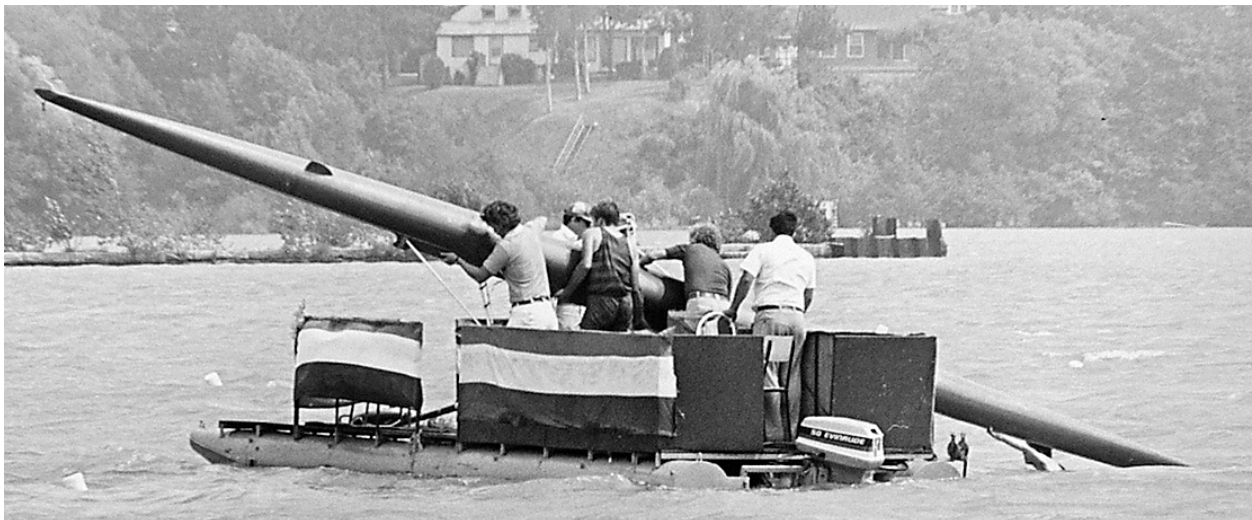
The first race of the afternoon, the Women's Eights, was won by the Woodstock R.C., an new club making its first appearance at the Canadian Henley. The field had started with 13 entries

The big story on Sunday was the weather.

"I cannot remember winds this bad ever," remarked [Claude Saunders] the veteran regatta chairman. "These are very abnormal conditions for this course.

"The only winds which bother this course are either direct northerlies or southerlies and they rarely occur here. But today we certainly have them." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 2, 1977, p.25]

"The competition was suspended at 3:40 p.m. after southerly winds gusting up to 50 miles an hour [80 kph] had churned the 2,000-metre course on the old Welland Canal into one-foot [30 cm] waves and frothy whitecaps." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 1, 1977, p.16] However, before the races were suspended, the St. Catharines R.C. crew that finished third in the Senior Pairs (Coxswain) had to abandon ship while on their way back to Henley Island because their shell was filled with water and unrowable. They, and their shell were rescued by a Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation catamaran.



The photo above shows the rescue. Note one of the oarsmen is in the water guiding the bow of the boat.

That race was the 3:10 p.m. event.

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At 3:30 p.m. one of the two crews in the senior 155-pound eights stopped rowing at the 1,000-metre mark with its craft filled to the gunwhales [sic] with water. It was then officials agreed to stop the racing. [Doug Junke's version of why the St. Catharines R.C. eight stopped was that the shell's rudder was lost and several oarlocks popped. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 2, 1977, p.25]

When the winds calmed down, racing resumed at 6:15 p.m. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 1, 1977, p.16]

Between those two events, at 3:20 p.m., the Senior 145-lb. Singles final was held, and while none of the three scullers capsized or had their shells fill with water, it was notable because New York A.C.'s Larry Klecatsky finished second.

The only major upset of the week came just before the program was held up by bad weather, when Gary White of Winnipeg, a 44-year-old employee of the Rocky Mountain Penitentiary, won the senior 145-pound singles by more than a length over Klecatsky.

White, who never has rowed internationally, said it was the most exciting moment of his career.

"When I heard Dr. Klacatsky [sic] was racing against me I didn't think I had the chance and I still can't believe I have my first Henley gold medal," said White, who recently became a grandfather. [The Toronto *Star*, August 1, 1977, p.B2]

We shouldn't feel too sorry for Klecatsky, who, for the record, was 34 years old. He went home with 3 medals, making his total 44 Canadian Henley medals. He won the 500 Metre Dash, 145-lb. Singles on Saturday—his eighth win in the lightweight dash—the Senior Doubles with Jim Dietz for the fourth time, before the suspension of racing on Sunday, and the Senior 155-lb. Singles for the eighth time after the resumption of racing.

Klecatsky's doubles partner, Jim Dietz also won the 500 Metre Dash, Open Singles for the ninth time and the Championship Singles for the eighth time, bringing his total of Henley medals to 38.

However, these two perennial multiple-medal-winners were out-shone by a 16-year-old from the Wyandotte B.C., Mike Bozenski, "who took home five gold medals from victories in the junior and senior 145-pound doubles, the junior 145-pound singles and also stroked a four and an eight [sic. He stroked two eights, but no four.] to wins." [The Toronto *Star*, August 1, 1977, p.B2] To sum up: Bozenski and Mike Kret won the Junior 145-lb. Doubles on Thursday, and the Senior on Sunday. On Friday, he stroked Wyandotte's Junior 145-lb. eight to a win. On Sunday, 40 minutes after his win in the Senior 145-lb. Doubles, he stroked the winning Senior 135-lb. eight, his third medal in three years in that event. After the weather delay, he won his fifth medal of the 1977 Regatta in the Senior 135-lb. Singles, for the second time in two years. Bozenski was involved in every Wyandotte R.C. win.

The Senior Eights was something of an oddity. All five crews were Canadian, and three of the five were St. Catharines R.C. crews, and the winning St. Catharines crew was the winner of the Junior Eights on Saturday, a feat not often accomplished. Moreover,

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their time was the slowest for an eight on Sunday: 6:39.4. Before the races were stopped, Wyandotte B.C. won the Senior 135-lb. Eights in 6:19 and in the last race before the suspension, a St. Catharines R.C. crew won the Senior 155-lb. Eights in 6:38. After races resumed, a St. Catharines R.C. crew won the Senior 145-lb. Eights in a blistering 5:53. The 6:39.4 time in the Senior Eights was posted two races later, that's 46.4 seconds slower than a bunch of lightweights.

Globe and Mail reporter, Andrew King, writes an entertaining story about a group from the Hanlan B.C..

St. Catharines Rowing Club won the points championship of the 95th Royal Canadian Henley regatta yesterday.

But the club that really grabbed the glory at this week's rowing championships was a little-known, two-year-old club from Toronto that sent only eight oarsmen and a coxswain to the regatta, none of them older than 18.

In various combinations the eight boys entered five races, winning three gold medals and placing second and fourth in the others. The club finished with 87 points, seventh among the 64 clubs taking part in the largest Henley ever.

