

**The 82nd Regatta
of the
Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen
The 59th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta
July 22 to 25, 1964**

At the St. Catharines R.C.'s annual Captain's Dinner, on February 28, James McNulty, Member of Parliament for Lincoln, announced that the federal government would finance the dredging of the Henley course. The \$300,000 project was part of the preparation for the world regatta to be held in Canada's centennial year, 1967.

In a reversal of policy, at a meeting in March, the Executive Committee of the CAAO

decided to give Olympic trial winners automatic berths in the finals of corresponding Henley events.

....

In addition . . . , the association will allow the Olympic oarsmen a free rein in other rowing competitions up until their departure for Japan in September.

In the past, Olympic oarsmen have been prohibited from rowing in regattas between the trials and the Olympics.

"Past experience has shown our Canadian Olympic crews lack competitive experience," said association president T.E. Norris of Toronto.

"That's how the Europeans have progressed to such an extent in rowing in the last 10 years. We should give our Olympic oarsmen every chance to gain additional competitive experience before they leave for Japan." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, March 16, 1964, p.28]

Other than the University of British Columbia's insistence that the trials be held separately, and not as part of the Henley Regatta, the 1964 trials lacked the drama of previous trials. Even the size of the team—15—normally a bone of contention between the CAAO and the Canadian Olympic Association, was accepted without argument. However, in May, CAAO President Ted Norris suggested that the team might be increased by one. It would comprise an eight a straight four, two spares and a sculler. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, May 22, 1964, p.41]

The team named by the CAAO selection committee consisted of a Vancouver R.C./University of British Columbia eight, a St. Catharines R.C. four, and Argonaut R.C. sculler, Leif Gotfredsen. Roger Jackson and Wayne Pretty from the VRC/UBC four that had placed second in the trials, were named as the spares/pair.

As in the past, the clubs of the trials winners were required to pay \$200 per man to "the Canadian Olympic Association as its share of the fare and board for the crew." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 23, 1968, p.24]

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Donors to the Canadian Olympic Rowing Fund received a window decal.

Although the decision to row 2,000 metres was made at the CAAO's annual meeting the previous November, the 1964 programme inserts say, "The straightaway course is 1 mile, 550 yards, the Henley distance." The intention seems to have been to revert to the traditional distance in 1965, however, with a FISA-sanctioned world regatta looming in 1967, 2,000 metres would be made permanent at the 1964 annual meeting.

Another noticeable change at the 82nd Regatta was the reduction in the number of finals. With four high school events dropped from the programme, only 37 finals were contested. The High School Eights was the only high school race still on the programme.

In an effort to encourage St. Catharines residents to attend the Regatta, a local publicity blitz was held which included a number of campaigns from billboards to bumper stickers to tags which proclaimed, "I'm Helping Support the Henley Regatta!" Pictured is the bumper sticker which was distributed by the Henley Aquatic Association.



Besides publicity to attract spectators to the grandstand, an effort to get donations from people watching from vantage points outside the grandstand was attempted.

On regatta days, pretty gals will be making the rounds along the banks of the rowing course, tagging [i.e. selling tags to] those who are watching the races for free.

This, of course, represents a real break-through. For years now, the Henley Aquatic Association was able to charge only those entering the grandstand. This time, everyone who watches get [sic] to help the cause. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 21, 1964, p.15]

An estimated 600 oarsmen—including 10 from two Mexico City clubs—competed at the 1964 Henley.

As usual, heats were held Wednesday morning for the Junior 155-lb. and 135-lb. Singles. The afternoon finals were won by two Vesper B.C. scullers, Bob Hardegan in the former, and Paul Reichenbach in the latter. Reichenbach was a student at St. Joseph's Preparatory School, where Hardegan coached crew. Together, they had won the Junior and Senior 145-lb. Doubles in 1963, but were able to take advantage of a CAAO rule which allowed a sculler who had won a Junior and/or Senior doubles event to "retain his

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Junior status as a Junior Singles Sculler, until such time as he has qualified as a Senior Sculler by winning a Junior Singles Sculling race.” [*Constitution and By-Laws of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen*, p.14, 1950]

Wednesday’s programme concluded with 18 scullers competing to narrow the field to six, in three heats for the Junior Singles.

Competitors had to contend with a strong headwind on Thursday. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 24, 1964, p.18]

Of the seven club finals, St. Catharines R.C. crews won four.

In addition, the only high school event still on the programme, the High School Eights, and the Calder Cleland Memorial Trophy, was won by the St. Catharines C.I.. The distance remained the traditional high school distance, one mile [1,609 metres]. The published value of the Calder Cleland Memorial Trophy was \$50,000. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 24, 1964, p.26]

The Canadian Olympic eight made its first appearance on Thursday, in a heat for the Quarter Mile Dash, Eights. Rowing the shell they had borrowed for the trials from the West Side R.C., they won their heat by half an open length, with a time that was 10.4 seconds faster than the other heat. An impressive result into a headwind.

A strong—12-knot [13.8 mph, or 22.2 kph]—headwind and choppy water tested boatmanship on Friday. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 25, 1964, p.19] Only one crew broke seven minutes over the 2,000 metre course. The Argonaut R.C. eight which placed third at the trials, won the Junior Eights in 6:46.5, but came second to the Vancouver R.C./University of British Columbia’s Olympic eight in the Quarter-Mile Dash, Eights. Bob Hardegan’s times provide another illustration of the strength of the wind on Friday. The Vesper B.C. sculler won the Junior 155-lb. Singles on Wednesday in 7:25. On Friday, he won the Senior in 8:32.1, 52.9 seconds slower.

The entire Canadian Olympic team saw action. Both halves of the VRC/UBC eight contested the Senior Fours (Coxswain), with one crew winning, and the other coming third behind a West Side R.C. crew. The St. Catharines R.C. Olympic four did not finish the coxed four race because flu-stricken bow man, Daryl MacDonald, passed out.

Canada’s Olympic sculler, Leif Gotfredsen, from the Argonaut R.C., placed second in the Association Singles behind Jeff Kreger from the Wyandotte B.C..

Gotfredsen got some revenge on Saturday. Because he had won the trials, he was given an automatic berth in the Championship Singles and took that opportunity to decisively beat Kreger.

Both English and French CBC-TV crews were on hand on Saturday. Highlights of Saturday’s finals and the Olympic trials were broadcast in English on Sunday afternoon’s *World of Sports* programme.

As usual, CBC-Radio had live reports on Saturday, and of course, CKTB’s Rex Stimers covered the entire Regatta.

Watching the action live, was an estimated crowd of 10,000 spectators. [The *Toronto Globe and Mail*, July 27, 1964, p.21] A number of attractions contributed to the exceptionally large crowd: there was high-quality racing, of course, plus the presence of the Canadian Olympic team. A sculling demonstration by Bob Pearce was also promoted.

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Since he had not competed since 1938, there must have been many in the crowd who were there to see a living legend. However, the major attraction was probably Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson and his party who occupied the royal box. He was the first Canadian Prime Minister to attend the Regatta.

The 82nd Regatta “wound up in 90-degree, heat and light winds.” [The New York *Times*, July 26, 1964, Section S, p.7] “[F]ast water and a slight following breeze contributed to excellent times throughout Saturday’s entire program.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 27, 1964, p.17]

For the third year in a row, Peter Johnson from the Shrewsbury R.A., won the Senior 145-lb. Singles.

The St. Catharines R.C.’s Olympic-bound four did not compete, owing to Darryl MacDonald’s illness. Their race, the Senior Fours, was won by a West Side R.C. crew.

To the surprise of no one, the Vancouver R.C./University of British Columbia Olympic eight won the Senior Eights in 5:36.6, which was 20 seconds better than the existing Olympic record.

With the exceptions of the Senior Eights, and the Quarter-Mile Dash, Eights won by the VRC/UBC, and the Junior Eights won by the Argonaut R.C., the St. Catharines R.C. dominated the eights category, winning six of the nine events, and sweeping the lightweight eights events. The points garnered by those wins helped significantly to make the St. Catharines R.C. Regatta champions for the fourth consecutive year.



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Above, Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson presents the Maple Leaf Trophy to St. Catharines R.C. President Fred Marlow, while CAAO President Ted Norris, left, and St. Catharines R.C. Captain Don Baker, right, look on.

All the winners and times for the 1964 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 29 participating clubs at the 1964 Canadian Henley 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.

Argonaut R.C.	(23/2)	Toronto, Ontario
Brockville R.C.	(5/0)	Brockville, Ontario
Don R.C.	(8/3)	Port Credit, Ontario
Fort William R.C.	(1/0)	Fort William, Ontario
Leander B.C.	(22/1)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(4/0)	London, Ontario
North Star R.C.	(5/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Ottawa R.C.	(6/0)	Ottawa, Ontario
St. Catharines R.C.	(42/10)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Vancouver R.C./University of British Columbia	(8/3)	Vancouver, British Columbia
Winnipeg R.C.	(3/0)	Winnipeg, Manitoba

American entries:

College B.C.	(2/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Detroit B.C.	(15/2)	Detroit, Michigan
Ecorse B.C.	(7/1)	Ecorse, Michigan
Lake Washington R.C.	(2/0)	Seattle, Washington
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	(2/0)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Minnesota B.C.	(10/1)	St. Paul, Minnesota
New York A.C.	(10/1)	New York, New York
Niagara Frontier R.C.	(3/0)	Tonawanda, New York
Oyster Bay R.A.	(8/1)	Mill Neck, New York
Potomac B.C.	(1/0)	Washington, District of Columbia
Shrewsbury R.A.	(2/1)	Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
Undine Barge Club	(5/2)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Union B.C.	(1/0)	Boston, Massachusetts
Vesper B.C.	(11/3)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(28/4)	Buffalo, New York

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Wyandotte B.C. (13/1) Wyandotte, Michigan

Mexican entries:

Club de Remo Antares 7/0 Mexico City, Mexico

Lakeside R.C. (6/0) Mexico City, Mexico

High school entries:

Delta S.S. (1/0) Hamilton, Ontario

Lakeport S.S. (1/0) St. Catharines, Ontario

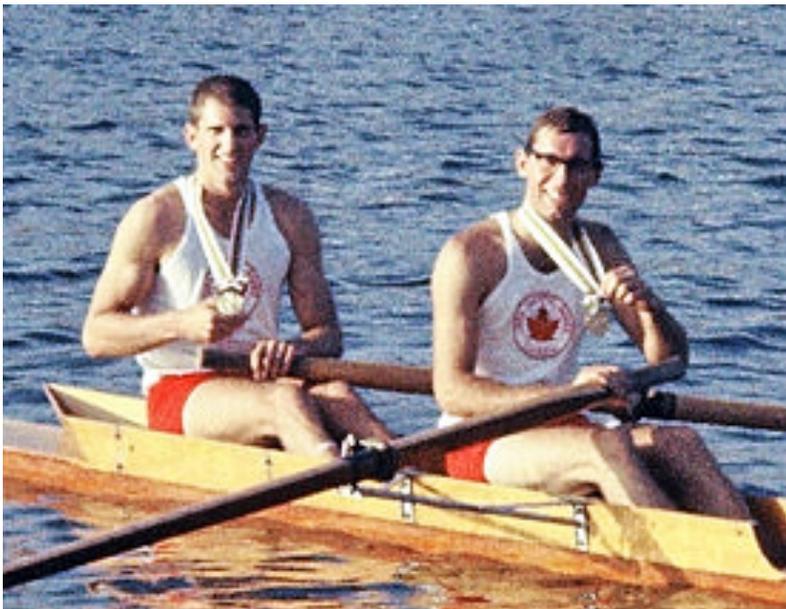
Our Lady of Mount Carmel H.S. (1/0) Wyandotte, Michigan

St. Catharines C.I. (1/1) St. Catharines, Ontario

Only four high schools competed in the one high school event, a sharp drop from the 21 schools that were entered in the five high school events in 1963.

Not long after the 1964 Regatta, George Hungerford, a member of the Vancouver R.C./University of British Columbia eight that was to represent Canada at the Tokyo Olympic Games in October, was diagnosed with mononucleosis. He was taken out of the boat, and his seat was filled by Wayne Pretty who had been training in the pair with Roger Jackson. That left Jackson without a partner, but he continued to train in a single. However, by the end of September, Hungerford, still weak, was well enough to join Jackson in the pair. After six weeks of training together: "No-one had a clue as to whether we would be competitive but before we went to Tokyo, the great coach Frank Read came to watch us row in VCR harbour and said he thought we were really a good and powerful pair." [Jackson, Roger. "Re: Tokyo 1964." Message to Stan Lapinski. March 28, 2021. Email.]

Their first race together was their heat on October 11, which they won with the



best time of the three heats. They accomplished that in a borrowed shell without a rudder. "‘We don’t need a rudder,’ Jackson maintained. ‘Without a rudder we depend entirely on each other. That’s the kind of pair we are.’" [The Toronto *Daily Star*, October 13, 1964, p.13] Their shell was borrowed from the University of Washington. Unknown to them at the time, it was the shell George Pocock had built for the U.S.A. pair that won gold at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. [Jackson, Roger. "Re: Tokyo 1964." Message to Stan Lapinski. March 29, 2021. Email.]

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Their second race together was on October 15, when they won Canada's only gold medal at the 1964 Olympics.

Above, George Hungerford (bow) and Roger Jackson with their gold medals on the Toda Rowing Course near Tokyo.

None of the other Canadian boats made it to the finals. Leif Gotfredsen finished 8th, the highly-touted eight finished 9th, and the straight four finished 11th.

On the other hand, the United Team of Germany, which was composed of East and West German oarsmen, won medals in four of the seven Olympic events. Their nationally-funded programme was becoming the model for other countries to follow, if they wanted to be successful at international regattas.



The annual meeting of the CAAO was held in Toronto at the Seaway Motor Hotel on Saturday, November 14.

The Officers elected for 1965 were the same as 1964, but Harry Harper tendered his resignation and Thomas Finan was appointed the new Treasurer.

Honorary President: Charles M. Adams, Lachine

President: Ted E. Norris, Toronto

1st Vice-President: Russell R. Wood, St. Catharines

2nd Vice-President: F.J. Exner, Port Credit

Secretary: John L. Murray, Kingston

Treasurer: Thomas E. Finan, Toronto

Publicity Director: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines

Regatta Chairman: Claude Saunders, Hamilton

Executive Committee was the same as 1963:

Anthony Biernacki, Ottawa, Les Callan, Vancouver, C. Alex Champion, St. Catharines, George E. Flannery, Hamilton, P.W. Grant, G.W. Hately, W.T.E. "Bill" Jolliffe, Montreal, N.J. Lundvall, Gerald F. Martin, Toronto, Duncan Matheson, Brockville, and W.K. "Noel" Shrimpton, Port Credit.

Two major items were resolved at the annual meeting. One was the formal confirmation of the 2,000 metre distance at the Canadian Henley. Expediency played a role in that decision, since the course was being dredged to the FISA, i.e. 2,000 metre standard, not the Henley distance.

The second decision was the reintroduction of pairs events.

The last time this class was rowed at the Canadian championships was in 1952. However, with Roger Jackson and George Hungerford winning it at the Tokyo Olympics this year, the Association felt the event should be re-introduced into the Henley. [The Toronto *Daily Star*, November 16, 1964, p.16]

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For their accomplishment, Roger Jackson and George Hungerford were named co-winners of the Lou Marsh Trophy for 1964. The award was presented annually to Canada's top athlete—amateur or professional, male or female. Bob Pearce had won it in 1938, and Theo Dubois in 1941.

Someone—it must have been a member of the Canadian Olympic Association—when the topic of women's rowing was being discussed at a meeting at the Tokyo Olympics, made a very strange contribution to the discussion: "In Canada, that 1964 meeting in Tokyo was brusquely told, an attempt to introduce women's rowing had 'failed totally'. [Owen, David. (2018, April 22). *Persuasion: how women's rowing secured a place on the Olympic programme*. <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1064263/persuasion-how-womens-rowing-secured-a-place-on-the-olympic-programme>] It would be interesting to know who made that odd statement, and to which "failed" attempt he was referring. Could it have been the 1947 and 1948 women's programme at the St. Catharines R.C.? If so, that would have been a reference to a programme that ceased for lack of competition, 16 years earlier. In any case, it illustrates what Canadian sports officials were thinking.

While the CAAO was not interested in women's rowing, and there was no plan to introduce women's events at Henley, women's rowing in the United States was slowly growing. In 1964, women's (and mixed) events were held at five regattas, including the National Women's Rowing Association's first annual Championship Regatta in Oakland, California, and the Kelowna Regatta in Kelowna, British Columbia. [*N.A.A.O. Rowing Guide 1965*, p.269]

1964

**The 83rd Regatta
of the
Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen
The 60th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta
July 28 to 31, 1965**



In a practice reminiscent of 19th century Regattas, an outline of Regatta-related social functions happening during Henley week appeared on the society page of the *Standard*, complete with the names of the honoured guests. Between Tuesday and Saturday, Regatta attendees had their choice of three luncheons, two receptions, and one each of a cocktail party, open house, reunion, teen dance (aka Regatta Romp), and barbecue. [The *St. Catharines Standard*, July 28, 1965, p.18]

Several changes in officiating practices were instituted at the 83rd Regatta.

“[W]e held a comprehensive officiating clinic this spring and only licensed graduates from the course will be working this week’s regatta,” [Regatta Chairman, Claude] Saunders [stated]. “We’ve brought our officiating into line with international rowing and I’m confident it will make for a better Henley.” [The *St. Catharines Standard*, July 28, 1965, p.30]

Two of the innovations involved paperwork for Referees and Finish Judges. The former had to submit a form which noted wind, weather, water, and problems during each race. In the event of a protest, those forms were used as evidence. The Finish Judges were assigned specific placing. Chief Judge, Merrill Blank was responsible for first place, while five other judges were each responsible for one of the placements following first. Each filled out a report after every race.

Starts were changed too. In the past, the Starter said, “Are you ready?” and immediately fired his gun. It was common practice for competitors to take advantage of that by starting on the word “ready” thus jumping the gun by a fraction of a second. Beginning in 1965, there would be at least a three second pause before the gun was fired. [The *St. Catharines Standard*, July 28, 1965, p.30]

Wednesday morning heats were necessary for the Junior 155-lb. Singles. Claude Saunders, Jr. from the Leander B.C. was the ultimate winner in the afternoon final. He

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was the son of Claude Saunders, Sr., President of the Leander B.C., and Henley Regatta Chairman. He would also win the Junior 145-lb. Singles on Friday.

In the minutes before the photo below was taken, the crews would have backed into their assigned lanes, the boat holders would have grasped the sterns, and the bow men would have straightened their boats. When the Starter was satisfied that every crew was straight, he would have announced into a megaphone, "Are you ready?" and after a distinct pause, fired the gun.



The photo shows the start of one of the heats for the Junior Fours. The white puff of smoke from the Starter's shotgun, and the fact that the boys are still holding the sterns of the shells, indicate the race has just begun. In a motor boat in the distance, a Referee is holding up a white flag. The flag stayed up for 20 seconds unless there was a problem. If a problem occurred, the flag was dropped and a gun fired to stop the race. The Referee would then address the problem and order a re-start.

The afternoon of the first day of racing at the 83rd Regatta finished with four heats for the Junior Singles. Twenty scullers were entered, but only the winners of the heats advanced.

The big news on Thursday was the showing of the Argonaut R.C. crews. While two firsts and two seconds might not be headline news in St. Catharines, Buffalo, or Detroit, the Toronto newspapers were a-twitter with excitement, proclaiming a new era in Argo rowing. The wins came in the Junior 145-lb. Fours and Junior Fours. Argos would also win the Junior and Senior 155-lb. Fours, and the Junior Eights for the second year in a row.

It's not often that we are given a glimpse into the coaching and training philosophy of a club, but here is what the Argonaut R.C. had done to achieve their most successful Henley since 1944, the last year Argos won five finals:

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At least four factors have apparently contributed to helping the Argos in their bid to regain the rowing prestige they held 30 years ago, in the era of Joe Wright and Jack Guest.

According to [coach, Bo] Westlake they changed their rowing style (“something the Argos haven’t done in 40 years”) tailoring it along the lines of St. Catharines, Detroit and Philadelphia Vespers.

SIT UP

“After all they’ve been winning races with the more upright style,” said former Argo president Ted Norris, now a finish line judge. “Why shouldn’t the Argos follow suit?”

The Toronto club also started training almost four months earlier than usual, starting their workouts last November rather than waiting until Spring.

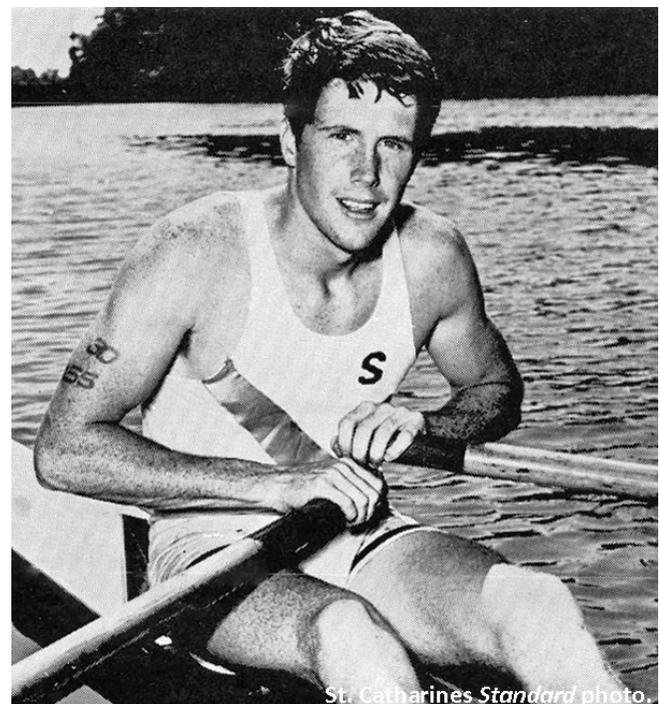
And they also changed their training technique, using weights during the winter months rather than concentrating strictly on rowing machines.