. . . .

Sam Craig, Hanlan club manager, was ecstatic about the young crew's success.

"These are tremendous boys. Ninety-nine per cent of the credit for their wins belongs to them. They did it with just sheer guts and a lot of dedicated, hard work.

"I think it's fantastic when a bunch of boys that have had no regular coaching, no proper facilities for a boathouse, who have had to do everything themselves, come down to Henley and win against very tough competition."

Craig said that the club's boathouse on the southern edge of a land spit in Toronto harbor at the foot of Cherry Street consists of a quonset hut with no doors. The oarsmen train in a ship channel and since June have received coaching help only twice a week. "We have pretty little compared to some clubs," Craig said, "but we have a commitment to excellence." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 1, 1977, p.16]

Hanlan's three gold medals were won in the Junior 145-lb. Fours on Thursday, the Senior version of that event on Sunday, and the Junior 135-lb. Fours on Saturday.

Despite winds of gale proportions that caused an unprecedented 2½-hour delay in yesterday afternoon's program, almost everything went according to form as the 95th annual Royal Canadian Henley Regatta ended.

St. Catharines Rowing Club won its 17th consecutive regatta championship, scoring a record 476 points. [The Toronto *Star*, August 1, 1977, p.B4]

All the winners and times for the 1977 Canadian Henley Regatta can be found in tabular form at: <http://goldmedalphotos.com/records.html>

All the results from all the races in all the Regattas from 1964 to 1999 are available in an appendix at the end of Chapter 6.

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

Below is a list of 60 of the 64 clubs that competed at the 1977 Regatta. In the parentheses are the number of entries, which gives an idea of the relative size of the club, followed by the number of wins, which suggests the relative strength of the club. *[Entries from Saturday's heats are not included. I don't have the programme insert, and the press did not report the results of the heats.]*

The three exhibition races did not count for points, so, they are not included here.

Argonaut R.C.	(19/0)	Toronto, Ontario
Boucherville R.C.	(2/0)	Boucherville, Quebec
Brock University	(13/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Brockville R.C.	(3/0)	Brockville, Ontario
Calgary R.C.	(4/0)	Calgary, Alberta
Cornwall R.C.	(5/0)	Cornwall, Ontario
Dalhousie R.C.	(2/0)	Halifax, Nova Scotia
Don R.C.	(12/0)	Port Credit, Ontario
Edmonton R.C.	(5/0)	Edmonton, Alberta
Hanlan B.C.	(5/3)	Toronto, Ontario
Kennebecasis R.C.	(4/1)	Rothsay, New Brunswick
Kingston R.C.	(1/0)	Kingston, Ontario
Laval R.C.	(3/0)	Laval, Quebec
Leander B.C.	(20/2)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(19/1)	London, Ontario
Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club	(5/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Ottawa R.C.	(17/0)	Ottawa, Ontario
Peterborough R.C.	(6/1)	Peterborough, Ontario
Ridley Graduate B.C.	(8/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
St. Catharines R.C.	(48/11)	St. Catharines, Ontario
South Niagara R.C.	(7/0)	Welland, Ontario
Thunder Bay R.C.	(7/2)	Thunder Bay, Ontario
University of Western Ontario	(11/0)	London, Ontario
Vancouver R.C.	(3/0)	Vancouver, British Columbia
Victoria City R.C.	(13/5)	Victoria, British Columbia
Windsor Crew	(4/0)	Windsor, Ontario
Winnipeg R.C.	(2/1)	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Woodstock R.C.	(6/1)	Woodstock, Ontario

American entries:

Aqueduct R.C.	(1/0)	Niskayuna, New York
Belmont R.C.	(3/0)	Belmont, Massachusetts
Blood Street Sculls	(1/0)	Old Lyme, Connecticut
Boston University	(2/0)	Boston, Massachusetts

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College B.C.	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Dartmouth R.C.	(11/1)	Hanover, New Hampshire
Detroit B.C.	(18/1)	Detroit, Michigan
Ecorse B.C.	(15/1)	Ecorse, Michigan
Fairmount R.A.	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Fordham University	(1/0)	New York, New York
Kent School	(4/2)	Kent, Connecticut
Lake Washington R.C.	(5/1)	Seattle, Washington
Malta B.C.	(6/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Miami R.C.	(2/0)	Miami, Florida
Minnesota B.C.	(18/0)	St. Paul, Minnesota
New York A.C.	(13/6)	New York, New York
Ohio Valley R.C.	(1/0)	Parkersburg, West Virginia
Orchard Lake R.C.	(1/0)	Orchard Lake, Michigan
Penn A.C.	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Philadelphia Girls' R.C.	(3/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Potomac B.C.	(7/0)	Washington, District of Columbia
Rochester R.C.	(5/0)	Rochester, New York
Syracuse Chargers R.C.	(5/0)	Syracuse, New York
Undine Barge Club	(5/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Union B.C.	(1/0)	Boston, Massachusetts
University of Pennsylvania	(1/1)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Vesper B.C.	(4/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(13/1)	Buffalo, New York
Williams College	(1/0)	Williamstown, Massachusetts
Wichita R.A.	(1/0)	Wichita, Kansas
Wyandotte B.C.	(9/5)	Wyandotte, Michigan

Mexican entries:

Club España	(12/0)	Mexico City, Mexico
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CARA's annual meeting was held in Calgary on the third weekend in November.

Some former Executive Committee Chairmen were now Officers. The CARA

Officers for 1978 were:

Past-President: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines

President: Wes Kuran, Ottawa

1st Vice-President: Herb Challier, Vancouver

2nd Vice-President: Sam Craig, Toronto

3rd Vice-President: Ben TeKamp, Brockville

Secretary: Thomas Croston, Mississauga

Treasurer: William C. Smiley, Lincoln

Executive Secretary: Linda Sidoli, Ottawa

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

Regatta Co-Ordinator: Claude Saunders, Hamilton
National Team Co-Ordinator: Alan Roaf, Toronto
National Coach: Tudor Bompa, Toronto
Coaching Co-Ordinator: Peter Klavara, Toronto

The 1978 Executive Committee was made up of these Chairmen:

Awards: James Minards, St. Catharines
Constitution: Herb Challier, Vancouver
Finance: William Smiley, Lincoln
Grants: Wes Kuran, Ottawa
Medical: Dr. John Stewart, St. Catharines
Public Relations: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines
Referees: Bob Stubbs, Burnaby

Several major decisions were made at the meeting.

For female competitors, the big news was an expanded Henley programme. The number of women's events was doubled to 10. Like the men's events, the women's events would now be divided into Junior and Senior categories. As with the men, "[p]revious Henley wins, membership on national teams and the like automatically turn competitors senior." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 22, 1977, p.27]

In addition to the five new women's events, three men's events were added to the programme: Junior 155-lb. Pairs, Junior 155-lb. Four (Coxswain), and Senior 135-lb. Pairs, bringing the total number of events on the regular programme to 55.