The Argos also brought in the highly-successful Detroit coach Ken Blue for instructional periods during the winter and sent their coaches to a coaching clinic at Cornell university [sic]. [The Toronto *Daily Star*, July 30, 1965, p.9]

It’s not too much of an exaggeration to say that the Argo style had moved into the 20th century.

The last final on Thursday was the High School Eights which was won for the third consecutive year by a St. Catharines C.I. crew. High school crews competing at the Canadian Henley were often thrown together on the day the entries were submitted to the CAAO. However, this Collegiate crew was an exception to that practice. They had been together since the spring and won the Championship Eights at the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association’s 20th Annual Regatta. Both they and the crew they narrowly beat from Shawnigan Lake School in Shawnigan Lake, British Columbia, had plans to go to the Henley Royal Regatta, and enter the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup. The Collegiate’s win qualified them for financial support from the National Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sport, and the CAAO. Undeterred, the Shawnigan Lake School crew paid its own way, and beat the Collegiate crew in their second heat on the River Thames. It was that much-travelled Collegiate eight that won the Calder Cleland Memorial Trophy on Thursday.

The Shrewsbury R.A.’s 19-year-old Peter Johnson (right) moved up a weight class and won the Senior 155-lb. Singles on Friday. He is pictured after that race. The stamps on his right bicep tell a story: the “30” says he was weighed in on August 30; the “155” says he weighed 155 lbs. [70.3 kg] or less. On Saturday, he won the Senior 145-lb. Singles for the fourth time in a row. The stamps on his bicep would have read “31” and “145” to indicate he had weighed in on the 31st and weighed 145



St. Catharines *Standard* photo.

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lbs. [65.8 kg] or less. This form of security had been around for several years, and was meant to confirm to the Clerk of the Course and the Marshall of the Floats that lightweights putting their boats on the water had made weight on the day of their race.

Thanks to Canada's gold medal at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, pairs events returned to the Henley programme for the first time since 1952. Straight pairs and coxed pairs were regular events at the U.S. National Regatta, so it was no surprise that four of the five entries in both the Junior and Senior Pairs were American. The first ever Junior event on Friday was won by Tom Perkins and Dan Gardiner from the Union B.C., while the Potomac B.C.'s George Baum and Russ Carmody won the Senior on Saturday.

Once again in 1965, CBC-TV crews were on hand Saturday, and an hour-long recap was broadcast on Sunday afternoon.

However, as an experiment, CBC cameras provided live feeds on Saturday to eight 23" television receivers in the grandstand—four at the front for box seat patrons, and four off to the sides near the back. The televisions were meant to complement race announcer Jim Secord's coverage of each race from a boat on the course. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 29, 1965, p.28]

CBC-Radio broadcast reports from 3:30 p.m.. The Canadian Henley had to share air time with the National Diving and Swimming Meet in Red Deer, Alberta.

And, of course, Rex Stimers covered the entire Regatta for CKTB.



REX STIMERS
FAMOUS CKTB SPORTSCASTER

WHO FOR THE 32nd YEAR
IS BROADCASTING THE HENLEY
EVENTS DIRECT FROM THE
COURSE AT PORT DALHOUSIE
OVER

CKTB
DIAL
610
The Niagara District Station

The Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. Official Programme. 1965. p.42.

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Bill Maher, a 19-year-old sculler from the Detroit B.C., and winner of the Junior Singles, staged an upset victory in the Championship Singles, beating 25 year-old Dave Robinson from the Fairmount R.A.. On Friday, in the Association Singles, Robinson had beat Maher.

“The times in all events were relatively slow because of a brisk headwind.” [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 2, 1965, p.21]



The photo above gives an idea of how “brisk” the headwind was. That’s the Vesper B.C. crew crossing the finish line ahead of the St. Catharines R.C. crew in the Senior Eights. Five members of the Vesper crew were members of the USA gold medal eight from the Tokyo Olympics. The photo’s perspective is misleading. The cable with the pennants was well above the water level.

For the fifth year in a row, the St. Catharines R.C. won the Maple Leaf Trophy, the CAAO aggregate points award.

All the winners and times for the 1965 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 28 participating clubs at the 1965 Canadian Henley 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. Although the Detroit B.C. won more races than the St. Catharines R.C., the latter club had more “also ran” crews that contributed to the Club’s point total.

Argonaut R.C.	(27/5)	Toronto, Ontario
Brockville R.C.	(7/0)	Brockville, Ontario

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Chomedey R.C.	(3/0)	Chomedey, Quebec
Don R.C.	(11/1)	Port Credit, Ontario
Leander B.C.	(19/3)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(2/0)	London, Ontario
Ottawa R.C.	(3/0)	Ottawa, Ontario
St. Catharines R.C.	(28/5)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Winnipeg R.C.	(2/0)	Winnipeg, Manitoba

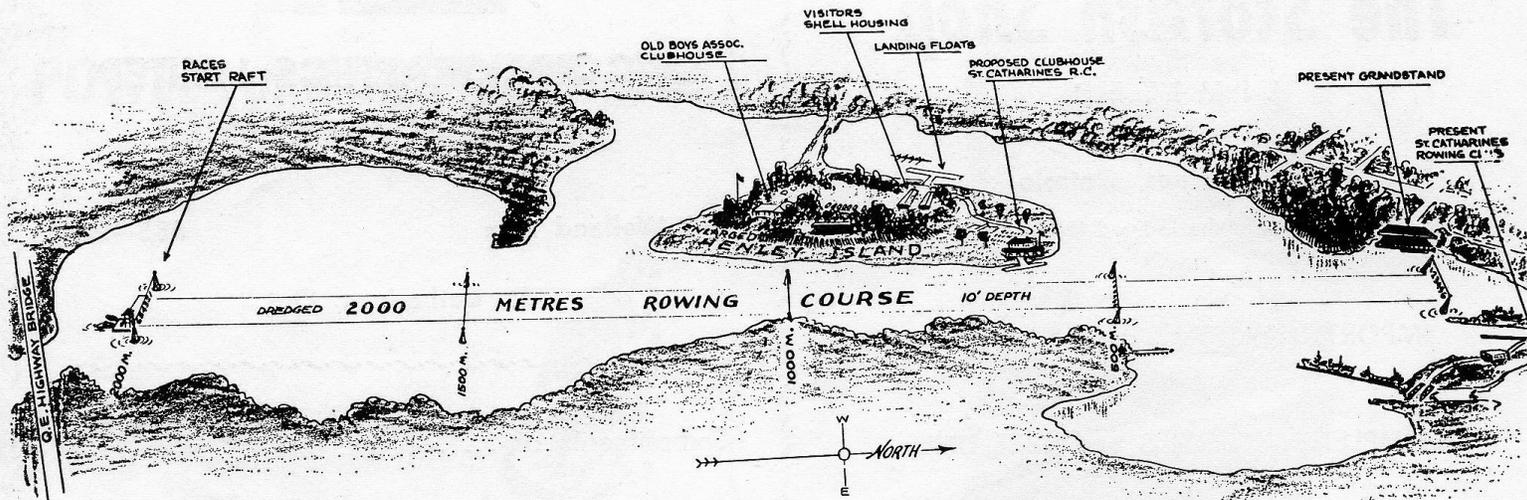
American entries:

Detroit B.C.	(23/7)	Detroit, Michigan
Ecorse B.C.	(7/0)	Ecorse, Michigan
Fairmount R.A.	(6/2)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Lincoln Park B.C.	(5/0)	Chicago, Illinois
Malta B.C.	(4/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Minnesota B.C.	(13/1)	St. Paul, Minnesota
New Rochelle R.C.	(2/0)	New Rochelle, New York
New York A.C.	(9/1)	New York, New York
Oyster Bay R.A.	(6/0)	Mill Neck, New York
Penn A.C.	(8/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Potomac B.C.	(6/1)	Washington, District of Columbia
Seattle Crew Association	(2/0)	Seattle, Washington
Shrewsbury R.A.	(4/2)	Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
Undine Barge Club	(2/1)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Union B.C.	(3/1)	Boston, Massachusetts
Upper Marion R.A.	(2/0)	King of Prussia, Pennsylvania
Vesper B.C.	(14/5)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(19/3)	Buffalo, New York
Wyandotte B.C.	(6/0)	Wyandotte, Michigan

High school entries:

Lakeport S.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Lorne Park S.S.	(1/0)	Port Credit, Ontario
Sir Winston Churchill S.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
St. Catharines C.I.	(1/1)	St. Catharines, Ontario

The Shape of Things To Come -



Planned "1967 Canada Centennial" World Regatta Course
at ST. CATHARINES ONTARIO CANADA

F.I.S.A. STANDARD DIMENSIONS

The Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, Official Programme, 1965, p.44.

The 1965 Henley programme included this sketch of the proposed changes to the course for the 1967 Canada Centennial World Regatta. Note that the actual expanded Henley Island was configured much differently from the drawing above.

The photo below gives a better idea of things to come.

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St. Catharines Museum - S1965.9.2.1.

This photo of the Henley Island expansion was taken on July 26, 1965, two days before the 83rd Regatta began. (The starting ramp, just visible in the upper left corner, has not yet been moved into position.) In the next year, the settling basins inside the berm would be filled with an estimated 220,000 cubic yards [168,200 m³] of material dredged from the course to make it a minimum of 10 feet [3 metres] deep, [Nelson, F.F., *Historical Notes from the Files of F.F. (Ted) Nelson* (unpublished memoir, 1967), p.7]. Then, 12,000 cubic yards [9,175 m³] of soil from a disused Canadian National Railway right-of-way to Port Dalhousie would add about a metre on top of the dredged material, followed by 32,000 cubic yards [24,466 m³] of clay from the bottom of the Welland Canal near Carlton Street, [figures from Nelson, F.F., *Historical Notes from the Files of F.F. (Ted) Nelson* (unpublished memoir, 1967), p.11], topped off with curb-side refuse otherwise destined for a landfill site, gravel and sand from street sweeping, and clean fill. A story persists that a derelict Volkswagen Beetle was interred inside the berm, but one eyewitness has said that although the car was towed to the Island, it was refused entry and was turned away. Just about everything else—including kitchen sinks—was buried to create the new Island.

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Although work on the course had already begun, this announcement was not published until September: "Canadian Dredge Co. Ltd. of Toronto has a \$264,250 contract for dredging the Henley Regatta course at St. Catharines." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, September 29, 1965, p.B3]

The annual meeting of the CAAO was held in Toronto on Saturday, November 20.

The Officers elected for 1966 were:

Honorary President: Ted E. Norris, Toronto
President: Russell R. Wood, St. Catharines
1st Vice-President: F.J. Exner, Port Credit
2nd Vice-President: Gerald F. Martin, Toronto
3rd Vice-President: John A. Carver, Vancouver
Secretary: John L. Murray, Kingston
Treasurer: Thomas E. Finan, Toronto
Publicity Director: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines
Regatta Chairman: Claude Saunders, Hamilton

The Executive Committee for 1966 was:

Robert J. Browne, Fort William, Les Callan, Vancouver, C. Alex Champion, St. Catharines, George E. Flannery, Hamilton, P.W. Grant, W.T.E. "Bill" Jolliffe, Montreal, David Kenny, Brockville, A.S. Kerr, Toronto, F.B. Lamont, Winnipeg, Max McDonald, London, Ronald Ralph, Ottawa, and W.K. "Noel" Shrimpton, Port Credit.

One of the items on the agenda was the creation of a new Officer, 3rd Vice-President. Given that west coast crews were coming to trials and the Canadian Henley regularly, it was only fitting that John Carver from the Vancouver R.C., should be the first person to assume that role.

The 1967 Canadian Centennial Regatta was also on the agenda. Written sanction for the event was received from the *Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Avion*, however, the course had to be inspected by Federation officials to make sure it met FISA standards.

Ted Nelson, Course Chairman of the Organizing Committee, reported "that 65,000 cubic yards [49,700 m³] of silt sand had already been dredged from the Henley Course." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 22, 1965, p.20] Dredging was to continue into the winter as long as weather permitted.

Another clinic for referees and starters was proposed. "The first clinic last winter graduated 14 qualified race officials under the new CAAO officiating standards." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 22, 1965, p.20]

Among a number of other items included on the agenda was "a plea for better press facilities at the Henley Grandstand." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 22, 1965, p.20]

And of course, it was never too early to begin lobbying for a larger rowing team at the 1968 Olympics. The meeting "[l]earned that a request had been made to the

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Canadian Olympic Association for an increase in the rowing team for the 1968 Mexico City games from 15 to 20 competitors.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 22, 1965, p.20]

The 1965 edition of the *N.A.A.O. Rowing Guide* contains a full-page advertisement for the National Women’s Rowing Association. The advertisement includes the Association’s mission statement:

The purpose of this Association of Women’s Racing groups shall be to promote rowing and sculling, regattas, and the quality of American racing, so that as a country we may better compete in European Women’s Championships and prepare for Olympic competition. [*N.A.A.O. Rowing Guide 1965*, p.388]

For an organization composed of only 16 member clubs, the NWRA had lofty and ambitious goals. Although the Vancouver R.C. is listed as one of the Association’s “Active Rowing Clubs,” there doesn’t seem to have been any organized women’s rowing in Canada, nor was there a Canadian male who was championing women’s rowing, while the American women had no less a rowing superstar than Ted Nash, who had won a gold medal at the 1960 Rome Olympics, and a bronze at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. He was the Association’s Acting Commodore. Nash co-founded the NWRA in 1963, and faced hostile reactions from officials of the NAAO for doing so. Ted’s wife, Aldina, competed for the Lake Washington R.C..

1965

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The 84th Regatta of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen The 61st Royal Canadian Henley Regatta July 27 to 30, 1966

At a meeting in St. Catharines, the Executive Committee of the CAAO decided “that this year’s Canadian Henley will be a qualifying regatta for crews and scullers seeking a berth on the national team which goes to Bled, Yugoslavia, next September.” [The Toronto *Daily Star*, February 8, 1966, p.8] In other words, there would be no separate trials.

The very popular annual coaches’ clinic was moved from the Thursday of Henley to the Argonaut R.C. on Saturday, March 19. More than 60 participants from St. John’s, Newfoundland to Victoria, British Columbia attended the CAAO clinic which was financed by a grant from the National Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sport. The clinic was conducted

by two visiting experts—Stuart MacKenzie [sic], the Australian sculler won the Diamond Sculls at the English Henley six times between 1957 and 1962, and Stan Pocock of Seattle, Wash., member of the famous U.S. shell-building family, former university [sic] of Washington sweeper, and coach of the U.S. gold-medal winning four at the 1960 Rome Olympics. [The Toronto *Daily Star*, March 21, 1966, p.22]

Mackenzie discussed sculling and Pocock focused on sweep-oar rowing.

On April 1, sports broadcasting lost one of its most powerful voices: Rex Stimers. He was better known for covering hockey and lacrosse games for St. Catharines radio station CKTB, but for 32 years, beginning in 1934, he was the voice of the Canadian Henley Regatta, not only locally, but for several years, his coverage was broadcast nationally over the CBC-Radio network. He had turned 65 years old the day before he died.

When the President of the *Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d’Aviron* paid a visit to inspect the progress of the improvements to the course and facilities, he had high praise for the renovations:

Thomas Keller of Zurich, Switzerland, president of the International Rowing Federation (FISA) flew from Zurich for a one-day meeting here with representatives of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen to discuss facilities required for the 1967 Canadian championships.

The federal government has just completed a \$500,000 dredging project on the St. Catharines Canadian Henley Regatta course and plans to install \$300,000 additional facilities for next year’s centennial regatta.

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“I think it’s wonderful,” Keller said. “I have never seen such preparation. Do all this and you will have practically a perfect rowing installation.” [The Toronto *Daily Star*, April 11, 1966, p. 14]

While Canadian officials were pleased to hear Keller’s praise, he went further, suggesting

that St. Catharines’ revamped Henley course could be the site of the 1970 World rowing championships . . . [He] said that in 1970 the quadrennial world championships must be held outside Europe.

He said the North American choice for the event would probably be made between New York City and St. Catharines. [The Toronto *Daily Star*, April 11, 1966, p.14]

And so, the seed of having the III World Rowing Championships on the Henley course was sown.

When the National Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sport announced sports grants totalling \$500,000, among the recipients was: “Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen — \$18,949 for Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, world championship trials and world championships.” [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, May 28, 1966, p.31] Presumably, the grant was to help crews and scullers coming to the 1966 Regatta to compete for spots on the Canadian team going to the II World Rowing Championships, and to help that team get to Bled, Yugoslavia.



An estimated 700 oarsmen were on hand for the 1966 Regatta. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 26, 1966, p.23] The geographical spread of the entries was a clear indication of the popularity of the Regatta. Thirteen Canadian clubs from Nova Scotia to British Columbia competed, plus 22 American clubs, and Club España from Mexico. The World Rowing Championships were a contributing factor to the number of open weight crews present. Canadian crews were trying to make the Canadian team, while American crews that had already made their team needed races before their National Regatta where they were required to compete to confirm their selection.

General admission prices to the grandstand were raised slightly for the first time since 1954. On Wednesday and Thursday, adults paid 75¢, and on Friday and Saturday, they paid \$1.00. All other prices remained the same: on Thursday and Friday, children 12 and under were admitted for free; on Friday and Saturday, they paid 50¢. Box seats

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could still be had for \$1.00 on Wednesday and Thursday, and \$1.25 on Friday and Saturday.

“With the exception of the first hour of racing in the afternoon, the events [Wednesday] were rowed in a steady drizzle.” [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, July 28, 1966, p.25] What may have been a nuisance to oarsmen, was a godsend for local fruit farmers who had not seen a heavy rainfall since June 16.

There were 13 scullers entered in the Junior 135-lb. Singles, and 14 in the 155-lb. Singles. In the latter, the name “Lou Klecatsky” appears in the press. This surely must be a mistake; it should be “Larry Klecatsky” the Minnesota B.C. sculler who first competed in 1959, when he and his brother Tom, both tried, and failed to win berths in the High School Singles final for South St. Paul H.S.. In 1966, Larry again failed to qualify. John Sonberg won the Junior 155-lb. Singles final in the afternoon, the first final of the Regatta, and the first of seven wins for the New York A.C.. The Wyandotte B.C.’s Richard Somerset emerged on top of the entries for the Junior 135-lb. Singles. After besting a dozen opponents in the Junior event, he won the Senior by default on Friday, when the three other contestants scratched. His two wins were the only ones at the 84th Regatta for the Wyandotte B.C..

The grandstand on Thursday was described as “well-filled.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 29, 1966, p.19]

The winners of the first race on Thursday, the Junior Fours (Coxswain) were a Potomac B.C. crew. Two hours and 15 minutes later, the same crew left their coxie on the dock and won the Junior Fours. Those were the only wins at the 1966 Regatta for the Washington, D.C. club.

Thursday saw the debut of a New York A.C. sculler who would become a force in singles and doubles over the next 16 years: Jim Dietz, a 17-year-old junior at St. Helena H.S. in New York City. His first of 37 wins was the Junior Singles. He won his second Canadian Henley medal on Friday in the Junior Eights, and his third on Saturday with Frank Sulger in the Senior Doubles.

An Undine Barge Club quartette won the Junior 145-lb. Fours, their first of four medals. On Friday, they won the Junior 145-lb. Eights, and 45 minutes later, the Junior 145-lb. Fours (Coxswain). On Saturday, they won the Senior 145-lb. Fours. The four-medal winners were: John Hanson, G. Holmes, Tom Cassel, and P. Mallory plus S. Berman, who was their coxie in the eight and coxed four. They were responsible for Undine Barge Club’s only wins.

The last final of Thursday’s programme was the High School Eights, over the traditional one mile distance. The winning school for the fourth year in a row was St. Catharines C.I.. The published value of the Calder Cleland Memorial Trophy was \$50,000. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 29, 1966, p.19]

On Friday, Peter Johnson from the Shrewsbury R.A. won the Senior 155-lb. Singles for the second time, and on Saturday, he won the Senior 145-lb. Singles for the fifth time. An hour later, he won the Quarter-Mile Dash, 145-lb. Singles.

The Senior Fours (Coxswain) was one of the events the CAAO was considering contesting at the II World Rowing Championships in Bled, Yugoslavia. Because of that,

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three crews from British Columbia were entered: University of Victoria, Burnaby Lake Aquatic Association, and Vancouver R.C., in addition to the St. Catharines R.C.. University of Victoria failed to qualify for the final, which the St. Catharines crew won. Burnaby Lake, with 1964 Olympic gold-medalist Roger Jackson stroking, was second, and Vancouver fourth. The Burnaby Lake crew had split from the University of British Columbia/Vancouver R.C. and formed their own club. They were coached by Laurie West, another ex-UBC/VRC oarsman and coach, and they trained in borrowed equipment with a borrowed coxie.

St. Catharines radio station CKTB provided “complete daily coverage direct from the Henley Course at Port Dalhousie.” [The Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, Official Programme, 1966, p.23] “Complete daily coverage” meant all 86 races—heats and finals. However, there was someone missing. For the first time since 1934, the voice of Rex Stimers was not heard. Taking over the CKTB mic was Bill Bird, who had Jim Secord sending stroke by stroke descriptions of the races via shortwave radio in a following boat on the course.

Fred Sgambati anchored CBC-Radio’s coverage of the finals on the network’s “Saturday Sports Date.”

On Sunday afternoon, an hour of highlights of Saturday’s finals was broadcast on CBC-TV. The television crew tried something different: a camera in a helicopter. It was the main view of the races, with the usual stationary cameras acting as fill-ins.

The only aspect of the helicopters which worries regatta officials is the down-draft from the rotors. However, air regulations limit helicopters to 600 feet in cases of this kind and it should be high enough to protect the shells from any turbulence. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 29, 1966, p.21]

What officials did not consider was the noise. Even though the helicopter stayed 600 feet [183 metres] above the starting gate, the competitors could not hear the Starter’s instructions.

This was not the first time a helicopter provided an aerial vantage point for the media. In 1947, one was used by Ted Steel from Aero Services to photograph the Senior Eights race, and in 1931, a Detroit *News* photographer photographed Friday’s races from his paper’s autogiro, a helicopter/fixed wing hybrid.