It was decided to hold the 1978 Henley from August 9 to 13, two weeks later than usual. Previous attempts at late Regattas—most recently in 1971—had met with lukewarm responses in the form of reduced entries. Two reasons were given for the decision: one was to appease clubs that had trouble getting on the water in the spring. The other reason was symbolic: CARA saw the Henley as the North American championships and wanted it to be the culmination of the season, so it had to follow, not precede, the Canadian Rowing Championships and the Ontario Rowing Championships.

It had become increasingly obvious that the Regatta points championship was heavily weighted in favour of large clubs with many entries of eights and fours (i.e. the St. Catharines R.C.). CARA moved to redress that imbalance:

Retirement of the Maple Leaf Trophy, emblematic of the Henley points championship, was also approved.

It would be replaced by a new trophy being offered by the St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Association (the Old Boys) with scoring on a weighted system, taking into account the number of competitors rowing for each club and the number of entries by that organization at that year's Henley.

The St. Catharines Rowing Club has won the Maple Leaf for the past 16 [sic. It should be 17.] Henleys in succession. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 22, 1977, p.27]

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

The new system and trophy were the brainchild of Dan Kostuk, Chief Scorer at the Henley, who had the support of the St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Association.

The changes would not be implemented until the 1979 Regatta. Moreover, even though it was retired, the Maple Leaf Trophy would continue to be presented for two more years.

Registration of all oarsmen and oarswomen became compulsory for 1978. The registration fee was \$5.00 (\$2.00 for high school competitors).

National teams for international regattas in 1978 would be selected from camps. Prospective selectees would row with their home clubs, and based on their performances, be invited to the camps where the national team would be chosen.

Apparently there were some members of the Executive who were not happy with having the Regatta in St. Catharines, because moving it was discussed, again. The reason offered was the fast water flow from Ontario Hydro's DeCew generating station. The CARA Regatta Committee was instructed to look into alternate sites.

Among the six other agenda items reported in the press are these two: "Learned that Ontario has 80 per cent of Canada's 1,218 registered oarsmen and oarswomen. There are 990 on Ontario's roles from 21 rowing clubs." And: "Increased club membership fees from \$75 to \$100 following a long and often-heated discussion." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 22, 1977, p.27] It is interesting to note that there was no "long and often-heated discussion" about moving the Regatta out of St. Catharines.

1977


**The 96th Regatta
of the
Canadian Amateur Rowing Association
The 73rd Royal Canadian Henley Regatta
August 9 to 13, 1978**

Although the governing body's name had been changed from the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen to the Canadian Amateur Rowing Association in 1976, its new logo did not make its first appearance until 1978.

An advertisement for a National Technical Coordinator in the February 21, 1978 Careers section of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* does not contain the logo, however, three months later, this ad for an Executive Director may be one of the first appearances in print of the new design.

While the 1978 Henley programme does not list an Executive Director—the position formerly held by James Ball—it does list an Executive Secretary: Linda Sidoli. Wes Kuran, who was then President, takes up the story:

Jim Ball . . . left I believe in very late 77 or early 78. He did give a two week notice. Unfortunately the CARA structure at the time was a one and a half person operation, executive director and a secretary shared by two sports. CARA matters were left in abeyance with Jim's rather quick



**Canadian
Amateur Rowing Association
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Location: Ottawa

Responsibilities

- 1) Direction of the Association's office in the National Sport and Recreation Centre.
- 2) Development, coordination and implementation of programs and activities of the association.
- 3) Other duties to include communication, planning, budgeting, and general administration.

Qualifications

- 1) A sport oriented person with practical and academic training in sport administration.
- 2) Personnel, financial and office management skills
- 3) An ability to communicate effectively both written and verbally. Knowledge of French would be an asset.

Salary: Commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Send application resumes no later than June 7 1978

to: Executive Director
Canadian Amateur Rowing Association
333 River Road
Ottawa, Ontario
K1L 8B9

The Toronto Globe and Mail, May 28, 1978, p.E8

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

departure, which left the incoming president, me, (Wes Kuran) and the treasurer the late Bill Smiley running the day to day operations which was impossible to maintain. . . . With Sport Canada's support and know-how, a recently retired lady with extensive sport administrative experience [Linda Sidoli] was hired to run the CARA business affairs and assist in the preparation of the upcoming CARA budget submission to Sport Canada and subsequent audit of the previous fiscal year. She was hired for specific duties and did not want full responsibility of an executive director. This was an Interim appointment right from the outset as the individual was not interested in full time employment at CARA as an executive director and the CARA executive wanted an individual with a rowing background. Fortunately she agreed to stay longer than originally agreed upon and I believe may have attended Henley in 78. . . . Subsequently CARA hired Rodger Sellars as an executive director and the lady turned all the admin materials over to him and retired or moved on to other things.

In short the lady did a great job and CARA got through the Interim period between executive directors unscathed on the administrative side. [Kuran, Wes. "Re: CARA history question." Message to Stan Lapinski. September 3, 2022. Email]

For the first time in its 98-year history, a woman, Linda Sidoli, served—briefly—as an Officer of the Association.

It was another banner year for the Canadian Henley: 1,312 competitors from 76 Canadian, American and Egyptian clubs, plus a national team from Cuba. There were 126 heats, 55 medal finals and six exhibition international events. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 8, 1978, p.29]

The large influx of competitors, coaches, and families taxed the residence facilities at Brock University and Ridley College, plus hotels, and private homes.

To quell complaints that some lanes were faster than others because of uneven current across the course, Tim Rigby, Vice-President of the Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation, promised that

" . . . by noon Wednesday, we'll have the water shut down."

Ontario Hydro has been conducting tests on the Henley Course for the past several weeks and have come up with a slow flow formula which produces just enough movement to keep the water changing and all six lanes absolutely fair.

"It's just great," grinned Rigby . . . "Hydro has really co-operated with us and the result should be some of the best water we've ever had here."

Some of the Henley detractors in the past have suggested unfair lanes because of water flow.

However, the Ontario Hydro engineering crew proved the fairness of the course in its experiments last month. Their cutback on water at the DeCew Falls Generating Plant will guarantee these conditions this Henley.

"Now the losers won't be able to use the water as an excuse," suggested Rigby. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 8, 1978, p.29]

The Albano buoy system was also put in place for the first time since 1970.

Now that the five women's events had been expanded into Junior and Senior classes, 10 of the 55 finals were women's races. Unfortunately, for the spectators in the

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

grandstand, it was decided that the women's 1,000 metre races would not finish in front of the grandstand.

All the women's races this Henley will finish at the 1000-metre pylons opposite Henley Island.

That's the word from regatta officials who have been fielding complaints from coaches about the floating starts which are required if the girls are to finish their races at the Henley Grandstand.

"We know the fans won't like it," admitted one Henley official yesterday. "But it's the competitors we run the regatta for, and it's fair racing we're after."

In the past, heats for girls events started on the gates at the head of the Henley Course. Finals were from floating starts at the 1000-metre mark, finishing in front of the grandstand.

"A floating start is tricky," said one coach. "A foot difference can mean a medal at the other end."