The first final on Saturday was the Senior 145-lb. Doubles, which was won by Dieter Giese and Lindsay Pitt from the Argonaut R.C.. They had also won the event in 1965 but were disqualified for interfering with the Detroit B.C. double. That same Detroit double finished fourth in 1966.

New York A.C.’s Don Spero won the Championship Singles, and 45 minutes later the Quarter-Mile Dash, Open Singles.

Arguably, the second most prestigious eights race at the Canadian Henley, after the Senior Eights, was the Senior 155-lb. Eights. Pictured below is the finish of that race, with a St. Catharines R.C. crew edging the Vesper B.C. crew that had won the Junior race.

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Buffalo Courier-Express photo. James Schaab collection.

The photo can serve as the “before” photo for the changes to be made to the area at the foot of the grandstand for the 1967 North American Rowing Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta. The wooden balcony which had served the needs of Finish Judges and press since 1931 would be replaced with a concrete pad, and a large press box would be constructed to the right of the grandstand.

Although some empty seats are clearly visible in the photo, the *Standard* reporter writes that it was an “overflow crowd,” a “packed grandstand,” and a “record Henley crowd” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 2, 1966, p.22] that watched the finals, proof that crowd estimates given in the media are not to be trusted.

The Senior Fours race had to be rescheduled when the Burnaby Lake Aquatic Association crew bent a rigger at the start. It was rowed at 6:30, long after the Senior Eights had finished. The same Burnaby Lake A.A. four that placed second behind St. Catharines in the Senior Fours (Coxswain), won the race.

A St. Catharines crew won the the Senior Eights, while a Vancouver R.C. eight, hoping for a place on the Canadian team going to Bled, placed second.

Subsequently, the CAAO announced that the Burnaby Lake four and the St. Catharines eight would represent Canada at the II World Rowing Championships in Yugoslavia in September. The St. Catharines crew’s coach, Gerry Lienert, was named team coach, and Laurie West, the Burnaby Lake A.A. coach was his assistant. Lienert added two spares with international experience: Tony Biernacki and Daryl MacDonald. Former Ottawa R.C. sculler, Biernacki, was now a chemistry lab technician and crew

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coach at Brock University in St. Catharines. He and MacDonald had tried the Senior Doubles for the St. Catharines R.C., but did not qualify. In Bled, they were to compete in the Coxless Pair. The CAAO opted not to enter the Coxed Four since the St. Catharines crew that had won the event were in the eight, and the Burnaby crew that came second were entered in the Coxless Four. No Canadian crews made it to the semifinals in Bled.

On the other hand, East Germany [GDR] won three gold medals and two bronze medals, and West Germany [FRG] added another gold. The German model of a government-funded programme with full-time professional coaches and rigorous, year-round training was showing other countries what had to be done to be successful at international regattas.

All the winners and times for the 1966 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 36 participating clubs at the 1966 Canadian Henley 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.

The chart contains a few surprises: Undine Barge Club—celebrating the 110th anniversary of its founding—brought its biggest team ever to a Canadian Henley, won its share of races, and placed second in total points. The Argonauts had the largest entry of any club, but only managed to win one final, but perhaps the biggest surprises involved the Detroit B.C. and West Side R.C.—perennial powerhouses—neither of which won a single final.

“St. Catharines, as usual, won the points championship with a combination of victories and sheer weight of entries.” [The Toronto *Daily Star*, August 2, 1966, p.12] It was St. Catharines’ sixth straight Regatta championship.

Argonaut R.C.	(32/1)	Toronto, Ontario
Brockville R.C.	(9/1)	Brockville, Ontario
Burnaby Lake Aquatic Association	(3/1)	Burnaby, British Columbia
Chomedey R.C.	(1/0)	Chomedey, Quebec
Don R.C.	(5/1)	Port Credit, Ontario
Fort William R.C.	(3/0)	Fort William, Ontario
Leander B.C.	(10/1)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(3/0)	London, Ontario
Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club	(1/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Ottawa R.C.	(4/0)	Ottawa, Ontario
St. Catharines R.C.	(30/9)	St. Catharines, Ontario
University of Victoria	(2/0)	Victoria, British Columbia
Vancouver R.C.	(5/0)	Vancouver, British Columbia

American entries:

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Cambridge B.C.	(3/0)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Detroit B.C.	(25/0)	Detroit, Michigan
Ecorse B.C.	(14/0)	Ecorse, Michigan
Fairmount R.A.	(7/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Marietta R.A.	(1/0)	Marietta, Ohio
Minnesota B.C.	(15/0)	St. Paul, Minnesota
Narragansett B.C.	(2/0)	Providence, Rhode Island
New Rochelle R.C.	(1/1)	New Rochelle, New York
New York A.C.	(19/7)	New York, New York
Niagara Frontier R.C.	(2/0)	Tonawanda, New York
Oyster Bay R.A.	(5/2)	Mill Neck, New York
Penn A.C.	(5/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Potomac B.C.	(9/2)	Washington, District of Columbia
Riverside B.C.	(1/0)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Shrewsbury R.A.	(6/3)	Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
Tartar R.C.	(1/0)	Detroit, Michigan
Undine Barge Club	(18/4)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Union B.C.	(11/1)	Boston, Massachusetts
Upper Marion R.A.	(3/0)	King of Prussia, Pennsylvania
Vesper B.C.	(9/1)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(23/0)	Buffalo, New York
Wyandotte B.C.	(12/2)	Wyandotte, Michigan

Mexican entries:

Club España	(5/1)	Mexico City, Mexico
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High school entries:

Sir Winston Churchill S.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
St. Catharines C.I.	(1/1)	St. Catharines, Ontario
St. Joseph's C.I.	(1/0)	Buffalo, New York

The annual meeting of the CAAO was held at the new Holiday Inn in St. Catharines on Saturday, November 19.

The Officers elected for 1967 were the same as 1966:

Honorary President: Ted E. Norris, Toronto

President: Russell R. Wood, St. Catharines

1st Vice-President: F.J. Exner, Port Credit

2nd Vice-President: Gerald F. Martin, Toronto

3rd Vice-President: John A. Carver, Vancouver

Secretary: John L. Murray, Kingston

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Treasurer: Thomas E. Finan, Toronto
Publicity Director: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines
Regatta Chairman: Claude Saunders, Hamilton

The Executive Committee for 1967 was:

Anthony Biernacki, St. Catharines, Robert J. Browne, Fort William, Les Callan, Vancouver, George E. Flannery, Hamilton, W.T.E. "Bill" Jolliffe, Montreal, David Kenny, Brockville, A.S. Kerr, Toronto, F.B. Lamont, Winnipeg, Max McDonald, London, James R. Minards, St. Catharines, Ronald Ralph, Ottawa, and W.K. "Noel" Shrimpton, Port Credit.

Although the North American Rowing Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta was only nine months away, the annual meeting seems to have spent a lot of time discussing how not to repeat the embarrassing showing of Canadian crews at the II World Rowing Championships. An old idea was proposed: composite crews. Gerry Martin, the Association's 2nd Vice-President, put forward the idea, and challenged the Association to make a basic decision:

The former Argonaut oarsman and coach suggested the key to composite crews lies in determining just how far Canada wants to go in the overseas regattas and rowing at Olympic, Pan-American and world championship tests. If the country wants to show well at these international competitions, then composite entries may be the logical answer. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 21, 1966, p.17]

While no decision was made on that philosophical proposition, a suggestion was made that oarsmen who are eliminated in future trials be eligible to be selected by the team coach or selection committee to take seats to improve crews that won the trials.

A national team programme was barely hinted at:

"Of course, composite crews do present many problems in a country as large as Canada," added Martin. "Our great distances make weekend training, as it is carried out in many European countries, virtually impossible."

However, the CAAO vice-president went on to suggest that fitness fund grants might cover such contingencies in the future if a proper training scheme, under a national coach, was put into action. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 21, 1966, p.17]

The only objection to Martin's proposal was the parochial one: clubs might suffer if their best oarsmen were drafted for a composite crew. The choice of words may have been a stumbling block to a more enthusiastic reception of the idea. The phrase "composite crew" is used multiple times in the *Standard's* article, while the phrase "national crew" appears only once. Perhaps "national" should have been stressed by Martin.

"Most delegates appeared to look favourably on Martin's proposals, but it was felt that any move at this time would be premature. And as a result, a survey will be

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conducted among Canada's rowing clubs." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 21, 1966, p.17] That survey was to be conducted by a committee led by Gerry Martin.

When discussion turned to the North American Rowing Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta, it was a money problem that was raised. A promised \$165,000 grant from the National Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sport had been reduced to \$100,000, and the challenge was to make up the shortfall. The CAAO was already trying to raise \$200,000, while another \$272,000 was being raised in St. Catharines.

Among the other items on the agenda was the contribution of \$250 to the Canadian Olympic Boat Fund.

Not only was there to be an international regatta in St. Catharines in mid-August, but the Pan America Games were scheduled for the beginning of August in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and as the host country, Canada would boat a complete team made up of 30 oarsmen, two coaches and two officials.

Meanwhile, women's rowing in the United States took another small step forward: "The first National Championships were held in 1966 at Greenlake in Seattle, Washington. A total of ten clubs competed with at least three entries in each event." [Jan Palchikoff, *The Development of Women's Rowing in the United States*, December 21, 1978, p.18]

1966

**The 85th Regatta
of the
Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen
The 62nd Royal Canadian Henley Regatta
July 19 to 22, 1967**

The newly improved Henley course would be a busy place, and the Henley Aquatic Association would be a busy group during Canada's Centennial Year. Several regattas would serve to test the new facilities. Not only would the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association hold its 22nd Championship Regatta on the course on May 27 and 28, but the Schoolboy Rowing Association of America, in a unique gesture to celebrate the Centennial, would hold its 33rd Championship Regatta for the only time outside the United States on the same weekend.

Then, the the combined trials for the Pan American Games and North American Rowing Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta, in conjunction with the Central Ontario Rowing Association Regatta would take place on Saturday, July 15, followed immediately by the Canadian Henley Regatta from July 19 to 22, a week earlier than usual, because the North American Rowing Championships - Canadian Centennial



St. Catharines Museum - S1967.27.2-1

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Regatta—the highlight of the North American rowing year—would be held from August 10 to 13.

The above photo was taken on May 13. Although the new shellhouse was ready to receive the shells of the St. Catharines R.C. and Brock University, little else was in place. There is no launching wharf, no timing towers, and no starting gate. The building was a hand-me-down. It had originally served as the forge building of the Welland Vale Manufacturing Co., and had been dismantled at the Welland Vale site and reassembled on Henley Island in the spring of 1967. The spartan 61 by 21 metre building seemed like a palace compared to the old cramped boat house. In addition to its six bays which were configured to hold 82 shells, it had shower, locker, and boat repair facilities.

The old shellhouse on Lakeport Road in Port Dalhousie was vacated on the Monday before Henley, July 17, ending an association with the Regatta that dated back to 1903.

The lure of the North American Rowing Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta brought 11 oarsmen plus officials from Australia to the Canadian Henley. A 27-member Mexican team was also in town for Henley before going to Winnipeg for the Pan American Games, and returning for the North American Rowing Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta. Because they were a composite team, in Canada to represent their country at two international regattas, they were identified by the generic name “Mexico City” in the Henley programme. The Australian crews were also given a generic name, “Australian Amateur Rowing Council” in the programme. Apparently the CAAO rules permitted national teams to compete in club events as long as they had a club name.

Perfect rowing conditions contributed to some excellent times Wednesday as the first of 91 rowing and sculling races got under way at the 85th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta here.

Crews and scullers competed on a mirror-smooth Henley Course with the slightest trace of a following breeze. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 20, 1967, p.31]

Three morning heats pared 13 entries down to six for the afternoon final of the Junior 155-lb. Singles. The eventual winner was Don Callaghan from the Undine Barge Club. However, in an odd twist, Callaghan had to return his medal because he was an Intermediate, i.e. he had already won a Junior event. Gary White, from the Winnipeg R.C., who had placed second to Callaghan in both their heat and final, was awarded the medal. There were 14 entries in the Junior 135-lb. Singles which also required three morning heats. Another Undine Barge Club sculler, Les Edgecomb was the winner of the afternoon final.

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The new starting gates are pictured above before the first heat of the Junior 135-lb. Eights. The gates moved on tracks, and were adjusted for the length of the boats in the race, so that all boats in all races started with their bows on the starting line. Once the gates were moved, the aligner—from his position in the shed on the starting line—relayed his instructions to the boat-holders via headphones, and they, in turn, did the fine-tuning by moving the shells forward or backward until the bows were even. The photo suggests that the gates were not being moved for the heats. If this was a final, the gates would have been moved back (to the left). The race before this had been the final

for the Junior 155-lb. Singles, so it would seem that the gates were left in the singles configuration, since they were difficult to move.

Working as a boat-holder was hard work that entailed more than holding boats:

No such things as headphones from what I remember. Someone out there . . . would let us know what the next race was going to be so we would push the gates forward or back. Someone would show up in the afternoon with a paper bag lunch. One thing I remember well was that there was nowhere to hide from the sun. We got



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baked out there. We got paid 20 dollars a day . . . which was big bucks for me back then.
[Lapinski, Raymond. "Re: Henley." Message to Stan Lapinski. August 31, 2021. Email.]

The first thing a modern reader will notice about the two photos above is that no one is wearing a life jacket. They are mandatory now.

The club that had made its Henley debut in 1966 as the Burnaby Lake Aquatic Association was now the Burnaby Lake Aquatic Club. It had qualified two crews for the Pan American team, the coxed pair and the straight pair. Daryl Sturdy was half of the latter crew, and on Thursday, he won the Junior Singles.

The last final of the day was the High School Eights. The five-boat race was won by St. Joseph's C.I. from Buffalo, New York. This was the same crew that had won the Championship Eight-Oared Shells race at the Schoolboy Rowing Association of America Regatta, and the Championship Eights at the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association Championships. Both high school regattas had been held at the end of May on the Henley course. The St. Joseph's crew beat a St. Catharines C.I. crew in all three races. The published value of the Calder Cleland Memorial Trophy was still \$50,000.

"The third straight day of virtually perfect rowing conditions made for some excellent times during Friday's marathon 29-race program at the 85th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta here." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 22, 1967, p.23]

A pair of New York A.C. scullers posted the first two of that club's eight victories. Alex Junge won the Junior 145-lb. Singles, and Jim Dietz, who had won the Junior Singles in 1966, won the Association Singles. Dietz had also won the Championship Single Sculls at the Schoolboy Rowing Association of America Regatta, and the Championship Singles at the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association Championships, for St. Helena H.S.. He and Junge were involved in six of their club's eight Henley victories.

Since the Senior Fours (Coxswain) was one of the events at the North American Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta, commemorative medals were awarded to the first three finishers. The Australian Amateur Rowing Council received the gold, in addition to their Henley gold. The Vancouver R.C./University of British Columbia crew were given silver medals, and the St. Catharines R.C. crew that was to represent Canada at the two international regattas, received bronze medals.

"With a packed Henley grandstand looking on and the high Henley Course banks crowded with an overflow of rowing fans, . . . oarsmen took full advantage of the fourth consecutive afternoon of perfect water conditions. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 24, 1967, p.17]

Saturday's finals began with the first of six wins on the 16-event programme for the New York A.C.. Veteran Ed McKenna combined with new-comer Alex Junge to win the Senior 145-lb. Doubles. Junge also won the Quarter-Mile Dash, 145-lb. Singles later in the afternoon.

The second race of the day was the Senior 145-lb. Fours (Coxswain) which was won by a Vesper B.C. crew. Two hours later, the same crew, minus their coxie, won the Senior 145-lb. Fours.

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The Leander B.C. won the Senior 135-lb. Eights. They had won the Junior on Thursday.

The other Leander B.C. winner on Saturday was Claude Saunders, Jr. in the Senior 145-lb. Singles. He had also won the Senior 135-lb. Singles on Friday. He was to represent Canada at the Pan American Games and the North American Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta, but did not contest the Championship Singles.

Jim Dietz won his second and third medals of the Regatta for the New York A.C., in the Championship Singles, and 45 minutes later, the Quarter-Mile Dash, Open Singles.

The Senior Eights race featured three national crews. The winners, the Vancouver R.C./University of British Columbia eight, were to represent Canada at the Pan American Games and the North American Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta. The second-place crew, the Australian Amateur Rowing Council, were in town for the latter regatta. Finishing fifth, was the Mexico City crew who left for Winnipeg the following day to compete at the Pan American Games, and would return to the Henley course for the North American Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta.

With a following wind official reading 10 miles an hour [16 kph] and the down-course water flow at two miles an hour [3.2 kph], the UBC eight missed setting a Henley Course record by sixth-tenths [sic] of a second. The mark of 5:36.6 is held by UBC's 1964 Olympic eight. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 24, 1967, p.17]

For the mathematically-challenged, the 1967 VRC/UBC eight won in 5:37.2.

They would win silver medals at the Pan American Games, and place sixth at the North American Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta.

Except for the eight, none of the Canadian team won their Henley race. However, at the Pan American Games, besides the eight, silver medals were won by the Argonaut R.C. double of Doug Clark and Leif Gotfredsen, the Burnaby Lake Aquatic Club straight pair of Daryl Sturdy and Wayne Osterhout, and the VRC/UBC straight four.

At the North American Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta, the Canadian crews were fourth in the Double Sculls, Pairs With Cox, and Fours Without Cox, and sixth in the Fours With Cox, and Eights.

All the winners and times for the 1967 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 31 participating clubs at the 1967 Canadian Henley 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.

Although it won only five finals, the St. Catharines R.C. won the Regatta points championship and the Maple Leaf Trophy for the seventh year in a row. The Leander B.C. also won five finals, but St. Catharines had more entries, and thus accumulated more "also ran" points. New York A.C. bested all clubs by winning eight finals—a feat they

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accomplished with four scullers and two sweep oarsmen—however, they were all small-boat races: singles, doubles and a pair. As a result, they were awarded fewer points per win than St. Catharines. With 11 fewer entries and three more wins than St. Catharines, New York A.C. was the more efficient club of the two.

Argonaut R.C.	(23/2)	Toronto, Ontario
Brockville R.C.	(7/0)	Brockville, Ontario
Burnaby Lake Aquatic Club	(5/1)	Burnaby, British Columbia
Chomedey R.C.	(3/0)	Chomedey, Quebec
Don R.C.	(3/1)	Port Credit, Ontario
Leander B.C.	(20/5)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(5/0)	London, Ontario
Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club	(4/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Ottawa R.C.	(7/0)	Ottawa, Ontario
St. Catharines R.C.	(32/5)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Winnipeg R.C.	(4/1)	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Vancouver R.C./University of British Columbia	(6/1)	Vancouver, British Columbia

American entries:

Detroit B.C.	(17/2)	Detroit, Michigan
Ecorse B.C.	(19/1)	Ecorse, Michigan
Fairmount R.A.	(6/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Malta B.C.	(2/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Minnesota B.C.	(14/0)	St. Paul, Minnesota
New York A.C.	(21/8)	New York, New York
Niagara Frontier R.C.	(3/0)	Tonawanda, New York
Oyster Bay R.A.	(6/1)	Mill Neck, New York
Penn A.C.	(11/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Potomac B.C.	(2/0)	Washington, District of Columbia
Shrewsbury R.A.	(2/0)	Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
Undine Barge Club	(14/3)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Union B.C.	(4/1)	Boston, Massachusetts
Vesper B.C.	(11/2)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(27/0)	Buffalo, New York
Wyandotte B.C.	(10/0)	Wyandotte, Michigan

Australian entries:

Australian Amateur Rowing Council	(5/1)	Melbourne, Australia
Melbourne University	(4/0)	Melbourne, Australia

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Mexican entries:

Mexico City	(19/3)	Mexico City, Mexico
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High school entries:

Lakeport S.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Monsignor Bonner H.S.	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Sir Winston Churchill S.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
St. Catharines C.I.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
St. Joseph's C.I.	(1/1)	Buffalo, New York
Theodore Roosevelt H.S.	(1/0)	Wyandotte, Michigan



The photo above was taken on August 13, the final day of the North American Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta. The Fours Without Cox has just been completed, and Germany D.R.V. (*Deutscher Ruder Verband*, i.e. West Germany), United States, and Denmark are coming to the platform to receive their gold, silver and bronze medals respectively.

In addition to the spacious concrete platform that fronts the entire grandstand, readers will note the tiny cubicles which protected officials in inclement weather, and the large press booth on the right. The primary purpose of the new pylon in the middle of the grandstand was to anchor the cable which held the new overhead lane markers. Its secondary purpose was to obstruct the view of the spectators.

An article in the programme for the Regatta itemizes the improvements to the Henley course that took place to bring the facilities up to FISA standards:

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Included in the work done along the Henley Course during the past 12 months has been the installation of Albano-type lane markings, overhead lane numbering, erection of timing towers, construction of new shell houses, building of new launching wharfs, complete revamping of the original Henley grandstand, erection of additional temporary stands, reconstruction of the grandstand entrance, assembly of an electronic scoreboard, installation of electrical timing devices and telephone communication networks, creation of a presentation platform, building of regatta offices and erection of new press stands. [North American Rowing Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta, Program, 1967, p.25]

The cost of the upgrades, excluding dredging, was “more than \$300,000,” [North American Rowing Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta, Program, 1967, p.15], but, of course, the Canadian Henley Regatta, Henley Aquatic Association and CAAO, would continue to reap the benefits of the improvements for years, even decades.

The programme gives the cost of the dredging at “more than \$600,000” which is higher than any other figure to appear in the press. Again, the two-metre minimum depth of the six-lane course would benefit competitors for years. Also mentioned is something which is often over-looked: the quality of the water. A “huge multi-million dollar City of St. Catharines sewage treatment plant has already taken some 60 percent of the waste from the course with the promise of crystal clear water by 1970.” [North American Rowing Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta, Program, 1967, p.21] That promise was not kept, but there is no denying that the water in 1967 was markedly cleaner than it was only a couple of years earlier.

The North American Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta featured the seven FISA/Olympic events, plus two demonstration races. All FISA races were open weight, but in North America, lightweights dominated regattas. For example, at the 1967 Canadian Henley, 15 of the club events were for open weights, while, 23 were for lightweights. To demonstrate to FISA officials the quality of lightweight rowing in North America, a race featuring six Canadian and American lightweight eights was held. It was won by a Leander B.C. crew.

The second exhibition event featured the Philadelphia Girls' R.C. eight that had won at the National Women's Rowing Association Regatta in June in Oakland, California. It was the first time since 1948 that a women's crew raced on the Henley course. Because they were the only women's crew on site, two crews made up of veterans, some of whom were FISA executives, were formed to give the women a race. That race was instrumental in getting the women to the 1967 European Rowing Championships in Vichy, France, thanks, in part, to some of the men in the crews that the women raced.

The men “had never rowed together. We had,” Tina [Bayer] said. “We beat them at the start and kept pace with them – and won.” [sic. All other sources say the women came third.] Afterward, at a cocktail party [on Henley Island], the head of FISA, Thomi Keller, approached Tina and her mother, Ernestine Bayer. “With his Swiss-German accent, he said, ‘Ernestine, I want your girls to come to Vichy.’” Hearing that [the North American representative of FISA, John] Carlin opposed the idea, Keller said he would lean on Carlin to agree, but the women had to meet the midnight

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application deadline. And there was another issue – the \$6,000 it would take to get the PGRC crew – mostly clerks and secretaries – and their equipment to Vichy.

....

“We had a team meeting in Canada and decided that if we could get some funding, we would make the trip.” [said Jinx Becker.]

....

So at the reception, Ernestine approached Horace Davenport, head of the National Rowing Foundation, to ask for a grant.

“If the Foundation funded a woman’s boat, we’d probably lose all our contributors,” Davenport told Ernestine. Instead, he secretly loaned them the money. “Within a year every girl paid back the money,” Tina said. The story was never revealed until after Davenport’s death in 1991.

....

So how did PGRC do at Vichy? Struggling with logistics and equipment, they had to drop out of a quad race when a rigger broke. In the eight, they came in last.

....

Still, PGRC was the first [American] women’s rowing club to compete in Europe, and the presence of American women raised hopes around the world that women’s rowing would finally become an Olympic sport. [“PGRC Eight: The Pioneering Women Who First Raced Abroad.” November, 2020. <https://hosr.org/the-pioneering-women-who-first-raced-abroad/>]

For their accomplishment, the city of Philadelphia honoured the women with the key to the city.

It would be six years before Canadian oarswomen competed in Europe.

However, in the fall, Brock University boated a women’s eight made up of: Mary Cumberland, Cathie Barnett, Jo-Ann Giles, Diane Grabos, Norine Gilks, Maura Smith, Betty Hicks, Susan Auld, and coxie, Lynda Radford. Spares were Natalie Kmicikewych and Cathy George. They were called the “powder-puff crew” and the “novelty eight” [The Brock *Badger*, October 16, 1967, p.14] Under the supervision of Head Coach Tony Biernacki, the women had two student coaches with experience in St. Catharines high school and club programmes: Hans Schefski and Joe Kuzniecowa. Unfortunately, a challenge issued to other universities for a race on October 12 on the Henley course, went unanswered, and the Brock women, like the Philadelphia Girls’ had to settle for a race against a men’s “Has-Been” crew composed of university rowing coaches, who beat them over 500 metres. [The Brock *Badger*, October 30, 1967, p.11] Unlike the Philadelphia Girls’, the Brock women received no recognition for their feat.

Nevertheless, just boating a crew of Canadian women and having a race on the premier rowing course in Canada were significant accomplishments achieved against some serious road blocks put in place by the St. Catharines R.C., whose equipment Brock was using to supplement their own limited supply of boats.

“I remember going down to (Henley) Island one day and finding the bay doors locked,” said [Tony] Biernacki, recalling how some of the St. Catharines Rowing Club “Old Boys” were aghast at the thought of women rowing.

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“They weren’t going to let us in and I had to negotiate the use of an old boat you wouldn’t put anybody in. It was garbage, and they didn’t even want women to have garbage. But we finally got it [women’s rowing] going.” [The Toronto *Star*, August 5, 1997, p.B12]

Women’s rowing had returned to St. Catharines. Unlike 1948, it was here to stay.

The annual meeting of the CAAO was held at the St. Catharines R.C. Old Boys’ Association clubhouse on Henley Island on Saturday, November 25.

In order to maintain continuity while the outstanding issues related to the North American Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta were settled, the Officers elected for 1968 were the same as 1966 and 1967 with one exception: Bruce Parkes took over the position of Treasurer from Tom Finan.

Honorary President: Ted E. Norris, Toronto
President: Russell R. Wood, St. Catharines
1st Vice-President: F.J. Exner, Port Credit
2nd Vice-President: Gerald F. Martin, Toronto
3rd Vice-President: John A. Carver, Vancouver
Secretary: John L. Murray, Kingston
Treasurer: H. Bruce Parkes, Toronto
Publicity Director: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines
Regatta Chairman: Claude Saunders, Hamilton

The Executive Committee for 1968 was:

Anthony Biernacki, St. Catharines, Les Callan, Vancouver, George E. Flannery, Hamilton, Harry A. Goetschi, Montreal, Howard Hanna, Brockville, A.S. Kerr, Toronto, F.B. Lamont, Winnipeg, Max McDonald, London, James R. Minards, St. Catharines, Ronald Ralph, Ottawa, and W.K. “Noel” Shrimpton, Port Credit.

The biggest decisions made at the seven-hour meeting were to expand the Canadian Henley to five days in 1968—July 31 to August 4—and to end it on Sunday.

There was some discussion, though no decision, about the trials for the 1968 Mexico Olympic Games.

The 1970 World Rowing Regatta was also discussed. The Henley course had the “wholehearted support” of FISA President, Thomas Keller, but more details had to be reviewed before any decision was made to make a bid at the 1968 FISA congress in Mexico City.

The reluctance to commit to hosting the III World Rowing Championships was understandable; it had cost \$1.5 million to revamp the course and facilities, and the Henley Aquatic Association still owed \$151,000, while the CAAO had a deficit of around \$10,000 from the August regatta, which cost about \$124,000 to run. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 27, 1967, p.19] However, there was optimism that the federal government would contribute additional Centennial funds to defray some of the debt.

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The long agenda included two items directly related to the Henley Regatta. The quarter-mile dashes were to be changed to 500-metre dashes, and, as a response to having national crews competing in club events, including some Junior club events, the meeting: “Turned over to the Executive the question of composite crew participation at next year’s Canadian Henley. A study will also be made of national crews rowing in junior competition here.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 27, 1967, p.19]

1967

**The 86th Regatta
of the
Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen
The 63rd Royal Canadian Henley Regatta
July 31 to August 4, 1968**

It had been some time since the CAAO complained about the grants it was receiving (or not receiving) from the National Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sport. A clue to the reason for that silence may be contained in the annual financial statement of the Council. In the 1967-68 fiscal year which ended March 31, the report states that the CAAO received \$110,885, the third highest grant given to an amateur sports governing body. Only the Canadian Amateur Ski Association and Canadian Amateur Hockey Association received more. "The money granted the various governing bodies are for national championships, training programs, special programs and administration." [The Toronto *Daily Star*, December 21, 1968, p.28] It would appear that both the 1967 Canadian Henley and the North American Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta qualified for grants.

In April, Russ Wood was forced to resign as President of the CAAO because of business pressure.

That necessitated a restructuring of the top Officers:

Honorary President: Russell R. Wood, St. Catharines

President: F.J. Exner, Port Credit

1st Vice-President: Gerald F. Martin, Toronto

2nd Vice-President: Robert J. Browne, Fort William

The meeting at which those changes were made also revised the size of the Olympic rowing team from 30 to 20, and decided to hold the trials in conjunction with the 1968 Regatta. [The Toronto *Daily Star*, April 25, 1968, p.18]

One more annual regatta was added to the calendar in 1968. The first Ontario Rowing Championships, an initiative of CAAO 1st Vice-President, Gerry Martin, was put on by the Henley Aquatic Association on July 20, on the Henley course. It provided one more opportunity for Ontario clubs to prepare for the Canadian Henley.

Since 1903, the Annual Regatta had finished on Saturday, and since 1947, races had taken place over four days. That changed in 1968. The Regatta would be five days long, and finish on Sunday.

The estimated number of oarsmen competing was "[m]ore than 600." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 1, 1968, p.30]

One practice mandated by FISA at the North American Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta, and adopted by the CAAO at the 1968 Henley, was not universally applauded: the replacement of the Chief Finish Judge's shotgun with an air horn. Jack Gatecliff, Sports Editor of the St. Catharines *Standard* wrote that it

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sounds like a cross between a hungry hawk and a sorrowful sow.

. . . .

[I]t must be said that the horn will never replace the shotgun in either clarity or accuracy.

Judges who time the races in boats following the crews complain that they can't hear the finish, hence many times are almost guesswork.

With the shotgun they watched for the puff of smoke to click off their temporary [sic] watches.

. . . .

[A]fter talking with judges, referees, spectators, and crews the result is unanimous.

They prefer blast to bleat. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 3, 1968, p.31]

Gatecliff did concede that the horn was safer. From 1930 to 1966, the Chief Finish Judge and his shotgun were situated on the wooden balcony which hung from the front of the grandstand. When the gun was fired, there was no chance of anyone being hit. (The gun fired blanks, but there was a discharge.) In 1967, the Finish Judges were moved to the new concrete apron at the front of the grandstand. Patrick Dineen, *Globe and Mail* reporter, picks up the story:

In the past a man sat at the finish line with a 12-gauge shotgun, which he fired when the winning crew crossed the line.

Last year spectators walked in front of him on two occasions just as a race was finishing and barely missed being blown to pieces. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 3, 1968, p.3]

Subsequently, Chief Judge of the Finish, Merrill Blank, and his shotgun were moved to the water's edge. With the adoption of the horn, there was no longer danger of injury.

The weather did not cooperate on the first day of the new format: "High winds which gusted to 30 miles an hour at times all but blew out yesterday's opening program." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 1, 1968, p.27]

The wind made the sheltered Henley course so choppy that the opening of the five-day Royal Canadian Henley Regatta and Olympic trials was postponed for an hour. It was the first delay of a Henley race since a fierce electrical storm struck here in 1960.

The strong wind from the south was a tailwind for the oarsmen, who row facing backward.

"A tailwind is cruddy. It throws you right off," said [Roger Jackson after winning the singles trial]. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 1, 1968, p.30]

The eights trial, also held on Wednesday, was won by a St. Catharines R.C. crew. There were no Henley finals. However, the heats for the Junior 135 and 155-lb. Singles, which, in the past, had been held on the morning of the finals, were run, giving the qualifiers a day's rest before the finals which were now on Thursday. Thanks to the new, FISA-standard lane markers, CAAO officials felt confident enough to put the 13 entrants

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in the Junior 155-lb. Singles into two heats, instead of three as had been done in other years. Three heats for the Junior Fours (Coxswain) completed Wednesday's programme.

Canadian officials, and local media often praised the way the Canadian Henley was run. That was self-promotion, not news. However, when FISA President Thomas Keller praised the facilities, that was proof that the Henley Aquatic Association and the CAAO were doing something right. Another prominent visitor had some unsolicited praise for the Canadian Henley:

The Royal Canadian Henley regatta was described yesterday as the "best organized rowing event on the continent" by a Mexican rowing official.

Pablo Span, secretary of the Mexican Rowing Federation spoke to the Rotary Club of St. Catharines when the club held its annual Henley Week luncheon meeting at Henley Island. Mr. Span is active on the committee planning rowing events at the Olympic Games to be held next October in Mexico.

"We have learned many things here about running a regatta, and they will be of use to us in the Olympics," he said. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 2, 1968, p.9]

Oarsmen and scullers from Mexico had been competing at the Canadian Henley since 1954, and Mr. Span said they "had always been warmly welcomed and well treated." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 2, 1968, p.9]

On Thursday, a Henley story featuring three brothers from St. Paul, Minnesota, began. The two oldest, Tom and Larry Klecatsky, had been competing since 1959, when they tried, and failed, to qualify for the High School Singles. Since then, Tom had won the Junior 135-lb. Singles in 1962, and the Senior 135-lb. Singles in 1964 and 1965 for the Minnesota B.C., while Larry had not won a Henley final. In 1968, Tom, a 24-year-old U.S. Air Force officer stationed in Philadelphia, and Larry, a 26-year-old doctor serving his internship in Philadelphia, were competing for the Bachelors Barge Club, while their youngest brother Rich, was wearing Minnesota B.C. colours. There were several encounters on the water between the Klecatskys, that week. On Thursday, the first final involving the brothers took place: the Junior 155-lb. Singles. Bill Strickland from the Ecorse B.C. won, but Larry won bragging rights by finishing third to Rich's fifth. Rich won the family's first 1968 medal on Friday with Howie Ostrem in the Junior 145-lb. Doubles. Larry won his first and the family's second medal on Saturday, taking the Junior 145-lb. Singles. Sunday was Larry's day, starting with the first race of the afternoon, the Senior 145-lb. Doubles, which he won with Tom. Since Rich and Howie Ostrem had won the Junior, they should have been in that race, but scratched. Rich was saving himself for the Senior 145-lb. Singles, an hour and 45 minutes later. In that race, he and Larry went head to head: Larry won; Rich was second. An hour and 25 minutes later, Larry bested his doubles partner, Tom, in the Quarter-Mile Dash, 145-lb. Singles. Tom place second. In the space of two hours and 45 minutes, Larry won his second, third and fourth of 63 Henley medals. He would win his last Henley medal in 1988.

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The first final on Friday was the Junior Singles which was won by Roger Jackson, sculling for the Vancouver R.C.. Jackson, gold-medalist in the Coxless Pairs at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, also won the Olympic trials on Wednesday.

The last race of the day was the High School Eights. The St. Catharines C.I. came from behind to narrowly beat Lakeport S.S., and take the \$50,000 Calder Cleland Memorial Trophy.

CBC-TV had covered the Regattas since 1961, but in 1968, there was no television coverage, and radio coverage was reduced to almost nothing. The CKTB advertisement in the Henley programme says, "Complete daily coverage direct from the Henley Course at Port Dalhousie." [The Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, Official Programme, 1968, p.49], but the radio listings in the *Standard* contain no mention of Henley broadcasts. Presumably, updates were being announced with the regular newscasts. CBC-Radio provided some Henley coverage on its "The Sound of Sports" programme on Saturday. However, the Henley and Olympic trials had to share air-time with the Willow Park Open and Canadian Weightlifting Championships in Calgary, and the German Grand Prix.

The weather on Saturday was "perfect." Scullers and crews were assisted by a tailwind described as a "slight breeze," and Ontario Hydro had turned the water flow on, which also helped the times. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 6, 1968, p.19]

Two Canadian Olympic-bound boats saw action on Saturday. Roger Jackson from the Vancouver R.C., won his third race of the week by taking the Association Singles, and the St. Catharines R.C. won the Quarter-Mile Dash, Eights. Five members of the Olympic eight also won the Senior Fours (Coxswain) earlier in the afternoon.

Leander B.C. sculler, Claude Saunders, Jr., won the Senior 155-lb. Singles, and the new Claude (Sandy) Saunders Trophy. The inaugural presentation was made by his father, who was Regatta Chairman, and President of the Leander B.C.. At left in the photo is Janice

Saunders, Claude Jr.'s proud sister who was a medal bearer during the presentation ceremonies. Later in the day, she carried another medal to her brother after he won the Senior 135-lb. Singles for the second time.

Claude Sr. had been in the Canadian eight at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. He had also won the Association Singles for the Leander B.C. at the



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1944 Canadian Henley.

The London R.C.'s win in the Junior 145-lb. Fours (Coxswain) was cause for multiple celebrations. It was the club's first ever Henley win, and it happened on the 19th birthday of Dennis and Derek Carter, the twins rowing bow and stroke in the boat. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 6, 1968, p.19]

August 4, 1968 was the date for a significant event in the history of the Canadian Henley. It was a Sunday, and no Regatta before it had ended on a Sunday, and it was the fifth day, the first time the Regatta had taken place over five days.

The weather, like Saturday's, was perfect with a slight tailwind.

The oddest things to happen on Sunday were the Ecorse B.C.'s scratches. Ecorse crews and scullers scratched from five of the 10 races they were entered in, and under CAAO rules were penalized points.

Sunday's programme had a new race: Senior Pairs (Coxswain) which was won by a Lake Washington R.C. crew. That brought the number of events on the Henley programme to 39.

New York A.C.'s Jim Dietz won the Championship Singles for the second time, depriving Roger Jackson of a sweep of the open singles events. Dietz also won the Quarter-Mile Dash, Open Singles for the second time. Although the CAAO had decided to change the dash distance to 500 metres, the traditional quarter mile was used for the last time.

Roger Jackson wasn't the only member of the newly-named Olympic team to fail to win his Henley event. The Burnaby Lake Aquatic Association double of Daryl Sturdy and Bob Stubbs came third behind Mexico City and Detroit B.C., and the spares/pair, John Ulinder and Lyle Gately from the Vancouver R.C., fished second behind the University of Pennsylvania in the Senior Pairs. Only the Olympic eight from the St. Catharines R.C. won its event, the Senior Eights, in an unimpressive time of 6:36.1. Two races earlier, another St. Catharines crew won the Senior 145-lb. Eight in a blistering 5:57.2. Four members of the Olympic eight also won the Senior Fours, and the newly-donated Maurice J. Carroll Challenge Trophy. In all, St. Catharines R.C. crews won six of the 17 races on the Sunday programme.

For the eighth consecutive year, the St. Catharines R.C. won the Maple Leaf Trophy, emblematic of the Regatta's points championship.

All the winners and times for the 1968 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 38 participating clubs at the 1968 Canadian Henley 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.

Argonaut R.C.	(12/2)	Toronto, Ontario
Brockville R.C.	(6/0)	Brockville, Ontario

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Burnaby Lake Aquatic Association	(5/0)	Burnaby, British Columbia
Chomedey R.C.	(3/0)	Chomedey, Quebec
Don R.C.	(7/2)	Port Credit, Ontario
Leander B.C.	(24/4)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(16/1)	London, Ontario
Ottawa R.C.	(10/0)	Ottawa, Ontario
St. Catharines R.C.	(37/11)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Winnipeg R.C.	(9/0)	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Vancouver R.C.	(6/2)	Vancouver, British Columbia

American entries:

Bachelors Barge Club	(7/3)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Blood Street Sculls	(4/0)	Old Lyme, Connecticut
Cambridge B.C.	(1/0)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Dartmouth B.C.	(1/0)	Hanover, New Hampshire
Detroit B.C.	(14/1)	Detroit, Michigan
Ecorse B.C.	(38/2)	Ecorse, Michigan
Fairmount R.A.	(2/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Lake Washington R.C.	(1/1)	Seattle, Washington
Long Beach R.A.	(2/0)	Long Beach, California
Malta B.C.	(3/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Minneapolis R.C.	(3/0)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Minnesota B.C.	(17/3)	St. Paul, Minnesota
New York A.C.	(25/3)	New York, New York
Niagara Frontier R.C.	(4/0)	Tonawanda, New York
Oyster Bay R.A.	(2/0)	Mill Neck, New York
Penn A.C.	(4/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Potomac B.C.	(1/1)	Washington, District of Columbia
Riverside B.C.	(2/0)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Rochester R.A.	(2/0)	Rochester, New York
Shrewsbury R.A.	(2/0)	Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
University of Massachusetts	(2/0)	Amherst, Massachusetts
University of Pennsylvania	(1/1)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Vesper B.C.	(4/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(17/1)	Buffalo, New York
Wildcat B.C.	(4/0)	Kansas City, Kansas
Wyandotte B.C.	(9/0)	Wyandotte, Michigan

Mexican entries:

Mexico City	(8/1)	Mexico City, Mexico
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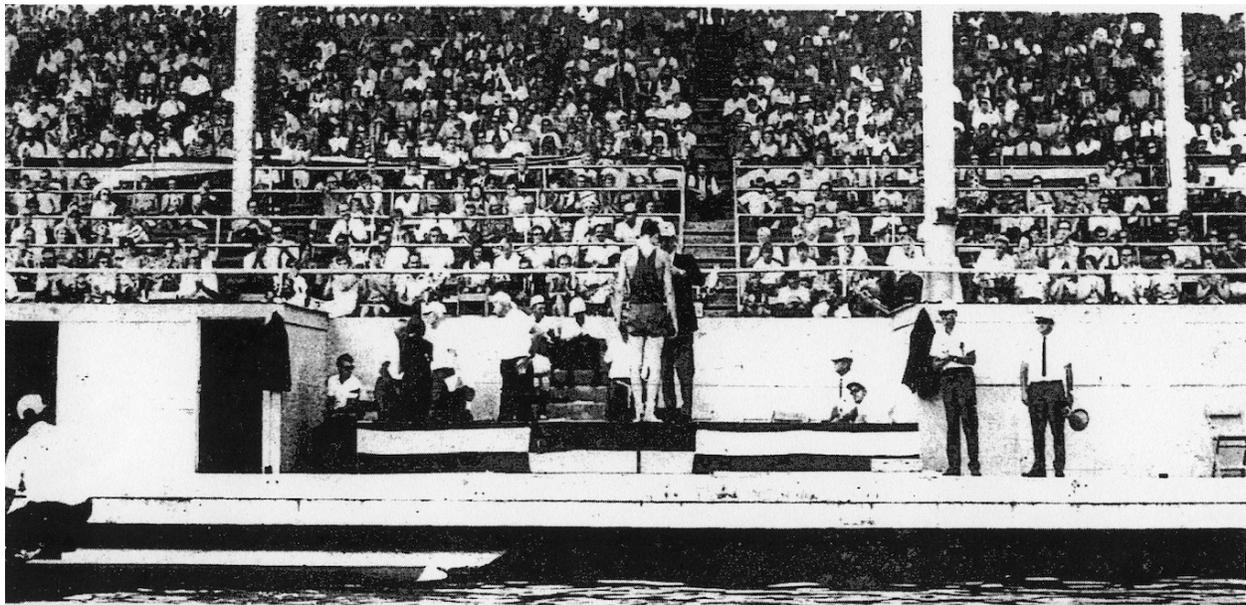
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High school entries:

Lakeport S.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
St. Catharines C.I.	(1/1)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Theodore Roosevelt H.S.	(1/0)	Wyandotte, Michigan
Westminster S.S.	(1/0)	London, Ontario

Making its first appearance at the Canadian Henley was a club established in 1967 with a distinctive name: Blood Street Sculls. It had 75 members by 1968, 20 of whom were teenage girls. The women were competitive enough to place “second in the lightweight eights during the feminine division of the United States Nationals.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 2, 1968, p.19] The regatta referred to was the third National Women’s Rowing Association Championship Regatta which was held in Philadelphia, hosted by the Philadelphia Girls’ R.C..