The successful women will still receive their medals at the Henley Grandstand, however.

The winners will row the rest of the course after their finish to mount the podium at the grandstand. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 11, 1978, p.34]

Apparently, floating starts for the dashes were acceptable.

In the end, the Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation came up with a better plan. On Sunday, as an experiment, "[s]take boats were strung at the 1000-metre pylons for the start." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 14, 1978, p.21] This allowed the two women's events to finish in front of the grandstand. The stake-boats were also tested on Saturday for the finals of the three dashes. The press only mentions those two times the stake-boats were used, but it is probable they were used for all the women's finals.

The photo below shows the new stake boat system at work. Six stake boats are attached to a cable which is strung between the 1,000 metre pylons. A doubles race has just started and three coxed fours are warming up before they move into place for the start of their race.



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To encourage grandstand attendance on Wednesday, no admission was charged. In addition to charging admission to the grandstand the rest of the week, spectators hoping to see the races from Henley Island on Saturday and Sunday had to pay admission to get on the Island. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 8, 1978, p.29]

Wednesday's programme consisted of 38 heats to reduce the field for Thursday's 12 finals. The heats were rowed under "[o]vercast skies and intermittent drizzle." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 10, 1978, p.27]

Thursday's races were held "on the calm waters of the Henley Course." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 12, 1978, p.45] "With little or no breeze, crews in the 12 finals posted better-than-average times." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 11, 1978, p.33]



The first final of the 96th Regatta was the new Junior Women's Doubles. The first winners were Lisa Roy and Janice Mason from the Victoria City R.C.. The plaque they received, in addition to their medals, was the first with the new CARA design, similar to the one pictured here.

Coming second in that event was the Calgary R.C. crew of Shelly Donald and Jennifer Terpenning. Three races later, Jennifer's brother Mike won the Junior 155-lb. Singles. This may be the first time in Henley history that a sister and brother competed at the same Regatta.

A 16 member contingent from the Arab Contractors Sporting Club of Cairo, Egypt, stopped at the Canadian Henley as part of their North American cultural exchange. Apparently the reputation of the Regatta had spread to Egypt. "We already knew about rowing in St. Catharines. This is a very big competition for us," [said Hassan El-Kordy, General-Secretary of the Egyptian Rowing Federation]. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 10, 1978, p.27]

In their first heat on Friday, they placed fourth in the Junior Eights and did not qualify for the final. They did not qualify for the Senior Eights final either, and their Senior pair seems not to have raced.

The Cameron sisters placed first and second in the Senior Women's Doubles. Younger sister Bev and Cheryl Howard won for the Burnaby Lake Aquatic Club, while older sister Trice and Andrea Schreiner sculling for the St. Catharines R.C., came second, less than a boat length behind.

Friday saw the New York A.C. quad which was made up of Jim Dietz, Larry Klecatsky, Mike Verlin, and Mac Good win the Open Quads. It was the first win for Dietz and Klecatsky at the 1978 Regatta.

"Perfect rowing conditions once again marked the fourth day of competition [Saturday] in the 96th annual Royal Canadian Henley Regatta." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 14, 1978, p.22]

Larry Klecatsky from New York A.C. won the 500 Metre Dash, 145-lb. Singles. It was his second, and last medal for 1978. It was his ninth win in the lightweight dash since 1968.

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Klecatsky's club mate, Jim Dietz, won the 500 Metre Dash, Open Singles. It was his second medal also, but he would win one more, for the Championship Singles, on Sunday. It was his 10th win in the dash since 1967.

The dash heats on Friday had been started at the top of the course and finished at the 500 metre pylons. However, the finals on Saturday were started from stake boats at the 1,500 metre mark and finished in front of the grandstand. The eights were started from the stake boats too. That dash was won by Vesper B.C..

Saturday's programme concluded with six exhibition races designed to give a group of visiting Cuban national oarsmen—guests of the federal government—a chance to compete. Those races did not count for the points standings. The Cubans won the eight and the double.

Competitors had to contend with extreme heat on Sunday. "Although water conditions were ideal, the temperature was in the 30s and this made it difficult on oarsmen competing in a number of events." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 14, 1978, p.S5] One member "of St. Catharines' senior 135-pound four was felled by heat prostration and spent the remainder of the afternoon under observation at St. Catharines General Hospital." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 14, 1978, p.S5]

"The severe heat . . . got to many of the competitors and there were many late scratches.

"Several crews were forced to stop rowing and went into the record books as Did Not Finish." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 14, 1978, p.21] Unfortunately, press coverage did not name the "late scratches" and the competitors who "Did Not Finish."



St. Catharines Museum - S1978.8.13.2.

The first final on Sunday was the inaugural Senior Women's Eights. In addition to

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the new-design CARA plaque and medals, the winning crew from the Burnaby Lake Aquatic Club also received the first trophy presented for a women's crew event at the Canadian Henley: the Henley Island Helpers Presidents Cup. These landmarks were achieved by, the crew pictured above. From left to right: Barbara Mutch, Tricia Smith, Mazina Delure, Kathy Gordon, Kelly Jacklin, Chris Neuland, Katie Burke, Lorna Schultz, and Joy Fera.

Nineteen-year-old St. Catharines R.C. sculler, Andrea Schreiner, became the first woman to win both her Junior and Senior races, having taken the Junior on Thursday and the Senior on Sunday. In addition to her medal and plaque, she was the first recipient of the Lady Henley Trophy. Those wins were her second and third at a Canadian Henley. She had also been in the St. Catharines crew that won the Women's Fours (Coxswain) in 1977.

She wasn't alone in winning both Junior and Senior races of the same class: Ottawa R.C. did it in the 135-lb. eight; Hanlan B.C. took both 145-lb. cox fours; John Murphy from the St. Catharines R.C. won both 135-lb. singles, New York A.C.'s Bruce Shea and Art Lynch took both 145-lb. doubles, and Windsor Crew did it in the 135-lb. fours. That crew had the added distinction of having three sons of the coach, Rodger Sellars, in the boat. Below, the crew after their win in the Senior 135-lb. Fours, are, left to right, Doug Sellars, David Sellars, Jeff Hughes and Robert Sellars. They were the first recipients of the John L. Murray Memorial Trophy.



St. Catharines Museum - S1978.8.13.11.

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Jim Dietz, from the New York A.C., won the Championship Singles for the ninth time since 1967.

To finish the Regatta, Vancouver R.C. took the Senior Eights, which meant that both the women's and the men's premier eights were won by British Columbia crews.

The St. Catharines R.C. won the Regatta points championship and (the officially retired) Maple Leaf Trophy for the 18th consecutive year.

Although CARA had decided to replace the Maple Leaf Trophy and its scoring system, which favoured large clubs with many entries, the Regatta Committee had not been able to achieve a consensus on a new scoring system. As a result, the old system was used again.

One St. Catharines R.C. official discussed his club's perennial success with Donald Ramsay, a *Globe and Mail* reporter:

"The key to our success is the fact this competition is held here in St. Catharines," former St. Catharines R.C. captain Joe LeBlanc observed yesterday.

"The event receives incredible exposure, the youth of the community become involved and want to participate and the St. Catharines high schools have really gone out of their way to promote the sport."

As a result, 130 oarsmen and women from St. Catharines R.C. are rowing in the Henley . . .

"More than once has the St. Catharines R.C. been accused of stacking the entries to assure a first-place [points] finish," LeBlanc added, "but the fact remains we have more than 100 year-round rowers in the club and feel it only right to open the Henley up to them."

"Everyone who rows religiously for the club can enter the regatta. Numbers, yes, they play an important part in the club's high point total but we also have some outstanding oarsmen here."

. . . .

"As Hamilton is known as a football town, the summer sport here in St. Catharines is rowing," LeBlanc said. "Unlike clubs like Toronto's Argonauts, who train along the Lake Ontario breakwater, we have very few days of adverse weather conditions."

"Therefore our training periods are often longer and this is of major benefit to our program as well." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August, 12, 1978, p.45]

Capturing seven wins and placing third in the points standings was the New York A.C.. A well-known official from that club, Jack Sulger—a former Henley competitor, son of a competitor and father of a competitor—had some unsolicited high praise for the Canadian Henley: "Our budget, which is set at \$23,000 a year, allows us to partake in about 30 regattas each year and the highlight for us is the Henley, which I rate the finest regatta in the world." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 14, 1978, p.55]

All the winners and times for the 1978 Canadian Henley Regatta can be found in tabular form at: <http://goldmedalphotos.com/records.html>

All the results from all the races in all the Regattas from 1964 to 1999 are available in an appendix at the end of Chapter 6.

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Below is a list of 59 of the 76 clubs that competed at the 1978 Regatta. In the parentheses are the number of entries, which gives an idea of the relative size of the club, followed by the number of wins, which suggests the relative strength of the club. *[Entries in the heats are not included. I don't have the programme inserts, and the press did not report those results. That's why some clubs are missing from the list.]* Clubs with (?/0) beside their names are mentioned in the press but did not advance to the finals.

Neither the national team from Cuba, nor the six exhibition races that were part of Saturday's programme for its benefit are included here.

Argonaut R.C.	(6/1)	Toronto, Ontario
Boucherville R.C.	(1/0)	Boucherville, Quebec
Brock University	(4/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Brockville R.C.	(5/1)	Brockville, Ontario
Burnaby Lake Aquatic Club	(3/2)	Burnaby, British Columbia
Calgary R.C.	(5/1)	Calgary, Alberta
Cornwall R.C.	(?/0)	Cornwall, Ontario
Don R.C.	(3/0)	Port Credit, Ontario
Fredericton R.C.	(?/0)	Fredericton, New Brunswick
Hanlan B.C.	(9/4)	Toronto, Ontario
Kennebecasis R.C.	(1/0)	Rothsay, New Brunswick
Kingston R.C.	(1/0)	Kingston, Ontario
Laval R.C.	(2/0)	Laval, Quebec
Leander B.C.	(10/1)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(11/2)	London, Ontario
Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club	(3/1)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
North Star R.C.	(?/?)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Ottawa R.C.	(7/4)	Ottawa, Ontario
Peterborough R.C.	(4/2)	Peterborough, Ontario
Ridley Graduate B.C.	(3/1)	St. Catharines, Ontario
St. Catharines R.C.	(53/13)	St. Catharines, Ontario
South Niagara R.C.	(4/0)	Welland, Ontario
Thunder Bay R.C.	(3/0)	Thunder Bay, Ontario
University of Western Ontario	(2/0)	London, Ontario
Vancouver R.C.	(3/1)	Vancouver, British Columbia
Victoria City R.C.	(13/3)	Victoria, British Columbia
Windsor Crew	(6/2)	Windsor, Ontario
Winnipeg R.C.	(4/0)	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Woodstock R.C.	(6/1)	Woodstock, Ontario

American entries:

Bachelors Barge Club	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Belmont R.C.	(1/0)	Belmont, Massachusetts

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Big Five Club	(?/?)	Miami, Florida
Blood Street Sculls	(1/0)	Old Lyme, Connecticut
Boston University	(1/0)	Boston, Massachusetts
College B.C.	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Dartmouth R.C.	(5/1)	Hanover, New Hampshire
Detroit B.C.	(10/0)	Detroit, Michigan
Ecorse B.C.	(6/0)	Ecorse, Michigan
Fairmount R.A.	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Lake Washington R.C.	(4/0)	Seattle, Washington
Long Beach R.A.	(1/0)	Long Beach, California
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	(1/0)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Minnesota B.C.	(1/0)	St. Paul, Minnesota
New York A.C.	(12/7)	New York, New York
Northeastern University	(?/0)	Boston, Massachusetts
Penn A.C.	(?/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Philadelphia Girls' R.C.	(?/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Potomac B.C.	(5/0)	Washington, District of Columbia
Santa Clara University	(1/0)	Santa Clara, California
Syracuse Chargers R.C.	(2/0)	Syracuse, New York
Undine Barge Club	(4/1)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
University of California Irvine	(1/0)	Irvine, California
University of Pennsylvania	(10/3)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
U.S. Naval Academy	(?/0)	Annapolis, Maryland
Vesper B.C.	(8/1)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(20/2)	Buffalo, New York
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	(1/0)	Worcester, Massachusetts
Wyandotte B.C.	(11/0)	Wyandotte, Michigan

Egyptian entries:

Arab Contractors Sporting Club	(3/0)	Cairo, Egypt
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The agenda for the annual meeting of the Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation contained mostly positive items. Among those mentioned in the press are the stake-boat innovation for starting 1,000- and 500-metre races, the fact that the Corporation finished the year in the black, and the naming of the organization's first female director: "She is Dawn Russell, a long-time regatta worker who has been in charge of the grandstand ticket booth in recent years." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 7, 1978, p.?] The big negative item discussed was the vandalism and thefts which had taken place on Henley Island. Mentioned specifically, was the theft of 14 outboard motors. Plans were made to increase security.

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CARA's annual meeting was held in Halifax on November 24, 25, and 26.



The CARA Officers for 1979 were:

Past-President: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines

President: Wes Kuran, Ottawa

1st Vice-President: Herb Challier, Vancouver

2nd Vice-President: Sam Craig, Toronto

3rd Vice-President: Ben TeKamp, Brockville

Secretary: Thomas Croston, Mississauga

Treasurer: William C. Smiley, Lincoln

Executive Director: Rodger Sellars, Ottawa

Regatta Co-Ordinator: Claude Saunders,
Hamilton

National Team Co-Ordinator: Tudor Bompa,
Toronto

Coaching Co-ordinator: Peter Klavora, Toronto

The 1979 Executive Committee was made up of these Chairmen:

Awards: James Minards, St. Catharines

Constitution: Herb Challier, Vancouver

Finance: William Smiley, Lincoln

Grants: Wes Kuran, Ottawa

Medical: Dr. John Stewart, St. Catharines

Public Relations: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines

Referees: Ben TeKamp, Brockville

The big item for the Canadian Henley was the addition of 11 new events to the programme. Five would be for lightweight women: 57 kg (125.6 lbs.), the FISA lightweight standard. Two more new events for women were the Junior and Senior Quads (Coxswain). The four new men's events included the Junior and Senior 70 kg (150 lb.) Quads, and Junior and Senior 70 kg (150 lb.) Doubles. In addition, a Junior Quads event was added to complement the Senior Quads which had been run for the past five years as an Open event. That would bring the number of medal finals to 67.