By the end of the 86th Regatta, the jury was still out on the shotgun being replaced by a horn at the finish line, but two innovations borrowed from the North American Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta were unqualified hits. Ending the Regatta on a Sunday helped to increase attendance significantly, since now both weekend days were available for people whose only days off were Saturday and Sunday. The second innovation was having winners come into the grandstand, get out of their shells, and stand on a podium while their medals were presented. The previous practices of either tossing the medals to the winners while they sat in their boats, or extending a long pole with a strainer containing the medals attached to the end, lacked the dignity befitting the accomplishment of winning a Henley medal.



Above, Larry Klecatsky, Bachelors Barge Club sculler, stands on the new presentation platform with CAAO 1st Vice President, Gerry Martin, who formally

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presents him with his medal for either the Senior 145 Singles, or the Quarter-Mile Dash, 145-lb. Singles, while a capacity crowd watches the ceremony.

One innovation was not as well received as these or the lane markers: running the Regatta over five days. Jack Gatecliff, Sports Editor of the *Standard* probably expressed the feelings of many: "Five days spreads the racing just a little thin, particularly the first three days.

"Better to have four full afternoons and evenings, at least from an observer's point of view." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 7, 1968, p.33]

The CAAO must have felt the same, because the 1969 Canadian Henley would revert to four days, Thursday to Sunday, July 31 to August 3.

No Canadian rower medalled at the Mexico Olympics. The eight placed ninth, and Roger Jackson finished 11th. To no one's surprise, the Germans dominated. The East Germans [GDR] won three medals, and the West Germans [FRG] won two. Their government-sponsored programmes which employed professional coaches and required intense, year-round training continued to reap medals, not just in rowing, but in other sports as well.

Something positive for the Henley course did come out of the Mexico Olympics.

St. Catharines, perhaps the only city in Canada where rowing is the dominant sport. decided [in 1967] it would like to hold the world rowing championships. The city thought the CAAO should make the official application, but the CAAO refused. It was appalled by the cost of such an ambitious undertaking.

St. Catharines decided to go ahead on its own. [Craig] Swayze was delegated to apply during the 1968 Olympics in Mexico. The International Rowing Federation (FISA) accepted without any fanfare. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, May 29, 1970, p.26]

The III World Rowing Championships would be held on the Henley course in 1970.

At the annual meeting of the CAAO, the Officers elected for 1969 were the same as had been in place since April, when Russ Wood resigned the presidency and "Curly" Exner took over.

Honorary President: Russell R. Wood, St. Catharines

President: F.J. Exner, Port Credit

1st Vice-President: Gerald F. Martin, Toronto

2nd Vice-President: Robert J. Browne, Fort William

3rd Vice-President: John A. Carver, Vancouver

Secretary: John L. Murray, Kingston

Treasurer: H. Bruce Parkes, Toronto

Publicity Director: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines

Regatta Chairman: Claude Saunders, Hamilton

The Executive Committee for 1969 was identical to the 1968 Committee:

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Anthony Biernacki, St. Catharines, Les Callan, Vancouver, George E. Flannery, Hamilton, Harry A. Goetschi, Montreal, Howard Hanna, Brockville, A.S. Kerr, Toronto, F.B. Lamont, Winnipeg, Max McDonald, London, James R. Minards, St. Catharines, Ronald Ralph, Ottawa, and W.K. "Noel" Shrimpton, Port Credit.

From its founding in 1964, Brock University crews depended on the use of the equipment of the St. Catharines R.C.. However, when that club refused to allow Brock women to use their shells, Brock Head Coach Tony Biernacki purchased the equipment of the defunct Lachine R.C. for \$1,400. Included in the purchase were six shells. Those boats plus the new ones the University was purchasing meant that Brock could put whomever they wanted on the water. Despite the misogynistic intransigence of the St. Catharines R.C., women's rowing was firmly established in St. Catharines.

1968

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The 87th Regatta of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen The 64th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta July 31 to August 3, 1969

An estimated 700 oarsmen competed at the 1969 CAAO Regatta. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 30, 1969, p.33]

Regatta organizers returned to the four-day format, but continued the practice begun in 1968, of ending on Sunday. Another practice that was becoming a regular part of the medal-presentation ceremony was having young women carry the medals for the presenter—usually a CAAO Officer. In 1969, the women, sporting stylish white blazers were from the Θ Ξ Υ sorority.

Tail winds were a factor in Thursday's races.

Tricky winds produced a variety of times during yesterday's opening competition at the 87th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta here.

A fresh south breeze whipped up a chop along the Henley Course during the afternoon. However, it dropped late in the day and the last of the events were rowed on almost flat water. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 1, 1969, p.23]

Morning heats were necessary for the Junior Fours (Coxswain), and the Junior 135-lb. and 155-lb. Singles. A St. Catharines R.C. coxed four won the first final of the Regatta, while Jim Glass from the West Side R.C. won the Junior 155-lb. Singles, and an 18-year-old, sculling for the New York A.C., Andre Albert, won the Junior 135-lb. Singles. Albert experienced a broken knee brace (a wooden brace inside a shell similar to a rib in a human torso, one end of which was attached to the keelson in the bottom of the shell, and the other to the gunwale), but it happened after the 20-second grace period at the start. His options were to stop and let the other scullers finish without him, or to forge ahead. He chose the latter. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 1, 1969, p.23]

Poor rowing conditions continued on Friday:

A fresh south wind blew most of the crews and scullers down the Henley Course through most of the seven-hour program, whipping the water into whitecaps and making it difficult for both competitors and officials. But just as suddenly, the wind dropped toward evening.

Then, as lightning stabbed around the old waterway, some tricky crosswinds sprang up. But fortunately for all, the driving rain and hail which rolled in shortly before 9 pm, saw the Friday program complete. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 2, 1969, p.33]

Despite the whitecaps, an Ecorse B.C. crew got an assist from the tailwind and won the Junior 155-lb. Eights in 5:55.6, the fastest time of the day.

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The wind and choppy water may have been factors in a collision in the Junior 145-lb. Fours final.

Blood St. [Sculls] led most of the way, but with some 100 metres to go began veering out of their water. Crossing in front of third-place Hamilton Leanders, the New Englanders began crowding West Sides who were in the midst of a sprint and overtaking them. Then they hit.

The two crews struggled to get separated and Leanders closed the gap. All three boats crossed the finish line within inches of each other.

The referees disqualified Blood St. and awarded the race to West Sides with Leanders second. And the Buffalo crew was so elated that two of the oarsmen wound up jumping out of their shell into the water. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 2, 1969, p.33]

The last race of the day, the High School Eights, was rowed on smooth water. It finished just minutes before a thunderstorm rolled in off Lake Ontario. A St. Catharines C.I. crew beat two other St. Catharines schools and two Hamilton schools to win it, and the \$50,000 Calder Cleland Memorial Trophy for the second year in a row.

On Saturday, Larry Klecatsky, now sculling for the New York A.C., won his first medal at the 1969 Henley, and the fourth of his career, in the Senior 155-lb. Singles. Second place went to his brother Rich, who was sculling for the Minnesota B.C.. On Sunday, Larry won the Senior 145-lb. Doubles with Tom Quinn, an event he had won with his brother Tom for the Bachelors Barge Club in 1968. Rich and his partner Howard Ostrem came third. Larry won his third medal of the 1969 Regatta later in the afternoon, in the Senior 145-lb. Singles, which he also won in 1968. Rich finished sixth. Larry finished his day by winning the 500 Metre Dash, 145-lb. Singles, making him the first sculler to win that event, and the last one to win the Quarter-Mile Dash, 145-lb. Singles, which he did in 1968. We shouldn't feel too badly for Rich Klecatsky. He did win a medal in the Senior 145-lb. Fours on Sunday.

There was no television coverage, and only token radio coverage of the 1969 Regatta. CKTB seems to have included results in its regular newscasts, but nothing else.

Rowing conditions on Sunday were ideal.

There was a slight upcourse breeze. But it was barely enough to stir the bunting along the front of the Henley Grandstand and conditions for Sunday afternoon's final program at the 87th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta could have been termed as perfect.

Flat water and a searing sun combined to produce good times [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 5, 1969, p.23]

The Potomac B.C. pair of Larry Hough and Tony Johnson, silver medalists in the Coxless Pairs at the 1968 Mexico Olympics, won both the Senior Pairs (Coxswain) with Jim Storie, and an hour and 10 minutes later, the Senior Pairs.

The closest race of the day was the Senior 155-lb. Eights in which the St. Catharines R.C. beat the Argonaut R.C.. The official margin was one inch [2.54 cm].

New York A.C.'s Jim Dietz won the Championship Singles for the third year in a row, and like Larry Klecatsky was the last sculler to win the Quarter-Mile Dash, Open

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Singles in 1968, and the first to win the 500 Metre Dash, Open Singles in 1969, his third dash win in a row. New York A.C. scullers won five of the 17 finals on Sunday's programme.

A Vesper B.C. eight posted the fastest time of the day in the Senior Eights: 5:48.3. The Argonaut R.C. had two boats in the race, and could have claimed the points championship with good showings, but the crews finished sixth and seventh.

At the beginning of the Regatta, the new St. Catharines R.C. Head Coach, Jack Nicholson, was cautious about his club's chances of winning the Regatta points championship and Maple Leaf Trophy:

In attempting to defend the points title, his club has a virtually all-new cast from the one which swamped all opposition last year under [former Head Coach, Gerry] Lienert.

"Not one senior oarsman (anyone who has won a Henley junior race) returned this year," said Nicholson. "We'll just have to count on the kids from our high school crews coming through." [The Toronto *Daily Star*, August 1, 1969, p.13]

Things were not as dire as Coach Nicholson suggested. The exodus of Seniors referred to by him was one crew, the Olympic eight, that left after the disappointing Mexico Olympic Games. However, the high school kids (i.e. lightweights and Junior heavies) came through—just barely—edging out the Argonaut R.C. by a mere 42½ points to win the points championship for the ninth year in a row.

The Maple Leaf Trophy was presented to St. Catharines R.C. President, Harry Edmondstone, and Club Captain, Gerry Cheevers by John Munro, federal Minister of Health and Welfare, who was an honoured guest on Sunday.

All the winners and times for the 1969 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 31 participating clubs at the 1969 Canadian Henley 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.

Some anomalies are apparent. St. Catharines R.C. won the points championship with six wins from 34 entries. The Toronto Argonauts also won six finals, but did it with only 26 entries. However, the club with the most wins was the New York A.C. with nine from 27 entries. Unfortunately for them, all their wins were in singles or doubles, which were awarded fewer points than eights and fours, which were the strong areas for St. Catharines. And St. Catharines, of course, accumulated many points from its "also ran" crews and scullers.

Argonaut R.C.	(26/6)	Toronto, Ontario
Brockville R.C.	(5/1)	Brockville, Ontario
Chomedey R.C.	(7/0)	Chomedey, Quebec

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Don R.C.	(6/0)	Port Credit, Ontario
Leander B.C.	(21/1)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(10/0)	London, Ontario
Ottawa R.C.	(6/0)	Ottawa, Ontario
St. Catharines R.C.	(34/6)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Winnipeg R.C.	(4/0)	Winnipeg, Manitoba

American entries:

Blood Street Sculls	(7/0)	Old Lyme, Connecticut
Cambridge B.C.	(2/0)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Detroit B.C.	(11/0)	Detroit, Michigan
Ecorse B.C.	(37/2)	Ecorse, Michigan
Fairmount R.A.	(7/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Lake Washington R.C.	(1/0)	Seattle, Washington
Long Beach R.A.	(4/0)	Long Beach, California
Malta B.C.	(6/1)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Minnesota B.C.	(17/2)	St. Paul, Minnesota
New York A.C.	(27/9)	New York, New York
Oyster Bay R.A.	(4/0)	Mill Neck, New York
Penn A.C.	(2/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Potomac B.C.	(13/2)	Washington, District of Columbia
Schuylkill B.C.	(5/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Shrewsbury R.A.	(2/0)	Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
Spuyten Duyvil R.C.	(1/0)	New York, New York
Undine Barge Club	(10/)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Union B.C.	(11/3)	Boston, Massachusetts
Vesper B.C.	(13/3)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(23/3)	Buffalo, New York
Wildcat B.C.	(2/0)	Kansas City, Kansas
Wyandotte B.C.	(11/0)	Wyandotte, Michigan

High school entries:

Grantham H.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Hamilton C.I.	(1/0)	Hamilton, Ontario
St. Catharines C.I.	(1/1)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Sir Winston Churchill S.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Westdale S.S.	(1/0)	Hamilton, Ontario

The financial arrangement between the Henley Aquatic Association and the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen usually didn't appear in print, however, one of those rare times occurred in the *Star*:

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In addition to the ticket sales, money is solicited from industry and private individuals in the area and the Henley Aquatic pays a nominal fee of \$1,500 each year to the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen (CAAO) for the “privilege” of staging the regatta.

....

In 1952, The CAAO and the Henley Aquatic signed a 20-year contract, which ends in 1971 but undoubtedly will be renewed for another 20 years.

Moving the Henley from St. Catharines would be like shifting the world cricket headquarters from the Marylebone Cricket Club. [The Toronto *Daily Star*, August 2, 1969, p.25]

In that same article, we learn that

The North Americans [1967 North American Rowing Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta] were so successful that a combined bid from CAAO and Henley Aquatic to FISA (International rowing Federation) was accepted and the world rowing championships will be held here in 1970.

....

Total cost of the four-day regatta which will be held the first week of September, '70, is \$448,000.

The federal and provincial governments have both pledged \$114,000, the City of St. Catharines has made an outright grant of \$50,000 and the remainder will be obtained through [a] public subscription campaign. [The Toronto *Daily Star*, August 2, 1969, p.25]

The presence of John Munro, Minister of Health and Welfare, on Sunday, suggests that he was having a look at where the federal government's \$114,000 was going.

The question of a national team was discussed again at an Executive Committee meeting in October. A six-man committee led by 1st Vice-President Gerry Martin was given the task of looking into the feasibility of forming a national team for the III World Rowing Championships. In the past, Canada had been represented by club crews and scullers, with those clubs assuming the financial burden. However, a national team format would change that.

Jack Guest of Toronto, emphasized the need of CAAO backing for Canadian crews. . . .

“Some means will have to be found to raise the money and finance the team. The sooner we recognize this fact and get down to work, the better.”

....

“The main problem, of course, is petty club jealousies,” observed Harry Goetschi of Montreal's Chomeday [sic] Rowing Club. “The clubs all want to have their crews on the national team and won't give up individual oarsmen.” [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, October 9, 1969, p. 46]

Two things are noticeable in the newspaper coverage of the national team discussion. First, the word “composite” is not used. The word “national” clearly emphasizes the nature of the team. The second point that seems to have the consensus

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of the Committee is that a decision has to be made soon, not only because of the III World Rowing Championships to be held in 11-months' time, but to have a plan in place for the 1972 Munich Olympic Games. Following past practise was still an option, if "the CAAO was prepared to accept the end of Canadian rowing at the International level." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, October 9, 1969, p.46]

The annual meeting of the CAAO was held at the Toronto Argonaut R.C. clubhouse on Saturday, November 30.

The Officers elected for 1970 were:

Honorary President: F.J. Exner, Port Credit

President: Gerald F. Martin, Toronto

1st Vice-President: James R. Minards, St. Catharines

2nd Vice-President: William Tooker, Brockville

3rd Vice-President: John A. Carver, Vancouver

Secretary: John L. Murray, Kingston

Assistant Secretary: Harry Edmondstone, St. Catharines

Treasurer: Ted E. Norris, Toronto

Publicity Director: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines

Regatta Chairman: Claude Saunders, Hamilton

The grossly over-worked John Murray, who was entering his 42nd consecutive term as Secretary, finally got some help in the form of an Assistant Secretary, Harry Edmondstone.

The Executive Committee for 1970 was appointed from CAAO member clubs. An information bulletin handed out to officials and press, lists 30 member clubs, nine of which were universities:

The Executive Committee:

Anthony Biernacki, St. Catharines, Les Callan, Vancouver, Harry A. Goetschi, Montreal, Howard Hanna, Brockville, F.B. Lamont, Winnipeg, Max McDonald, London, Ronald Ralph, Ottawa, and W.K. "Noel" Shrimpton, Port Credit.

At the request of the organizers of the III World Rowing Championships and the Henley Aquatic Association, it was decided to hold the 1970 Canadian Henley a week earlier than 1969, from July 23 to 26. The III World Rowing Championships organizers preferred the earlier date to allow them to have an extra week to have everything in good working order for their September 2 to 6 Regatta. The HAA preferred the last week in July because attendance dropped off in 1969 when the 87th Regatta finished on the civic holiday weekend. There was general agreement about retaining Sunday as the last day of the Henley.

A national team scheme was introduced here Saturday, but final disposition of the plan will not be known for several weeks. It could, however, produce racing in all seven boat events either before or after the Henley. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, December 1, 1969, p.24]

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What the reporter, Craig Swayze, was trying hard not to say was that there was no plan in place for trials or team selection. As the host country, Canada was expected to be represented by a full seven-boat team.

With 10 months to go before the Worlds, and no team selected, no gambler would have bet on Canadian crews to show well against nationally-sponsored crews who had been training together for years.

The III World Rowing Championships delegation also requested CAAO sanction for their Regatta. Since the conditions laid down by the CAAO had been met, sanction was granted. One of the conditions was “the complete financial independence of the regatta committee and its incorporation under federal charter.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, December 1, 1969, p.24] The CAAO wanted to make sure that there was no legal or financial link between the Association and the III World Rowing Championship committee.

That stipulation protected the CAAO’s bank balance, which stood at “\$11,328 in cash and bonds.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, December 1, 1969, p.24]

Continuing its popular programme of coaching clinics, the CAAO “[p]lanned the staging of a series of cross-country coaching clinics using Martin Bieltz, former Roumanian [sic] national coach, now a resident of Canada.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, December 1, 1969, p.24]

1969

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The 88th Regatta of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen The 65th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta July 23 to 26, 1970

While the CAAO dithered about instituting a national team programme, the federal government was going ahead with the implementation of

the proposed sports policy for Canadians as laid down by John Munro, Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Among the proposals was one to provide office space, almost complete travel costs for championship competition and up to \$12,000 for a full-time director for each of 26 sports listed as top priority, or Category A. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, May 2, 1970, p.43]

Rowing was one of the 26 Category A sports.

Benefits to them include (a) Costs paid for 75 per cent of travel for international competition; (b) Costs paid for 100 per cent of travel for national championships or trials; (c) Pre-competition training for athletes who meet high competitive standards; (d) Up to \$12,000 for a full-time director and 150 square feet of office space, plus 100 per cent of travel costs to annual and executive meetings; (e) Extent of support for travel only to be considered for representation at International Sports Federation meetings. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, May 2, 1970, p.43]

The CAAO's initial response to this largess, was delivered by Publicity Director Craig Swayze, who

thought there might not be enough work for one man on a fulltime basis to handle rowing matters. He suggested rowing could get together with one or two other sports with similar problems and have one executive director among them. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, May 2, 1970, p.43]

Not a very enthusiastic reaction to a policy which would give a cash-strapped organization a boat-load of money, plus a government-paid executive, both of which might be used to set up a national team programme.

And what of the national team programme? The CAAO made a tiny, almost imperceptible step towards that goal:

Gerry Martin, the president of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen, said trials for the championships will be held the week after the Canadian championships [i.e. Henley].

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“We felt in the past that we left strong oarsmen behind at the dock. They missed out because they were with weak crews.”

This year, coaches and a technical committee will suggest switching oarsmen from team to team for the trials, to come up with the strongest crews for the world championships. [The *Toronto Globe and Mail*, June 23, 1970, p.32]

One doesn't have to skip ahead to find out how Canadian crews did at the III World Rowing Championships to know that they were doomed, fettered by a system that the Association, and individual clubs and coaches refused to change.

Two months after Craig Swayze suggested that there might not be enough work for an Ottawa-based Executive Director for rowing, this advertisement appeared in the “Careers” section of the *Globe and Mail*:

The Toronto Globe and Mail, July 7, 1970, p.B7

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF AMATEUR OARSMEN

THE POSITION:

- To be responsible for—
- The organizing and operation of the National Office—located in Ottawa.
 - Stimulating a productive development program among member organizations.
 - Creating and maintaining a complete competitor registration program.
 - Assist in expanding Public Relations, and Communications programs.
 - Expanding revenues-via promotions, donations, foundations etc.
 - Working closely with present Executives and Directors in the development of all of the above.

THE MAN:

- Organizing, Administrative, and Public Relations experience, with a sports background preferably.
- University training desirable, but not essential.
- Mature in thinking and actions; requiring a minimum of supervision.

REMUNERATION:

- Salary and expenses according to qualifications and experience.