The expanded programme prompted a discussion about adding a day to the Regatta. Nothing was finalized. Regatta Co-Ordinator, Claude Saunders, felt that the new events would draw competitors from existing events, so those numbers would go down.

The length of the women's races was also discussed. A suggestion that they become 2,000-metre events was turned down. However, the practice of starting the women's events at the top of the course and finishing at the 1,000 metre pylons was done away with. The starting rig for 500- and 1,000-metre races which was demonstrated by the Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation at the 1978 Regatta, a rig which allowed those races to finish in front of the grandstand, was praised, and its continued use endorsed.

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Other than choosing August 8 to 12 for the 1979 Regatta, little else about the Canadian Henley was discussed. Most of the meetings dealt with camps, international crews and international events.

However, we do get a rare glimpse into the financial health of the Association:

When Bill Smiley took over as treasurer at the 1975 annual meeting, the Canadian Amateur Rowing Association [sic] faced an actual debt of \$43,962.

Since then, the former St. Catharines lightweight oarsman has turned it around.

In presenting his 1978 financial report to CARA's weekend annual general meeting here, Smiley reported that debt reduced to \$7,250. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 28, 1978, p.36]

1978

The 97th Regatta of the Canadian Amateur Rowing Association The 74th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta August 8 to 12, 1979

The Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation's mandate was to maintain and improve the Henley course and adjacent facilities. To that end, a new roof was put on the grandstand, and the women's dressing rooms on Henley Island were enlarged. The running track on the Island was resurfaced, and new security measures, including gates at the bridge were installed. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, April 24, 1979, p.27]

The 1979 Regatta expanded to 71 finals. Seventy-three clubs from Canada, the United States, Mexico, and Australia brought 1,246 competitors and filed 619 entries. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 7, 1979, p.21]

Wednesday's programme consisted of 40 heats run every 10 minutes. "Perfect weather conditions and a calm course made for good times across the board in both men's and women's events." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 9, 1979, p.21]

On Thursday, "the first 13 finals of the regatta were rowed under threatening skies on a flat Henley Course." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 10, 1979, p.27]

The second final of the 1979 Henley was one of the 11 new events: Lightweight Women's Fours (Coxswain). A competitive field of six crews made for an exciting race with the Melbourne YWCA crew from Australia winning by three-quarters of a length. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 10, 1979, p.27] The Canadian Henley was following the FISA weight standard for lightweight women: 57 kg.

New York A.C.'s Scott Roop won the fourth final of the day, the Junior 155-lb. Singles, then, 40 minutes later, he came from behind to win the Junior Singles. He also won the Senior Quads on Sunday.

Bob Dreher, a 16-year-old Grade 11 student at Oyster River [New Hampshire] H.S. sculling for the Durham B.C., won the Junior 135-lb. Singles. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 10, 1979, p.30] His step-mother, Coleen, placed sixth in the Lightweight Women's Singles on Friday. The name Dreher would have been familiar to veteran Henley fans. Bob's father, and Coleen's husband, Jim, had had a successful career at the Detroit B.C.. Between 1957 and 1965, he won nine Henley medals in lightweight sweep and sculling events. Jim married Coleen in 1978, the same year he started the Durham B.C.. His son and wife were two of its first competitors, with Bob winning the one-year-old club's first Henley medal. In 1982, using his expertise as a Mechanical Engineer, Jim would form the Durham Boat Company, of which Coleen, also an engineer, is now the President—as Coleen Fuerst. Bob and his younger brother, Mike, would have successful sculling careers, as well as working as designers for the family's boat company. In addition to being competitors, Jim and Coleen were also successful coaches.

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

The Kingston R.C. also won its first Henley final, the Junior 145-lb. Fours. The same four—Sam Jarvis, Peter Tattersall, Matt Turner, and Keith Hanlan—also won the club's second Henley final on Sunday, when they took the Senior 145-lb. Fours.

The winners of Thursday's 13 finals were spread among 11 clubs. Only two clubs won more than one race. Scott Roop won two for New York A.C., and two were won by the Victoria City R.C.. Janice Mason took the first final of the Regatta, the Junior Women's Singles, and her club mates, Wynn Wright and Doug Moffat won the Junior 145-lb. Doubles.

The even distribution of wins continued on Friday, as 12 clubs won medals in the 14 finals. Racing was done "under perfect weather conditions on a smooth Henley course." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 11, 1976, p.23]

Thanks to the new Lightweight class for women, Sandra Kirby, who had won the Women's Singles in 1977 for the Victorian City R.C., was able to compete against other women in her natural weight class, and was the first winner of the Lightweight Women's Singles. Now a Masters of Physical Education student at McGill University in Montreal, she was sculling for the Laval R.C..

Although women's coxed quad races had been around for decades—they were one of the five events at the first Women's European Championships in 1954—they were new to the Canadian Henley. The Junior event was won by a Victoria City R.C. crew, and the Senior was won on Saturday by a different VCRC crew.

The Junior 145-lb. Singles was taken by St. Catharines R.C. sculler, Frank Murphy. Placing sixth in the race was his younger brother, John. The Murphy brothers came from a long line of rowers. Their father's cousin, Glenn, had sculled for the St. Catharines R.C. from 1935 to 1938, and he and his brother Rodger had donated the Murphy Bros. Trophy for the 500 Metre Dash, Open Singles in 1977. Frank and John's father, Greg, and their uncle, Frank, had enjoyed great success from 1946 to 1956, especially in lightweight doubles.

The younger Murphys had already had some success by 1979. Frank had won the Junior 145-lb. Doubles with Wayne Dick in 1976, and John had won the Senior 135-lb. Singles in 1978. In 1979, in addition to the Junior 145-lb. Singles, Frank joined John to win the Senior 145-lb. Doubles. A third brother, Greg, took second place in the Junior Quads on Friday, and Junior Doubles on Saturday. The three brothers were coached by their father, Greg, Senior. He also coached his daughter, Mary Margaret, who was a successful high school sculler, named Canada's outstanding Junior-age sculler for 1979 by CARA.

The most exciting finish on Friday was provided by the Holy Cross Crew entry from Worcester, Massachusetts in the Junior Pairs. With 200 metres to go, they were in fourth place when they began a sprint. They passed New York A.C., Northeastern University, and Vancouver R.C. to win their club's first (and last) Henley final. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 11, 1979, p.23]

The Leander B.C. crew that won the Junior 145-lb. Eights was the same crew that had won the Junior 155-lb. Eights on Thursday.