APPLICATION:

- Submit complete resume to Chairman of Selection Committee,

**P.O. Box 195 Toronto 9 Ont.
Station D.**

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

The 1970 Henley entry consisted of 872 competitors sitting in 103 fours, 92 singles, 69 eights, 33 pairs and 29 doubles. The four-day programme was made up of 96 heats and finals. In addition to Canadian and American clubs, Club España from Mexico City returned with a 20-member group which included 12 rowers. CAAO President, Gerry Martin was pleased that clubs from both coasts of Canada were competing, and credited the financial assistance of the federal government:

“I think this ocean-to-ocean entry this year is due in large part to the move by the Fitness and Amateur Sports Directorate to allow transportation warrants for the Henley.” Martin went on. “There have been some recent changes in the criteria which makes it easier for clubs like Vancouver and North Star to obtain travel assistance.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 20, 1970, p.20]

The first thing spectators entering the grandstand noticed was the new, three-



St. Catharines Museum - S1970.7.26.1.

level finish tower on the opposite side of the course. It was located approximately where the first grandstand had been situated. On the outside were a set of steps on the finish line, on which the Finish Judges sat, one behind the other. Inside, were offices with communication and timing equipment. It was one of the new facilities built for the III World Rowing Championships. The puff of white smoke in the photo is from the shotgun of the Chief Judge, Merrill Blank, and indicates that the sculler in Lane 5 has crossed the finish line. It took

competitors and spectators some time to get used to the fact that the cable holding the overhead lane markers was *not* the finish line.

A fresh up-course breeze ruffled the Henley Course through most of yesterday's [Thursday's] opening program at the 88th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta.

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

It did not hurt the rowing, but it slowed times. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 24, 1970, p.25]

As usual, heats were rowed on Thursday morning for the Junior 135 and 155-lb. Singles plus the Junior Fours (Coxswain).

The first final in the afternoon was a new event on the programme: Junior Pairs (Coxswain). That brought the Henley slate of club finals to 40, plus one high school race. The inaugural race was won by a crew from the Litchfield R.A..

A new piece of equipment was used for two finishes: a finish camera. It was being tested before the III World Rowing Championships.

In the Junior Fours (Coxswain), the camera was able to determine that the Fairmount R.A. crew beat the London R.C. crew by “approximately six inches.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 24, 1970, p.25] The camera and its ancillary equipment were housed in the new finish tower.

The camera was also used to determine the winner of the Junior 135-lb. Singles final.

[Joe] Kustritz [Minnesota B.C.] and Will Crow [Fairmount R.A.] staged a dramatic race down the full 2,000-metre course, leaving the four other competitors far behind.

At the finish no one in the stands, or the judges could decide the winner.

However Kustritz was so convinced that he had lost that he didn’t wait for the official result but headed back to the shell houses on Henley Island. He was almost 500 metres up the course when the announcement was made that he had won.

[The finish camera’s] picture showed Kustritz ahead by less than an inch. [The Toronto *Daily Star*, July 24, 1970, p.17]

“The rowing conditions were virtually perfect down along the Henley Course yesterday [Friday].” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July25, 1970, p.29]

Chomedey R.C. won its first ever Henley race, the Junior 145-lb. Doubles on Friday, and came third in the Senior event on Sunday. The crew was composed of Réjean Beaugard and Peter King. King was also a member of the Ottawa R.C., and competed in the Junior 145-lb. Singles on Saturday and the 500 Metre Dash, 145-lb. Singles on Sunday, wearing Ottawa colours. “He is a member of both clubs and there is nothing in Canadian rowing rules to prevent this twin representation.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July25, 1970, p.29]

The last final on Friday was the High School Eights, which was won by Grantham H.S.. That win prompted the *Star’s* reporter to opine:

There is no secret of the method used by St. Catharines in developing oarsmen.

It’s strictly through the powerful high school farm system.

Seven St. Catharines-area schools are affiliated with the parent rowing club, receive their early training by experienced oarsmen and graduate to club rowing as soon as the high school season is over.

A good example is the high school eights championship.

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

Of the six entries, five were sponsored by the St. Catharines Rowing Club. [The Toronto *Daily Star*, July 25, 1970, p.35]

Anyone looking at Grantham H.S.'s time of 4:12 might think it's a typo. However, the race was shortened from the traditional distance, 1,609 metres (one mile), to 1,500 metres. The pylons on both sides of the course at the 1,500 metre mark made it easier for the Starter to line up the crews and give everyone a fair start.

Saturday saw the first two of four wins for Larry Klecatsky from the New York A.C.: Senior 155-lb. Singles, and an hour and 15 minutes later, the Association Singles. It was the second year in a row that he won the lightweight single.

A slight tailwind helped rowers on Sunday. "It was hot and it was humid, however. And some competitors suffered with the heat." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 27, 1970, p.19] A 20-minute rain shower in the middle of the afternoon provided some relief from the 32 °C heat.

It wasn't sorority sisters helping with the medal presentations on Saturday and Sunday, but a "group of pretty interpreters . . . getting in some practice for the III World Rowing Championships." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 27, 1970, p.19]

The "overflow crowd" [The St. Catharines *Standard*, July 27, 1970, p.19] had a part in an extremely rare occurrence at a Canadian Henley: *booing*. There were only two boats in the Senior 135-lb. Fours final, both from the Argonaut R.C.. They paddled leisurely down the course, taking nine minutes and 12 seconds to cover the 2,000 metres. When the winners stood on the podium to receive their medals, they were given a chorus of *boos*. Forty-five minutes later, the two fours were back, this time combined as the winners of the Senior 135-lb. Eights. The slow race in the fours had been a tactic to save energy for the eight.



Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

Above, we see the finish of the Senior Fours, with the Union B.C. only a few metres from the finish line (the black line down the middle of the white board). To the right of the finish line, sitting atop the podium draped in striped bunting is the Maurice J. Carroll Challenge Trophy which was to be presented to the winning crew in addition to their medals and plaque. Since there was no radio or television coverage, we have to assume that the people on the roof of the grandstand are fearless spectators plus one lone photographer at the extreme right. The reporter who used the phrase “overflow crowd” to describe the attendance, was sitting in the press box at the right. Clearly he was playing fast and loose with the word “overflow.”

The Senior Doubles was won by a Vesper B.C. pair made up of Ernest Boetzelen and Robert Montgomery. In a demonstration of friendship and camaraderie that is part of the rowing community, their medals were presented by CAAO Past-President, Jack Guest. In 1930, Guest beat Boetzelen’s father Gerhard, who was then living in Germany, in the final of the Diamond Challenge Sculls at the Henley Royal Regatta.

New York A.C.’s Larry Klecatsky won his third and fourth medals of the Regatta in the Senior 145-lb. Singles and the 500 Metre Dash, 145-lb. Singles. They were his third wins in a row for both events.

Club mate Jim Dietz also won two: the Championship Singles, and the 500 Metre Dash, Open Singles. They were his fourth wins in a row for both events. Dietz’ two wins, plus Klecatsky’s four and Ed McKenna’s win in the Senior 135-lb. Singles on Saturday, meant that New York A.C. swept all five Senior singles events plus the two singles dashes.

The Vancouver R.C. eight won the Senior Eights and that prompted speculation that they would be the Canadian eight at the III World Rowing Championships.



Above, the Vancouver R.C. eight, in the dark shirts at the far side, are about to cross the finish line ahead of the Union B.C. and Vesper B.C. while the Finish Judges sit on the steps of the new tower, poised to record the placements of the crews.

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

All the winners and times for the 1970 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 39 participating clubs at the 1970 Canadian Henley 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.

The St. Catharines R.C. won the Maple Leaf Trophy for the Regatta championship for the 10th consecutive year. That was accomplished with six wins and many “also-rans” from 34 entries. The club with the most wins was the New York A.C. with seven from 19 entries. All NYAC’s wins were singles, which were awarded fewer points than eights and fours, which were the strong areas for St. Catharines.

Something of note is the fact that the wins were shared among 18 clubs. In other words, 46% of the 39 contesting clubs won at least one event.

Argonaut R.C.	(30/3)	Toronto, Ontario
Brentwood College	(2/0)	Mill Bay, British Columbia
Brockville R.C.	(7/1)	Brockville, Ontario
Chomedey R.C.	(6/1)	Chomedey, Quebec
Don R.C.	(5/0)	Port Credit, Ontario
Leander B.C.	(17/1)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(12/3)	London, Ontario
Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club	(2/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
North Star R.C.	(1/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Ottawa R.C.	(7/0)	Ottawa, Ontario
St. Catharines R.C.	(34/6)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Vancouver R.C.	(12/1)	Vancouver, British Columbia
Windsor Crew	(5/0)	Windsor, Ontario

American entries:

Blood Street Sculls	(10/0)	Old Lyme, Connecticut
Boston University	(2/0)	Boston, Massachusetts
Cambridge B.C.	(4/2)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Detroit B.C.	(13/1)	Detroit, Michigan
Ecorse B.C.	(8/1)	Ecorse, Michigan
Fairmount R.A.	(7/1)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Litchfield R.A.	(2/1)	Litchfield, Connecticut
Malta B.C.	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	(1/0)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Midwest International Rowing Centre		

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

	(3/0)	Madison, Wisconsin
Minnesota B.C.	(18/2)	St. Paul, Minnesota
New Haven R.C.	(6/0)	New Haven, Connecticut
New York A.C.	(19/7)	New York, New York
Niagara Frontier R.C.	(2/0)	Tonawanda, New York
Oyster Bay R.A.	(3/0)	Mill Neck, New York
Penn A.C.	(5/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Potomac B.C.	(8/0)	Washington, District of Columbia
Rochester R.C.	(7/0)	Rochester, New York
Schuylkill B.C.	(2/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Undine Barge Club	(7/1)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Union B.C.	(11/4)	Boston, Massachusetts
Vesper B.C.	(7/2)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(23/2)	Buffalo, New York
Westchester R.C.	(1/0)	Westchester, New York
Wyandotte B.C.	(13/0)	Wyandotte, Michigan

Mexican entries:

Club España	(8/0)	Mexico City, Mexico
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High school entries:

Beamsville H.S.	(1/0)	Beamsville, Ontario
Grantham H.S.	(1/1)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Hamilton C.I.	(1/0)	Hamilton, Ontario
Lakeport S.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
St. Catharines C.I.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Sir Winston Churchill S.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario

A new phrase appears in the newspaper coverage of the 1970 Canadian Henley: “development centre.” It was an American programme to develop elite crews for international competition. “The Union Boat Club is designated as the ‘development centre’ for U.S. rowing and many of the better oarsmen are gathered there for extensive training.” [The Toronto *Daily Star*, July 27, 1970, p.10] The Club’s web site boasts: “Union was also home to the first National Team Training camp which produced the 1972 Mens Olympic eight.” [<https://www.unionboatclub.org/page/RowingHistory>]

The New Haven R.C. was another development centre.

In 1970, Yale Rowing coach, Tony Johnson, had a problem. During the academic year he worked with many qualified oarsmen, but, when classes stopped he had no formal program to continue their training. He wanted to build a program wherein the better collegiate rowers and selected post-collegiate rowers could train throughout the summer. Only an intense schedule of

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

rigorous racing workouts and technical sessions could prepare these rowers for U.S. National and Olympic Rowing Team tryouts.

Being an ingenious fellow, he founded the New Haven Rowing Club. As a club, he could carry on organized practices and races all year long. His problem was solved. His crews competed in the 1970 and 1971 National Team trials and in the Olympic Team trials of 1972. [<https://www.newhavenrowingclub.org/history>]

Yet another development centre was the Midwest International Rowing Centre. It was one of a long line of camps located in Madison, Wisconsin.

Although they competed under a club's name, the development centre crews contained few, if any, local oarsmen. Their elite composition gave them an advantage over crews composed mainly of men who were residents of the city in which their club was located. The CAAO would have to wrestle with that inequality.

This was not an entirely new issue. The Vancouver R.C., and to a degree, the St. Catharines R.C. had been recruiting for several years, the former, tapping into the University of British Columbia pool, and the latter, attracting men from the Hamilton and Toronto areas.

The trials for the III World Rowing Championships were held during the week after Henley. To no one's surprise, the Vancouver R.C. eight was selected. It was the only boat on the team that had won its Henley race, and, contrary to the CAAO's team plan, they did not remain in St. Catharines, but returned to Vancouver. Roger Jackson from the VRC won the singles trial, and, even though he finished 12 lengths behind Jim Dietz in the Championship Singles, he was put on the team, as were an Argonaut R.C. lightweight double. The two fours and two pairs were selected from a pool of St. Catharines, London and Toronto oarsmen.

Although the press tended to take the stance that the Canadians *might* have a chance to get to the semifinals, two voices offered a more realistic assessment. Bud Lancaster returned from touring European regattas where he promoted the III World Rowing Championships, and put it bluntly: "They're [the Canadian crews] simply not competitive . . ." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 1, 1970, p.30] And former coach, and current CAAO President, Gerry Martin, also predicted a poor showing. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, September 3, 1970, p.30]

The dire predictions were fulfilled. At the III World Rowing Championships, not only did all seven Canadian entries lose their preliminary heats, they all came last. They also all came last in the second-chance *repêchages*. This embarrassment, on Canada's home course, in front of the rowing world, reinforced the fact that something needed to be done to improve Canada's competitiveness at international regattas. Perhaps the models were the Germans. The East Germans [GDR] won three gold and four silver medals, while the West Germans [RFG] won a gold, silver and bronze. Other countries were adapting the East German programme of professional, full-time coaches, government financial support, and intense, year-round training.

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

Money was not a problem for the CAAO. The federal government announced grants to 50 Canadian sports governing bodies. The CAAO's share of the \$1-million pot was \$27,500. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 22, 1970, p.29]

Although he had been living and working in Canada since 1930, Bob Pearce was "named the outstanding Australian athlete of the past 200 years." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, September 17, 1970, p.39]

Pearce, who was a spectator at the III World Rowing Championships, offered these suggestions for improving Canadian teams: "If we're going to compete with European and Pacific countries, we're going to have to do something fast. The answer may be good professional coaching and taking a look at European methods." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, September 17, 1970, p.39]

The annual meeting of the CAAO was held in Ottawa on Saturday, November 21.

The Officers elected for 1971 were:

Honorary President: F.J. Exner, Port Credit

President: Gerald F. Martin, Toronto

1st Vice-President: James R. Minards, St. Catharines

2nd Vice-President: Thomas Croston, Etobicoke

3rd Vice-President: John A. Carver, Vancouver

Secretary: John L. Murray, Kingston

Assistant Secretary: Harry Edmondstone, St. Catharines

Treasurer: Ted E. Norris, Toronto

Publicity Director: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines

Regatta Chairman: Claude Saunders, Hamilton

Executive Director: Alan Price, Ottawa. This was the new, government-funded, position in Ottawa.

Since 1880, the Executive Committee had been composed of members at large from member clubs. Those members seemed not to have had specific duties. That was about to change. There had been eight members on the 1970 Executive Committee. Not a single one of those men appears on the 1971 list which contains only four names:

Peter King, Ottawa. Daryl MacDonald, St. Catharines. Claude Saunders, Hamilton. Craig Swayze, St. Catharines.

This seems to have been an interim Committee. A new format would be in place in 1972.

Not only was the Association moving in a new direction in its executive structure, but new plans were proposed for improving Canada's showing at international regattas.

The association hopes to enter lightweight crews in the European championships next year and intends embarking on a development program for new and existing clubs.

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

The association hopes to establish coaching clinics where oarsmen can be taken for extended training and plans to purchase new shells to be given to new clubs as a means and incentive in getting them started. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 23, 1970, p.23]

After years of being a voice crying in the wilderness, some of Gerry Martin's suggestions were finally being implemented.

1970

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

The 89th Regatta of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen The 66th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta August 12 to 15, 1971

The 1971 rowing season began with some encouraging news about a national team programme:

The Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen has undertaken an ambitious program aimed at developing a championship entry for the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal.

....

Gerald Martin of Toronto, association president, said in a release: "It's all part of a completely new approach."

....

Youth development appears the key to the program. [The Toronto *Daily Star*, March 17, 1971, p.19]

The Pan American Games were held in Cali, Colombia from July 21 to August 12. Canada sent an eight and coxed pair from the University of British Columbia, and a straight pair and four from the St. Catharines R.C.. The eight was the only medal-winner, taking the bronze.

Although the 1971 Henley Regatta was two weeks later than usual, there were 365 entries in 88 races. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 10, 1971, p.19] The number of competitors was approximately 700. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 12, 1971, p. 25] Included in that number were 30 women who were competing in an exhibition Women's Four (Coxswain) race on Saturday.

The hot topic of conversation around Henley Island and in the press was the newly revised points system. Devised by past CAAO President, Ted Norris, who was also the official score-keeper, it was designed to eliminate fractions and double points for the Championship Singles and Senior Eights. Heat winners received points equivalent to the points awarded for a sixth place finish in the finals.

Four finals were rowed on Thursday afternoon, three of which, the Junior Pairs (Coxswain), Junior Fours (Coxswain), and Junior 135-lb. Singles, were won by the St. Catharines R.C.. The Singles winner was David Mossop. It was his first of three wins. The afternoon finals

were part of a 22-race inaugural program, most of which was rowed in whitecaps as a strong south wind blew down the 2000-meter distance. It made for extremely fast times but difficult rowing.

....

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Only casualty from the rough water was Ed Kollmer of New York Athletic Club who upset in the junior single heats.

The rough water popped an oarlock after about 300 meters. Killmer tipped out and needed to be rescued. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 13, 1971, p.25]

“After Thursday’s white caps which opened the 89th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, yesterday’s [Friday’s] conditions were virtually perfect. The results were some exciting finishes through the marathon 6½-hour program.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 14, 1971, p.27]

The first final of the day, the Junior Singles, was won by John Trinsey from the Malta B.C.. It was his first of three wins.

David Mossop who had won the Junior 135-lb. singles on Thursday won his second medal on Friday in the St. Catharines R.C. crew that took the Junior 135-lb. Eights.

The last race of the day, the High School Eights, was an all-St. Catharines event, featuring six local high schools. The winners of the \$50,000 Calder Cleland Memorial Trophy, West Park S.S., were the new kids on the block. The school had opened its doors in September, 1969.

While the opening half of yesterday’s [Friday’s] program — including all the points finals — was rowed under perfect water conditions, a tricky wind sprang up towards evening, making starting difficult. This was especially true for the floating starts in the 500-metre dash heats and the high school eight final. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 14, 1971, p.27]

“Tricky winds and intermittent showers combined to plague Saturday’s competition at the 89th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 16, 1971, p.19] Larry Klecatsky from the New York A.C., won his first of two medals. He took the Senior 155-lb. Singles for the third year in a row.

Klecatsky’s clubmate Frank Pisani also won his first of two medals: Junior 145-lb. Singles. On Sunday, Pisani and Don Rose won the first race of the afternoon, the Senior 145-lb. Doubles.

David Mossop, the St. Catharines R.C. sculler who had won the Junior 135-lb. Singles on Thursday, and the Junior 135-lb. Eights on Friday, collected his third medal on Saturday, winning the Senior 135-lb. Singles.

The penultimate race on Saturday afternoon was a momentous event in the history of the Canadian Henley, but sadly, the press has nothing to say about it, except print the results. The Women’s Fours (Coxswain) was an exhibition race like the Women’s Eights event in 1948. Unlike the eights, which featured two St. Catharines R.C. boats, the 1971 race had five crews from four Canadian clubs: Calgary R.C., Kenora R.C., and London R.C., each boated one crew, while the Quebec Rowing Federation (aka *Équipe de Québec*) had two crews, one of which won the event. A sixth entry from the Brockville R.C. scratched. There is no time given in the press, for the 1,000 metre race—the distance mandated by FISA for women’s events. The members of the historic crew were:

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Monique Rossignot, Denise Desjardins, Guylaine Bernier, Lucie Gagnon (stroke), and Marie Giguere (cox). Placing second in the race was a crew from the Calgary R.C.. That club, like the Quebec Rowing Federation, was making its first visit to the Canadian Henley.

Winds were again a problem on Sunday. "A stiff wind was blowing up the Henley Course, whipping up waves through the first 1,000 metres and forcing crews to row directly down its throat." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 16, 1971, p.19]

It was starting to become a tradition that the winners of the Senior Pairs (Coxswain) also won the Senior Pairs. In 1971, it was the New York A.C. crew of Ed Kollmer and Sandy Killen, plus coxie Joe Maiorano who accomplished that feat.

With Jim Dietz representing the United States at the European Rowing Championships in Copenhagen, Denmark, Rich Stehlik, from the Malta B.C., won the Championship Singles.

John Trinsey, also from the Malta B.C., had won the Junior Singles on Friday, the Association Singles on Saturday, but came third in the Championship Singles on Sunday. However, five races later, he won the 500 Metre Dash, Open Singles for his third medal. In 1945, his father, John S. Trinsey, sculling for the Pennsylvania Barge Club, won both the Quarter-Mile Dash, 145-lb. Singles, and the Quarter-Mile Dash, Open Singles.

Larry Klecatsky, from the New York A.C., did not contest the Senior 145-lb. Singles which was won by the Detroit B.C.'s Paul Fuchs. However, Klecatsky did win the 500 Metre Dash, 145-lb. Singles. It was his fourth lightweight dash win in as many years.

The Senior Eights was won by the New Haven R.C.. Half that crew had won the Senior Fours earlier in the afternoon, and the other half had won the Senior Fours (Coxswain) on Saturday. They were "part of the United States Olympic Rowing Development Plan." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 16, 1971, p.19]

Because the St. Catharines R.C. had crews at the Pan American Games in Cali, Columbia and the European Rowing Championships in Copenhagen, only one Senior crew was on hand for the 89th Regatta. That crew took the Senior 145-lb. Eights. The only other win for the St. Catharines R.C. in the Senior races on Sunday was in the Senior 145-lb. Fours by the crew that had won the Junior event on Friday.

Despite being undermanned, the St. Catharines R.C. won the points championship and Maple Leaf Trophy for the 11th consecutive year.

All the winners and times for the 1971 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 42 participating clubs at the 1971 Canadian Henley 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 for the Thursday morning heats are missing. I don't have the programme for that day, and the press did not report the results of those heats. Nor did the press report the scratches in the heats for Thursday and Friday.*]

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

The Quebec Rowing Federation's win did not count towards points, since it was in the exhibition Women's Four (Coxswain) race.

Argonaut R.C.	(36/5)	Toronto, Ontario
Brentwood College	(2/0)	Mill Bay, British Columbia
Brockville R.C.	(5/1)	Brockville, Ontario
Calgary R.C.	(3/0)	Calgary, Alberta
Chomedey R.C.	(3/0)	Chomedey, Quebec
Don R.C.	(5/0)	Port Credit, Ontario
Kenora R.C.	(1/0)	Kenora, Ontario
Leander B.C.	(10/0)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(3/0)	London, Ontario
Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club	(1/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
North Star R.C.	(2/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Ottawa R.C.	(10/2)	Ottawa, Ontario
Quebec Rowing Federation	(6/1)	Montreal, Quebec
St. Catharines R.C.	(42/12)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Thunder Bay R.C.	(4/0)	Thunder Bay, Ontario
University of Western Ontario	(8/0)	London, Ontario
Vancouver R.C.	(8/0)	Vancouver, British Columbia
Winnipeg R.C.	(1/0)	Winnipeg, Manitoba

American entries:

Blood Street Sculls	(8/0)	Old Lyme, Connecticut
Boston University	(1/0)	Boston, Massachusetts
Detroit B.C.	(18/4)	Detroit, Michigan
Duluth R.C.	(1/0)	Duluth, Minnesota
Ecorse B.C.	(13/0)	Ecorse, Michigan
Fairmount R.A.	(9/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Long Beach R.A.	(2/0)	Long Beach, California
Malta B.C.	(4/4)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Minneapolis R.C.	(2/0)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Minnesota B.C.	(16/1)	St. Paul, Minnesota
Narragansett B.C.	(8/0)	Providence, Rhode Island
New Haven R.C.	(4/3)	New Haven, Connecticut
New York A.C.	(24/6)	New York, New York
Niagara Frontier R.C.	(1/0)	Tonawanda, New York
Penn A.C.	(5/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Potomac B.C.	(1/0)	Washington, District of Columbia
Rochester R.C.	(4/0)	Rochester, New York
Syracuse R.A.	(3/1)	Syracuse, New York
Undine Barge Club	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Union B.C.	(1/0)	Boston, Massachusetts
University of Massachusetts	(1/0)	Amherst Massachusetts
Vesper B.C.	(2/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(23/1)	Buffalo, New York
Wyandotte B.C.	(14/0)	Wyandotte, Michigan

High school entries:

Denis Morris H.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Grantham H.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Lakeport S.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
St. Catharines C.I.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Sir Winston Churchill S.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
West Park S.S.	(1/1)	St. Catharines, Ontario

Craig Swayze summed up the 89th Regatta this way: "The dates were later and the weather somewhat unpredictable. The entry was smaller and the crowds were down." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 16, 1971, p.19]

The annual meeting of the CAAO was held at the Skyline Hotel in Toronto on Saturday, November 6.

The notice of the meeting in the *C.A.A.O. Newsletter* contains proof that the Association still did not know how to deal with women. After the details are given, we get this: "There is no formal program for the ladies, leaving them free to shop. However, they are invited to attend the informal Saturday evening dinner." [Swayze, Craig, ed. "Annual Meeting." *C.A.A.O. Newsletter*, October, 1971, p.2]

The titles of the Officers elected for 1972 now reflected the duties for which each Officer was responsible:

Past-President: Gerald F. Martin, Etobicoke
President: James R. Minards, St. Catharines
1st Vice-President (Finance): Thomas Croston, Port Credit
2nd Vice-President (International): Craig Swayze, St. Catharines
3rd Vice-President (Domestic): Peter King, Ottawa
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

Since 1880, the Executive Committee had been composed of members at large from member clubs. Those members seem not to have had specific duties except when they were on *ad hoc* committees. That changed with the 1972 Executive Committee. It was

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composed of the chairmen of 13 committees. Some Committee members were also Officers:

Awards: F.J. Exner, Toronto
Coaches: Jack Nicholson, St. Catharines
Constitution: Charles Adams, St. Catharines
Domestic Development: Peter King, Ottawa
Finance: Thomas Croston, Port Credit
Grants: Ronald Couchman, Baie d'Urfé
Historian: John L. Murray, Kingston
International Development: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines
Officials: William Dann, St. Catharines
Public Relations: Bill Rodda, Toronto
Regatta: Claude Saunders, Hamilton
Trophies: Donald Baker, St. Catharines
Youth Rowing: H.H. Lancaster, St. Catharines

Unquestionably, the Committee member with greatest responsibility was Claude Saunders. As Regatta Chairman, he and Assistant Regatta Chairman, Charles Adams oversaw 19 referees, 10 finish judges, nine clerks of the course, six announcers, five marshals of the float, three registrars, and two clerks of the scales.

There was a time when Toronto-area men dominated the governing positions of the Association. Now it was St. Catharines men who controlled the CAAO. Moreover, except for Ronald Couchman from the Montreal suburb of Baie d'Urfé, every position of responsibility was held by a man from Ontario. However, lest we conclude that only Ontario men attended the meeting, we are told that attendees included "representatives from every Canadian rowing club and school from coast to coast." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 8, 1971, p.27]

Saturday's meeting also considered the question of the growing popularity of women's rowing in Canada.

Several clubs already have women's sections and there is a women's division in college competition. However, nothing is organized by the CAAO for women's crews on a national scale.

The new executive promised to take the matter under consideration, especially since the next World Rowing Championships, scheduled for Lucerne in 1974, will have a separate women's program. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 8, 1971, p.27]

The CAAO's non-action regarding women's rowing is reminiscent of the Association's foot-dragging in the past whenever the topic of a national team was brought up.

Among the other agenda items reported in the press were something old and something new. The old item had been around for decades. The Executive "[a]greed to investigate at the federal level why there is a levy of taxes on rowing equipment." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 8, 1971, p.27]

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The new item would begin a discussion that would continue for more than a quarter century. The meeting “[h]eard an appeal by Tony Carr of Brentwood College of Victoria, for the adoption of FISA rules in classifying oarsmen and scullers.” Put simply, Coach Carr was proposing that the traditional CAAO method based on the weight and experience of the oarsman, be done away with, and be replaced by the FISA method based on age.

This edition of the CAAO Officers and Executive Committee had three huge tasks to deal with: they were in the early stages of implementing a national team programme; women’s involvement would be the next important item to be dealt with; and classification of oarsmen, and at some point, oarswomen, would require a decision in the future.

Canadian oarswomen were a reality and could not be ignored much longer. On the same day the CAAO was holding its annual meeting in Toronto, the Eastern Canadian Intercollegiate Rowing Association was holding its 11th Championship Regatta on the cold, windy, and wet Henley course. The five-race programme included one 1,000 metre race for “Girls” eights. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 8, 1971, p.27] The number of entries indicate how popular the sport was among university women: Brock, McMaster and Trent each had two crews, while the University of Western Ontario had one. One of the McMaster crews, rowing out of the Leander B.C., won. Not only would the CAAO have to adapt to women rowing, sports writers would have to be schooled on what was, and was not appropriate. Jack Gatecliff, Sports Editor of the *Standard* who covered the regatta, committed his first, but not his last, *faux pas* when covering women’s rowing when he described a Brock coxie as “Colleen Eckert, an attractive brunette from Timmins.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 8, 1971, p.27] Needless to say, Gatecliff did not comment on the appearance of any of the male coxies. Not only did Eckert cox a women’s crew, she also coxed the Brock Freshman eight. Women coxies in men’s crew were starting to become common.

1971

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The 90th Regatta of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen The 67th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta August 3 to 6, 1972

The previous agreement between the Henley Aquatic Association and the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen had been signed on May 15, 1951, and lapsed in 1970. After two years without an agreement, the new one was signed on April 14. It got little press coverage, but it would have serious repercussions in 10 years. The clause in the contract that would be the centre of controversy in 1982 was number 1:

The C.A.A.O. agrees to hold the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta on the Henley Course in St. Catharines commencing with the year 1972 and ending with and including the summer of 1982. Except, however, that the C.A.A.O. shall have the option at its sole discretion of moving the said Regatta on three occasions during the said term provided that it will not be moved from St. Catharines before the year 1977, and will not be moved for two years in succession. If this option be exercised by the C.A.A.O. for one or three years, then the C.A.A.O. will sanction a major Regatta at St. Catharines for any year that the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta is so moved, so long as it does not conflict with any other C.A.A.O. SANCTIONED REGATTA. [Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen, & Henley Aquatic Association Ltd. (1972). *Agreement between Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen, & Henley Aquatic Association Ltd., April 15, 1972 to 1982.*]

I have underlined the key point.

The signatories to the contract for the HAA were President Tim Rigby and Secretary Henry B. Burgoyne. President Jim Minards and Secretary John Murray signed for the CAAO. Rigby explained the HAA's rationale for agreeing to allow the Henley to move. He "said it was done as a matter of convenience to the national body." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, December 15, 1982, p.1]

He said the agreement . . . was to help Burnaby, B.C. develop a rowing course. The British Columbia government was not going to give money to the project unless there was some assurance that province would host a major rowing event. . . . [T]he only one available was the Henley.

"Burnaby said it would never exercise that option," Mr. Rigby said. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, January 26, 1983, p.9]

"[W]e were confident that the CAAO would never allow it to be moved. Henley has been successful in St. Catharines, a lot of people put time, effort and money into it and the CAAO knew this." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, December 15, 1982, p.1]

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Moreover, since the CAAO was obligated by the agreement to “sanction a major Regatta at St. Catharines for any year that the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta is . . . moved” and since there were no other major regattas in Canada, the HAA had nothing to worry about—for the time being.

This gentlemen’s agreement held for the 10-year life of the contract and the Henley stayed in St. Catharines.

The announcement in the *C.A.A.O. Newsletter* that there would be women’s events at the 90th Regatta, leaves no doubt that the Association was very much a boys’ club. Although it is brief, it manages to be patronizing and chauvinistic, bordering on misogynistic.

WOMEN’S LIB!

(Three Races for Gals at Henley)

Women’s Lib has finally caught up with the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta.

After 90 years, this summer’s Henley is adding three events for women.

The Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen has scheduled 1,000-metre races for women’s eights, cox fours and singles to the 1972 regatta . . .

....

As one old oar observed, shaking his head sadly: “I guess nothing is sacred any more.” [Swayze, Craig, ed. “Women’s Lib!” *C.A.A.O. Newsletter*, March, 1972, p.17]

That attitude notwithstanding, when the CAAO announced “that three female events will be run at the 1972 regatta in St. Catharines,” [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, May 15, 1972, p.S7] young women in high schools across the country were encouraged to look into the sport.

Clubs were approached by women wanting to row, but most clubs were not prepared:

“The Argonaut Club does not have enough equipment for both girl and boy high school rowers,” said Allan Ward, a senior member of the board of directors. “Also we lack accommodations and facilities for the girls.” [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, May 15, 1972, p.S7]

Nevertheless, the Argonaut R.C. was inundated with high school girls: 85 from Parkdale C.I., 15 from Western Technical - Commercial School, and eight from Humberstone C.I.. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, May 15, 1972, p.S7] To put those 108 girls into perspective, the Argonaut R.C. had “130 high school boys registered for rowing.” [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, May 15, 1972, p.S7] We should remember that the boys’ programme was long established. The girls were hoping to start something new. For the time being, only female coxies would be allowed to compete in men’s boats at the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association Championship Regatta.

One such coxie was Helen Valiunas in the Humberstone C.I. 145-lb. eight. Unfortunately, the adolescent boys in her crew were still adjusting to the novelty of having a female in their boat. In the mind of one member of the crew, Mike Rea, her

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main asset was her appearance. "We'll get Helen to wear a bikini in the race, and that way hope the other crews keep looking at her," he said. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, May 15, 1972, p.57] This illustrates two hurdles women would have to overcome. It was one thing for a teenage boy to say that, but it was a more serious issue for the adult reporter, David Grossman, to quote him in print.

At the 27th CSSRA Championship Regatta, Helen Valiunas' HumberSide C.I. crew was eliminated in their preliminary heat. However, another female coxie had better luck. Kris Berry became the first woman to receive a gold medal at the Canadian "Schoolboy" when her Senior Men's Novice 135-lb. Coxed Four from Liverpool H.S. in Liverpool, New York won their event. Her achievement was enthusiastically applauded by the grandstand crowd, but the *Globe and Mail's* reporter felt obliged to include Kris' appearance in his story: "The pretty blonde received the loudest ovation of the afternoon from the packed Royal Canadian Henley grandstand." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, June, 5, 1972, p.57]

Now that the CAAO had decided to include women's races at the Canadian Henley, other regatta organizers began to follow suit. A 1,000 metre women's coxed four race was added to the 23rd annual P.D. Ross Regatta programme on July 22 in Ottawa. The inaugural race was won by a Blood Street Sculls crew.

A new phrase became part of the rowing vocabulary in 1972: "Olympic development regatta." This was part of the CAAO's programme to develop crews and scullers for international regattas. One-time trials pitting club against club, were gone. Rowers hoping for a seat on the national team, would have to prove themselves at a series of development regattas.

Another part of the CAAO's new national team programme was to develop youth teams. Sending them to international youth regattas was included in the plan. To that end, a large Canadian team was sent to the FISA Youth Championships in Milan, Italy.

The federal government continued its support of amateur sports. In July, the governing bodies of 43 amateur sports received \$1.3 million. The CAAO's share was \$59,690. [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, July 15, 1972, p.34]

Preliminary numbers indicated that there were 421 entries in 106 races at the 90th Regatta. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 1, 1972, p.15] Sixteen of those entries were women's crews and scullers. The three women's events brought the total number of club finals on the Henley programme to 43.

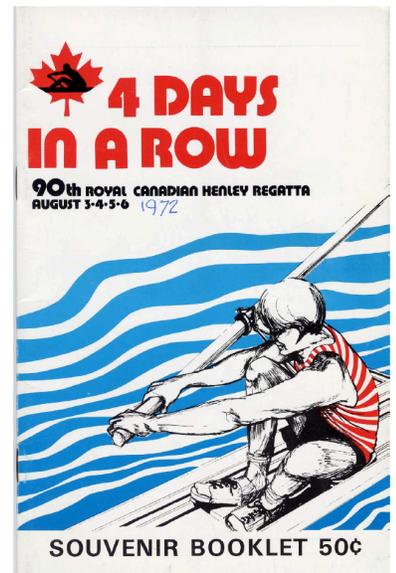
The north end of Henley Island was a mass of shells on temporary racks and trailers: 155 singles, 133 fours, 67 eights, 40 pairs and 26 doubles. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 1, 1972, p.15] The number of pairs indicates how popular those events had become. There was a time when a pairs event attracted few, if any, contestants to the Regatta, but in 1972, there were 16 entries in the Junior Pairs, and 15 entries in the Senior Pairs. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 1, 1972, p.15] Part of the reason for their popularity was Canada's gold medal in the Coxless Pairs at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Another contributing factor to their popularity was the fact that straight and coxed pairs were two of the seven races on FISA programmes. That was an incentive for

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Canadian clubs wanting to go to international regattas, to compete in those events at the Canadian Henley.

A new catchphrase, “4 Days in a Row,” made its appearance on Henley print advertising, including the CKTB/610 ads. Those ads proclaimed: “Bill Bird will report live racing description.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 1, 1972, p.19] However, the radio listings contain no mention of Henley broadcasts. Presumably, Bill Bird sent updates to the station to be used in regular news, weather, and sports programming.

Craig Swayze took over the editorship of the Henley programme from Merrill Blank. The 1972 programme had a different look and a different size. It was now printed on plain paper in digest size. Perhaps financial problems of the Henley Aquatic Association (who published the programme) after the 1967 North American Rowing Championships - Canadian Centennial Regatta and the 1970 III World Rowing Championships contributed to the reduced size and quality of the publication. Teething problems—like forgetting to include the year on the cover—were to be expected.



Heavy rain and a driving wind sweeping the Henley Course from time to time yesterday [Thursday] afternoon served to make for a mixture of times as the 90th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta got underway.

Despite the wet going, regatta officials managed to keep the racing on time and there were no casualties. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 4, 1972, p.21]

A new club, headquartered on Henley Island, made its existence known immediately. The Ridley Graduate B.C. won the first two finals of the 1972 Regatta, the Junior Pairs (Coxswain) and the Junior Fours (Coxswain).

The third final, the Junior 155-lb. Singles, was also noteworthy. It was won by Ted Van Dusen from the Riverside B.C.. Van Dusen’s boat stood out from all the others at the Regatta. It was red, not brown and the skin was made of a mixture of fibreglass and carbon, not wood. Moreover, Van Dusen, a 26-year-old graduate student in naval architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, had designed and built it himself. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 4, 1972, p.21] Van Dusen would turn his skills as a designer and boat-builder into a successful business, known today as Composite Engineering - Van Dusen Racing Boats.

Like the first two finals, the fourth final on Thursday’s programme, the Junior 135-lb. Singles, was won by a new club, the Michigan Athletic Club from Ecorse, Michigan. The medal-winning sculler was Mike Miller.

A good part of Thursday’s programme involved four heats for the Junior Singles. There were 23 entries, the most for any event. The eventual winner of Friday’s final was Bob Allen from the Argonaut R.C..

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Although it was sunny, Friday's races were affected by a stiff headwind which generated choppy water resulting in slow times. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 5, 1972, p.29]

Brock University had been competing in fall university regattas since it opened its doors in 1964. However, it wasn't until 1972 that Brock crews entered Henley races. Friday saw its first victory, the Junior 145-lb. Doubles. That meant that all three Henley Island-based clubs had won medals. The Ridley Graduate B.C. four that had won the Junior Fours (Coxswain) on Thursday, also won the Junior Fours on Friday.

Canadian Henley history was made on Friday. The first ever heats for a women's event were run:

One of the highlights of yesterday's program was the first appearance of girls' crews in points events.

Two heats of the women's cox fours were run off at 1,500 metres. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 5, 1972, p.29]

Not only is the story marred by its brevity, but the two sentences contain a factual error: the FISA distance for women's races was 1,000 metres.

The history-making crews came from six clubs: Blood Street Sculls, Calgary R.C. (who had two crews), College B.C., London R.C. (who won the first heat), Vesper B.C. (who won the second heat and who are misidentified in the *Standard* as "Philadelphia Girls"), and Wyandotte B.C..

The last final of the day was the High School Eights, which was won for the second year in a row by a West Park S.S. crew. They were the worthy recipients of the \$50,000 Calder Cleland Memorial Trophy. For the first time since 1946, no crew from the St. Catharines C.I. competed.

"Sunny skies and flat water made Saturday afternoon a pleasant one along the Henley Course." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 8, 1972, p.21]

There are several stories worth mentioning from Saturday's races: Larry Klecatsky, sculling for the New York A.C., won the Senior 155-lb. Singles for the fourth year in a row. St. Catharines R.C.'s David Mossop won the Senior 135-lb. Singles for the second year in a row, and the Ridley Graduate B.C. won its first eights race, the Junior Eights. It was the new club's fourth win.

However, the most significant highlights from Saturday's Regatta, were the three women's finals, which were all won by the Vesper B.C.. Karin Constant became the first woman to win a singles race at the Canadian Henley.

Below, Jim Minards, President of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen, congratulates the history-making sculler.

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Pictured here are the first medal and plaque to be awarded to a woman at the Canadian Henley Regatta.

The other women in that historic race were: Guylaine Bernier, Quebec Rowing Federation; Sara Harvey, Riverside B.C.; and Rosemary McFadden, Philadelphia Girls' R.C..

The Women's Fours (Coxswain) was a six-boat race—three Canadian, and three American.



Karin Constant collection.



Karin Constant collection.

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Karin Constant collection.

Left, a CAAO official presents a Henley medal to Susan Burns, while Ilse Marton, Pam Behrens, Cara Thorn, and coxie Maureen Donohue, bask in the grandstand crowd's adulation.

The first ever Women's Eights race at the Canadian Henley involved four boats.

The CAAO and the press were still getting used to women's events. The CAAO programmes referred to them as "Ladies' Singles," "Ladies' Fours (Cox.)," and "Ladies' Eights." And in one article, the *Standard* reporter refers to the women as "crew bunnies." [The *St. Catharines Standard*,

August 8, 1972, p.21] To its credit, the *Standard* did run a large photo of the women's eights nearing the finish line (included below), but it didn't appear on the sports pages, and the caption's headline must have been cringe-inducing even in 1972: "Gals Invade A Man's World!" [The *St. Catharines Standard*, August 8, 1972, p.9]



St. Catharines Museum - S1972.8.5.29.

The caption continues:

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Women's Lib got into the act at this year's 90th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, the gals getting to row three races for gold medals during Saturday's program of the national rowing championships. This shot by Standard staff photographer John McTaggart is at the 600-metre mark of the 1000-metre women's eight [race] with a crew from the Philadelphia Girls' Rowing Club stroking strongly in the foreground. But the pretty Philadelphians didn't stroke strongly enough, the race going to Philadelphia Vespers and the PGRC eight having to settle for second, Calgary ending up third and Wyandotte trailing the four-boat field. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 8, 1972, p.9]



Karin Constant collection.

The Vesper crew was: Ann Jonik, Marie Jonik, Lucille Lieb, Susan Burns, Cara Thorn, Pam Behrens, Karin Constant, Diane Braceland, and Mary Donohue. It was the second win of the afternoon for Burns, Behrens, Thorn, and Donohue. They were also in the coxed four. It was also Karin Constant's second win. She had started the Vesper sweep by winning the Women's Singles.

Pictured is the entire Vesper B.C. team (less Ann Jonik, who was taking the photo), proudly displaying their medals and

plaques on Henley Island.

Back, left to right: Diana Braceland, Pam Behrens, Ilse Marton, Karin Constant, Susan Burns, Marie Jonik, Cara Thorn, Lucille Leib.

Front: Maureen Donohue and coach, Gus Constant.