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The first final on Saturday was a new race on the programme: Open 155-lb. Quads. Larry Klecatsky, celebrating his 38th birthday, stroked the winning crew from the New York A.C.. It was Klecatsky's 43rd Henley medal. He won his 44th medal later in the day, taking the 500 Metre Dash, 145-lb. Singles. It was his 10th win in the lightweight dash. [*These medal totals for Klecatsky do not agree with the numbers from 1978. In 1977, the press reported that he had 44 medals. In 1978, he won two finals which should have made his total 46 (not 42) medals. Since the reporters in the grandstand invariably asked him how many medals he had, perhaps either he or his wife, Susan, totalled them up after 1978, and came up with a revised (accurate?) number.*] Club mate, Jim Dietz, won the 500 Metre Dash, Open Singles for the 11th time. It was his 42nd Henley medal.

The dashes aside, one of the most exciting races of the day was the Junior 155-lb. Fours (Coxswain), in which a Club España crew narrowly beat a London R.C. crew "with a final tug on the oars." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 13, 1979, p.18]

Another new event, the Lightweight Women's Pairs, was decisively won by two schoolteachers, Rosslyn Barnard and Andrea Giles, representing Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

The 500 Metre Dash, Eights was taken by a Leander B.C. crew. The stern four of that boat also won the first race on Sunday, Senior Fours, and the same eight won the last race on Sunday, Senior Eights.

Following the dashes, five Open races were held: singles, doubles, pairs, coxed fours, and eights. While the results had no bearing on the points standings, the races gave CARA an opportunity to assess the demand for races for national and/or composite competitors who were not allowed to compete in the regular club events.

An unexpected ceremony was held on Saturday. CARA President, Wes Kuran announced to the grandstand crowd that the Maple Leaf Trophy for the Regatta points championship was going to be awarded for the last time. He then presented it to St. Catharines R.C. President, Jim Stone, to keep. With one more day of competition to go, it was a foregone conclusion that St. Catharines would win its 19th consecutive points championship. Making the presentation on Saturday, cleared the way for the presentation of the new St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Association Efficiency Award on Sunday.

Larry Klecatsky and Jim Dietz contributed to four wins for the New York A.C. on Sunday. Together with Scott Roop and Mike Verlin, they won the third final of the day, the Senior Quads. Then Klecatsky and Dietz combined to win the Senior Doubles. Dietz followed that with a win in the the Championship Singles for the 10th time and Klecatsky finished the day by winning the Senior 155-lb. Singles for the ninth time. The wins raised Klecatsky's Henley medal total to 47, and Dietz' to 45. An error in a photo caption may be the source of a miscount of Klecatsky's medal total. In the caption he is credited with winning the Senior 145-lb. Singles. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 13, 1979, p.17] However, that race was won by Tom Hazeltine from the Undine Barge Club. Klecatsky was not in that race.

In his coverage of the last day of the Regatta, Donald Ramsay, *Globe and Mail* reporter, includes a few paragraphs about Klecatsky and Dietz, in which Dietz declares,

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

“Larry is probably the greatest sculler in North America.” [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 13, 1979, p.S13]. That view seems to have been shared by the U.S. National Rowing Foundation which had inducted him into its National Rowing Hall of Fame the previous December.

In addition to the 25 regular finals, Sunday’s programme included a novelty race to mark the 150th anniversary of the Welland Canals and their founder, William Hamilton Merritt. Between 1829 and 1932, three canals used all or part of the body of water which was now the Henley course, so it was only fitting that the Canadian Henley should take part in the sesquicentennial anniversary celebrations. To that end, a fun 500-metre dash for eights was run. It was won by a Don R.C. crew. Since competitors were encouraged to dress in period costume, the Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation presented the best costume award to the sixth-place crew, the South Niagara Bloomers. Immediately following that race, the Senior Pairs final was rowed, and the winning Detroit B.C. pair received, the William Hamilton Merritt Trophy.

The premier women’s single final, the Senior Women’s Singles, was won by Trice Cameron, now sculling for the Ridley Graduate B.C..

The premier women’s eight race was a row-over after the Ottawa R.C. and University of Minnesota crews scratched. A St. Catharines R.C. crew took home the medals.

The final race of the Regatta, the Senior Eights, which is called the Championship Eights in the programme, was won by a Leander B.C. crew.

After several years of discussing the issue, a new points trophy, called the St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Association Efficiency Award, was introduced. As the name suggests, efficiency was the key element, in contrast to the Maple Leaf Trophy which invariably went to big clubs with many entries. The new trophy was proposed and lobbied for by longtime Chief Scorer, Dan Kostuk.

The 1979 programme explains the Efficiency Award scoring this way:

To qualify for a chance at the new trophy, a club must have at least 14 participants involved in the regatta, enter and row in at least four different events, one of which must be a sweep oar race and qualify in at least four finals, one also being a sweep event.

The Maple Leaf Trophy scoring system will be used to determine the maximum points available in each event. This total will be divided into the actual points won by the club in each event to determine scoring. [97th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta souvenir booklet, p.15]

Even though the Maple Leaf Trophy had been officially retired in 1977, the intention was to keep both trophies in competition. As the programme states, in a wonderful example of gibberish, “the two point trophies are designed to compliment [sic] each other and each requires the other to demonstrate its relative value in the over-all regatta picture.” [97th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta souvenir booklet, p.15] However, the Maple Leaf Trophy was retired—once and for all—on Saturday after being presented to the St. Catharines R.C. for the 19th consecutive time.

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

Between 1949, when it was first presented, and 1979, when it was last presented, the Maple Leaf Trophy was won by only three clubs: St. Catharines R.C. (22 times), West Side R.C. (6 times), and Detroit B.C. (3 times).



The Brockville R.C., with an efficiency of .730, (i.e. it achieved 73% of the points it potentially could) was the first winner of the St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Association Efficiency Award.

One weakness in the calculation of the points for the new trophy was revealed with Brockville's win. The original explanation of the scoring specifies that to be eligible, a club must be entered in at least one sweep oar final. Brockville fulfilled that requirement; it was entered in five. However, after the fact, C.A.R.A. officials realized that Brockville had no scullers in a final. To remedy that oversight, the wording was changed to specify that to qualify for the St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Association Efficiency Award, a club must compete in "at least one sweep oared event and one sculling event." Had that requirement been in place in 1979, New York A.C., with an efficiency of 65.7% would have won. NYAC was in 14 finals: 12 sculling events and two sweep oar events.

All the winners and times for the 1979 Canadian Henley Regatta can be found in tabular form at: <http://goldmedalphotos.com/records.html>

All the results from all the races in all the Regattas from 1964 to 1999 are available in an appendix at the end of Chapter 6.

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

Below is a list of 65 of the 73 clubs that competed at the 1979 Regatta. In the parentheses are the number of entries, which gives an idea of the relative size of the club, followed by the number of wins, which suggests the relative strength of the club. *[Entries in the heats are not included. I don't have the programme inserts, and the press did not report those results. That's why some clubs are missing from the list; they were in heats only and did not advance to the finals.]*

Neither the five Open races that were part of Saturday's programme—for which I don't have the complete results—nor the Exhibition Old Timers' dash are included in these numbers.

The inclusion of the Regina R.C. from Saskatchewan, meant that Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island were the only provinces not represented at the Canadian Championships.

Of the 73 clubs competing, 28, (38%) won finals, led by New York A.C. with nine.

Argonaut R.C.	(1/0)	Toronto, Ontario
Boucherville R.C.	(6/1)	Boucherville, Quebec
Brock University	(4/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Brockville R.C.	(5/3)	Brockville, Ontario
Burnaby Lake Aquatic Club	(1/0)	Burnaby, British Columbia
Calgary R.C.	(9/0)	Calgary, Alberta
Cornwall R.C.	(1/0)	Cornwall, Ontario
Don R.C.	(5/0)	Port Credit, Ontario
Edmonton R.C.	(1/0)	Edmonton, Alberta
Hanlan B.C.	(13/3)	Toronto, Ontario
Kennebecasis R.C.	(2/0)	Rothsay, New Brunswick
Kingston R.C.	(7/2)	Kingston, Ontario
Laval R.C.	(1/1)	Laval, Quebec
Leander B.C.	(12/6)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(9/0)	London, Ontario
Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club	(2/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Montreal International R.C.	(1/0)	Montreal, Quebec
North Star R.C.	(1/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Ottawa R.C.	(4/0)	Ottawa, Ontario
Peterborough R.C.	(3/0)	Peterborough, Ontario
Regina R.C.	(2/0)	Regina, Saskatchewan
Ridley Graduate B.C.	(6/1)	St. Catharines, Ontario
St. Catharines R.C.	(36/7)	St. Catharines, Ontario
South Niagara R.C.	(9/0)	Welland, Ontario
Thunder Bay R.C.	(2/0)	Thunder Bay, Ontario
University of Victoria	(3/0)	Victoria, British Columbia
University of Western Ontario	(14/4)	London, Ontario
Vancouver R.C.	(3/0)	Vancouver, British Columbia
Victoria City R.C.	(20/6)	Victoria, British Columbia

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Windsor Crew	(1/0)	Windsor, Ontario
Winnipeg R.C.	(2/0)	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Woodstock R.C.	(1/0)	Woodstock, Ontario

American entries:

Craftsbury Sculling Center	(1/0)	Craftsbury Common, Vermont
Crescent B.C.	(2/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Dartmouth R.C.	(2/0)	Hanover, New Hampshire
Detroit B.C.	(14/4)	Detroit, Michigan
Durham B.C.	(5/1)	Durham, New Hampshire
Eastern Development Camp	(2/2)	Boston, Massachusetts
Ecorse B.C.	(4/1)	Ecorse, Michigan
Fairmount R.A.	(3/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Florida A.C.	(3/1)	Winter Park, Florida
Holy Cross Crew	(2/1)	Worcester, Massachusetts
Independence R.C.	(2/0)	Nashua, New Hampshire
Lake Washington R.C.	(7/0)	Seattle, Washington
Malta B.C.	(5/1)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Minneapolis R.C.	(4/0)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Minnesota B.C.	(3/0)	St. Paul, Minnesota
Narragansett B.C.	(2/1)	Providence, Rhode Island
New York A.C.	(14/9)	New York, New York
Northeastern University	(1/0)	Boston, Massachusetts
Philadelphia Girls' R.C.	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Potomac B.C.	(3/2)	Washington, District of Columbia
Princeton University	(1/0)	Princeton, New Jersey
Remex R.C.	(2/0)	Jacksonville, Florida
Rochester R.C.	(1/0)	Rochester, New York
Syracuse Chargers R.C.	(7/1)	Syracuse, New York
Undine Barge Club	(5/1)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
University of Minnesota	(5/1)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Vesper B.C.	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(12/1)	Buffalo, New York
Wyandotte B.C.	(9/2)	Wyandotte, Michigan

Australian entries:

Melbourne YWCA	(2/1)	Melbourne, Australia
Monash University	(2/1)	Melbourne, Australia

Mexican entries:

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Club España	(3/1)	Mexico City, Mexico
UPIICSA-IPN [<i>La Unidad Profesional Interdisciplinaria de Ingeniería y Ciencias Sociales y Administrativas - Instituto Politécnico Nacional</i>]		
	(1/0)	Mexico City, Mexico

CARA's annual meeting was held in Victoria, British Columbia on November 23, 24, and 25, with delegates from 34 clubs in attendance.

The CARA Officers for 1980 were:

Past-President: Wes Kuran, Ottawa

President: Ben TeKamp, Brockville

1st Vice-President: Sam Craig, Toronto

2nd Vice-President: Tom St. Onge, Dartmouth

3rd Vice-President: Tony Carr, Mill Bay

Secretary: Thomas Croston, Mississauga

Treasurer: Jim Pogue, Port Credit

Executive Director: Rodger Sellars, Ottawa

Regatta Co-Ordinator: Claude Saunders, Hamilton

National Team Co-Ordinator: vacant

The position of National Team Co-ordinator was vacant at the time of the annual meeting. Tudor Bompá, had held the position since late 1975. He had had international success in his native Romania before emigrating to Canada in 1970, and in almost four years, had begun to duplicate that success with his Canadian teams. He was blunt in explaining his resignation:

"Although the program proved to be a success, some members of the CARA executive who probably have never had any experience in coaching have suddenly become specialists and there has been unwarranted interference of late," Bompá charged. "It reached the point where I could not do my job any more." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 7, 1979, p.21]

Another position—Technical Co-Ordinator—which had been temporarily filled by Phil Monkton, was subsequently filled by Jim Joy, Jr. who was based in Ottawa.

Jim Pogue took over the Treasurer's position with the retirement of Bill Smiley. When Smiley assumed the position in 1975, the Association was \$40,000 in debt. However, in his last report, he informed the delegates that the debt had been wiped out, and that there was now a surplus of \$3,345. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 27, 1979, p.34]

Although there were three rowing clubs based in St. Catharines, including the biggest and most successful one in the country, for the first time in years, no one from St. Catharines was a CARA Officer.

The 1980 Executive Committee was made up of these Chairmen:

Awards: James Minards, St. Catharines and Peter King, Ottawa

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Constitution: Rodger Sellars, Ottawa

Finance: Jim Pogue, Port Credit

Grants: Pat Hughes, St. Catharines

Medical: Dr. John Stewart, St. Catharines

Public Relations: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines and Peter King, Ottawa

Referees: Claude Saunders, Hamilton

Most of the meetings seem to have dealt with the national programmes in anticipation of the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. Only a few items covered in the press have any connection to the Canadian Henley, and those items are only tangentially related: Canada Post was going to issue a commemorative postage stamp in 1980 to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen; a revised constitution and rules of racing handbook was to be published; and the motion that all rowers should have thorough medicals and stress tests before being allowed to row was approved.

1979

PLEASE NOTE: This History is a work in progress. I will post chapters as I finish them and I will make changes to chapters which are already posted as I become aware of new information, or have errors pointed out to me. This version was completed on September 4, 2023. If you find errors or omissions, use the Contact link at <http://goldmedalphotos.com/> to point them out to me. Stan Lapinski.