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Coach Constant had recruited the women from running, swimming, basketball, skiing, and other sports, and taught them how to row from scratch.

Lest we think that the Canadian Henley was the only regatta they competed at, the Masters International website [<https://mastersinternational.webs.com/first-vesper-women-s-team>] lists nine others at which the Vesper women raced in 1972.

The 59 points accrued by the Vesper women accounted for all of that club's points, and tied them with Detroit B.C. and Don R.C. for 10th place in the final points standings.



The press were having difficulty describing the women's races. Their races were not accorded the same coverage as the men's events which typically included: starts, positions during the race, stroke rates, and margin of victory at the end. Instead, reporters tended to comment on the appearance of the women. Moreover, as a generalization, the women were assumed to be teenagers. Certainly some were, just as some oarsmen were teenagers. This assumption led to at least one *faux pas*. The 1973 Henley programme contains this photo of "pretty" Karin Constant being congratulated by her coach, Gus Constant, after her Women's Singles win.

The photo's caption identifies him as "her coach father." [Four Days in a Row (The Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, Official Programme), 1973, p.12] In fact, he was her husband.

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A steady rain soaked Sunday afternoon's windup to the 90th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. But the wet going did little to hamper the sparkling performances by a number of crews.

The rain flattened out the Henley Course and with only the whisper of a wind and the current shut off, true times were attainable. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 8, 1972, p.21]

New York A.C.'s Larry Klecatsky won his second medal, and the first of three on Sunday in the first race of the day, the Senior 145-lb. Doubles. His crew mate was Tom Quinn. An hour and 45 minutes later Klecatsky won the Senior 145-lb. Singles for the fourth time. An hour after that, he finished his afternoon with a win in the 500 Metre Dash, 145-lb. Singles. It was the fifth year in a row that he took the lightweight singles dash.

Klecatsky's club mate, Jim Dietz, who had been picked to represent the United States at the 1972 Munich Olympics, won two events, the Championship Singles, and 40 minutes later, the 500 Metre Dash, Open Singles, both for the fifth time. Dietz might have had a third medal, and New York A.C. might have had a clean sweep of the sculling events on Sunday, however, in the Senior Doubles, Dietz' starboard oarlock broke while he and Alex Junge were 4½ lengths ahead of the University of British Columbia double and they had to stop rowing. UBC went on to win.

The St. Catharines R.C. won seven of the 11 sweep oar finals including the Senior Eights. The stern four in that boat were also the inaugural winners of the William B.C. Burgoyne Memorial Trophy when they won the Senior Fours (Coxswain) by eight lengths earlier in the afternoon. They had also won the Prince Philip Challenge Cup at the Henley Royal Regatta a month earlier. They were part of a 15-man team sent to Europe for international experience by the CAAO and a new federal agency, Sport Canada. [Four Days in a Row (The Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, Official Programme), 1972, p.27]

To the surprise of no one, the St. Catharines R.C. won the points championship and the Maple Leaf Trophy for the 12th consecutive year.

All the winners and times for the 1972 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 49 participating clubs at the 1972 Canadian Henley 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. [Some entries from the Thursday morning heats and Saturday heats are missing. I don't have the programmes for those days, and the press did not report the results of those heats.]

The Chomedy R.C. and the Quebec Rowing Federation were competing with a serious handicap. In January, fire destroyed the Chomedy boathouse. The Club lost all of its equipment, and the QRF, which was storing its equipment there for the winter, also lost everything. Both clubs had to use borrowed equipment in 1972.

The three Vesper B.C. wins were all women's events.

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Argonaut R.C.	(21/2)	Toronto, Ontario
Brock University	(7/2)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Brockville R.C.	(11/0)	Brockville, Ontario
Calgary R.C.	(4/0)	Calgary, Alberta
Chomedey R.C.	(5/0)	Chomedey, Quebec
Don R.C.	(5/2)	Port Credit, Ontario
Edmonton R.C.	(2/0)	Edmonton, Alberta
Kenora R.C.	(5/0)	Kenora, Ontario
Leander B.C.	(21/2)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(3/0)	London, Ontario
Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club	(3/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Ottawa R.C.	(8/1)	Ottawa, Ontario
Ridley Graduate B.C.	(9/4)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Quebec Rowing Federation	(4/0)	Montreal, Quebec
St. Catharines R.C.	(42/13)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Thunder Bay R.C.	(3/0)	Thunder Bay, Ontario
University of British Columbia	(5/1)	Vancouver, British Columbia
University of Victoria	(2/0)	Victoria, British Columbia
University of Western Ontario	(6/0)	London, Ontario
Vancouver R.C.	(4/0)	Vancouver, British Columbia
Winnipeg R.C.	(4/0)	Winnipeg, Manitoba

American entries:

Belmont R.C.	(8/0)	Belmont, Massachusetts
Blood Street Sculls	(1/0)	Old Lyme, Connecticut
Cambridge B.C.	(2/0)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
College B.C.	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Detroit B.C.	(14/1)	Detroit, Michigan
Ecorse B.C.	(9/2)	Ecorse, Michigan
Fairmount R.A.	(2/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Malta B.C.	(5/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Mercantile R.C.	(?/0)	Boston, Massachusetts
Michigan Athletic Club	(3/1)	Ecorse, Michigan
Middletown B.C.	(2/0)	Middletown, Connecticut
Minneapolis R.C.	(9/0)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Minnesota B.C.	(14/1)	St. Paul, Minnesota
New Rochelle R.C.	(4/0)	New Rochelle, New York
New York A.C.	(17/6)	New York, New York
Old Dominion B.C.	(1/0)	Alexandria, Virginia
Oyster Bay R.A.	(1/0)	Mill Neck, New York
Penn A.C.	(4/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Philadelphia Girls' R.C.	(2/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Potomac B.C.	(3/1)	Washington, District of Columbia
Riverside B.C.	(4/1)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Rochester R.C.	(1/0)	Rochester, New York
Schuylkill B.C.	(2/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Syracuse Chargers R.C.	(4/0)	Syracuse, New York
Undine Barge Club	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
University of Massachusetts	(2/0)	Amherst Massachusetts
Vesper B.C.	(3/3)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(19/0)	Buffalo, New York
Wyandotte B.C.	(18/0)	Wyandotte, Michigan

High school entries:

Denis Morris H.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Lakeport S.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Our Lady of Mount Carmel H.S.	(1/0)	Wyandotte, Michigan
Sir Winston Churchill S.S.	(1/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
West Park S.S.	(1/1)	St. Catharines, Ontario

Following the new CAAO guidelines for selecting the Munich Olympic team, 27 oarsmen attended a 12-day selection camp on Fanshawe Lake in London, Ontario. CAAO Technical Director, Martin Bielz, was in charge of forming the strongest team possible from the original 16 team candidates selected after the trials, plus 11 additional men selected after the Henley. The final team consisted of 16 men. No Canadian boat made it to the finals. Continuing their dominance, East Germany (GDR) won a medal in each of the seven Olympic events.

The 1976 Summer Olympics had been awarded to Montreal, and that city was proposing to build a new rowing and canoeing course at an estimated cost of up to \$10 million. This prompted the Henley Aquatic Association to offer to hold the rowing and canoeing on the Henley course. HAA President, Tim Rigby, sent a letter to Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau in which he outlined all the advantages of the Henley course. In the end, Montreal opted to build its own course. "About \$35-million was spent on the rowing basin at Ile Ste. Helene. It is considered one of the best anywhere, ideal for international competitions." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 4, 1976, p.S1]

The International Olympic Committee announced that women's events would be included at the 1976 Games. That was the incentive for countries, like Canada, to develop women's teams. Countries without women's Olympic programmes would not be allowed to enter men's crews. Canada had some catching up to do.

For its annual meeting, the CAAO moved outside its comfort zone, literally. Instead of a location in Ontario, the meeting was held in Vancouver on Saturday, November 4.

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

The Officers elected for 1973 were the same as 1972:

Past-President: Gerald F. Martin, Etobicoke

President: James R. Minards, St. Catharines

1st Vice-President (Finance): Thomas Croston, Port Credit

2nd Vice-President (International): Craig Swayze, St. Catharines

3rd Vice-President (Domestic): Peter King, Ottawa

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 1973 Executive Committee was the same as 1972, except, no Awards Committee is listed, and the Grants Committee was taken over by Ben TeKamp.

Coaches: Jack Nicholson, St. Catharines

Constitution: Charles Adams, St. Catharines

Domestic Development: Peter King, Ottawa

Finance: Thomas Croston, Port Credit

Grants: Ben R. TeKamp, Brockville

Historian: John L. Murray, Kingston

International Development: Craig Swayze, St. Catharines

Officials: William Dann, St. Catharines

Public Relations: Bill Rodda, Toronto

Regatta: Claude Saunders, Hamilton

Trophies: Donald Baker, St. Catharines

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

Much of the meeting was devoted to organizing a trials regatta to select teams for the 1973 FISA Youth Championships in Nottingham, England, the 1973 Men's and Women's European Rowing Championships in Moscow, USSR, and a row-off between Canadian, American and Mexican lightweight eights, the winner of which would go to Moscow to compete in a special lightweight race at the Europeans. The trials were to be held on the Henley course from July 20 to 22. Technical Director, Martin Bielz was in charge of staging the regatta and selecting a technical committee to choose the teams. The fact that the CAAO was prepared to send one or two women's boats to the Youth Championships, demonstrates the immediate effect of the FISA/Olympic mandate regarding women's events at the 1976 Olympics. The CAAO was trying to demonstrate that it was developing a women's Olympic programme. The size of the various teams was dependant on the amount of financial assistance available from Sport Canada, the federal agency in charge of allocating funds to Canadian amateur sports organizations.

It was also decided that women's events would be included in the Summer Canada Games rowing regatta to be held in 1973 from August 8 to 11, in British Columbia, on the new Burnaby Lake FISA-standard course.

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

In his annual report, CAAO President Jim Minards spoke about the growth of rowing in recent years, and he included a reference to women's rowing, which he said was "looked upon as an encouraging sign and an entirely new area in which the sport can expand." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 6, 1972, p.20]

And expand, it did.

Rowing had become a recognized varsity sport by the newly-formed Ontario University Athletic Association in 1971. At the 1972 championship regatta, women competed for the first time at an OUAA-sanctioned event. The "Girls" eights event featured seven boats: Brock University, McMaster University, and Trent University each had two crews, while the University of Western Ontario boated one. The winner was one of the McMaster crews, "[s]troked by blonde, 20-year-old phys-ed major Carol Eastmure." [The St. Catharines *Standard*, November 6, 1972, p.20] The *Standard* reporter, Jack Gatecliff, does not mention the physical appearance of the strokes in the winning men's crews.

1972

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 de Remo 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]

The 1973 programmes continued to refer to women’s events as “Ladies” events.

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

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

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]

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 from the Henley programme. The first High School Eights race had been taken place in 1925 when there were few, if any, opportunities for high school crews to compete against one another. By 1973, the race had become superfluous, and with the number of Henley entries increasing each year, removing it made practical sense. The Calder Cleland Memorial Trophy would find a new home at the Canadian Association Championship Regatta where it continues to be in use for the Senior Men's Regular attendees of the Canadian Henley might have noticed some differences in the programme on Saturday and 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 Équipe du Québec (known in English as 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 ÉdQ.

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.

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

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
Équipe du Québec [aka Quebec Rowing Federation]	(6/1)	Montreal, Quebec
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
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

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Newport Beach R.C.	(9/1)	Newport Beach, California
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 de Remo 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

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

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

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

**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 least 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 had 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 be 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'Avion* 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 St. Catharines and Argonaut clubs.

The St. Catharines R.C. continued to oppose women rowing, even though one of its Henley Island neighbours—Brock University—had a large, vibrant, and successful

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women's programme. Richard MacFarlane, who was rowing for Brock at this time, remembers this incident:

I distinctly recall St. Catharines rowing fellows laughing, standing at the edge of the boathouse, at the women rowing for Brock because their races would be only 1,000 metres. I warned them that the ladies would have the last laugh in years to come. . . . I think I have been proven to be correct in that forecast. [MacFarlane, Richard. "Re: History of the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta - update 23-09-08." Message to Stan Lapinski. September 9, 2023. Email]

The attitude of the Board members at the Argonaut R.C. towards women bordered on hostility. They were vehemently opposed to starting a women's programme, even going to the extreme of denying oarswomen access to the Club's property.

In the fall of 1974, the University of Toronto R.C. revived its team which had been dormant for two seasons, and, as at every other university, women were part of the programme. Without the knowledge of the ARC, the UTRC women were able to slip under the radar and use the Club's facilities.

They and their coaches trained under the cover of fall morning darkness, knowing that the Argonaut old boys were unlikely to venture down to the lake early.

. . . .

[*That worked until . . .*]

Oh, to have been present when Argonaut board members opened their copy of the *Globe and Mail* and spat out their morning coffee. There, under the headline "U of T rowing girls find going tough" was a feature article and photos of the women's crew besmirching the sanctity of what had been a male enclave for a century. The Argonauts' reaction was swift and emphatic - no women on the dock! The rowers complied with the letter of the directive, but had no intent of submitting to its spirit, especially with only one week remaining before the Ontario University Championships. The men launched the boat, and rowed it a distance to the waiting women's crew. There, as Larry Marshall recalled, in the cold, dark, thigh-deep water, "the women waded out, we waded ashore . . . [sic] ridiculous." And at the end of the practice, they reversed the procedure. [Patrick Okens, *Blues Before Sunrise: Rowing at the University of Toronto* (Toronto: Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education, University of Toronto, 2023) pp.56-57] [The article cited is: "Dedication so important: U of T girls find going tough" by Lloyd McLachlan, the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, October 29, 1974, p.39]

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 named) 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.

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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 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
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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winner was 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 QRF. [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.

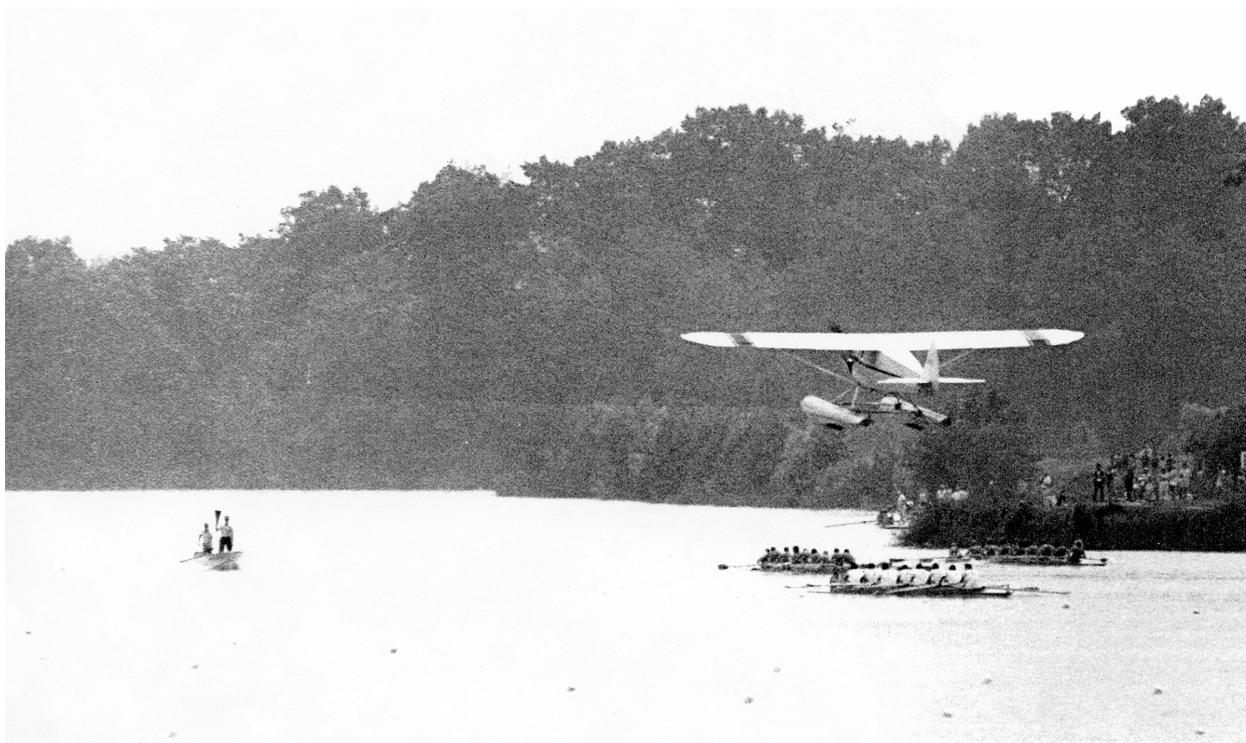
The junior 135-pound singles final? It had to be stopped. There was too much debris floating in the water around the 1,000-metre pylons. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 1, 1975, p.9]

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 at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal on Saturday and Sunday, November 22 and 23. [*The minutes give the dates as November 23 and 24. Surely those are typos.*]

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 allowed himself to be nominated and subsequently, he was elected President. True to his word, David Helliwell left the First Vice-President's office and not only did not stand for election to any other position but did not attend the meeting, 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 minutes contain an odd note. Since it was the Quebec Rowing Federation that precipitated the brouhaha in June, the representative of a club identified in the minutes as "Club Equipe D'Aviron du Québec," who also represented the FQSA—apparently a governing body of rowing in Quebec—took the opportunity at the beginning of Sunday's meeting to make a statement: "Before entering the 'new business' portion of the agenda, Hans Schmadtke [sic] representing the FQSA voiced the support of his association and all Quebec rowing clubs for the newly-elected executive." [Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen. Annual General Meeting. Montreal. November 23, 1975] It's not exactly an apology, but close enough.

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

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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 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.

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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

**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..

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

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.

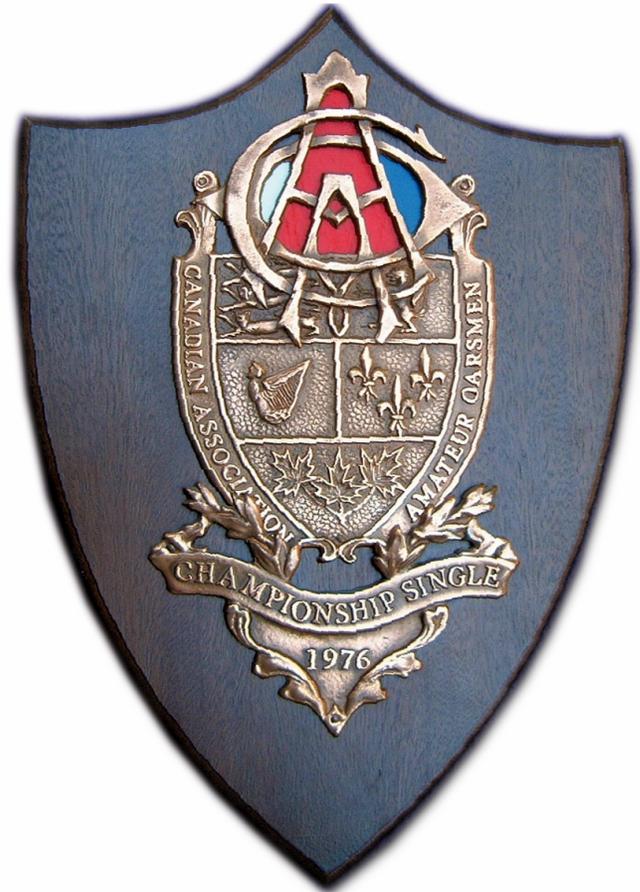
All the winners and times for the 1976 Canadian Henley Regatta can be found in tabular form at: <http://goldmedalphotos.com/records.html>

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



Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

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

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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

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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]

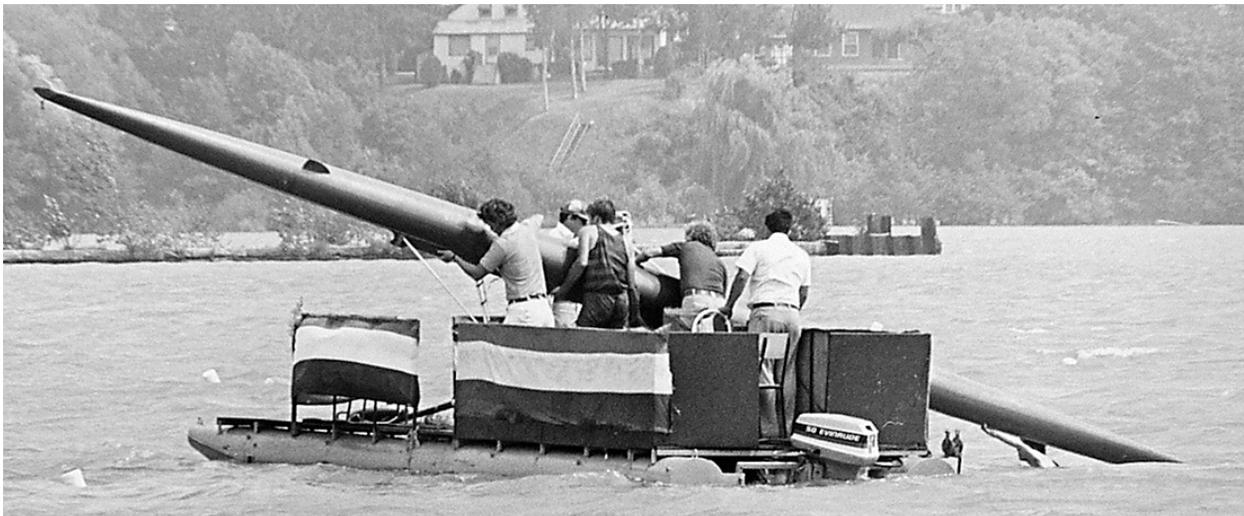
The first race of the afternoon, the Women's Eights, was won by the Woodstock R.C., an new club making its first appearance at the Canadian Henley. The field had started with 13 entries

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.

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, their time was the slowest for an eight on Sunday: 6:39.4. Before the races were

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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.

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

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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)	Rothesay, 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
College B.C.	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Dartmouth R.C.	(11/1)	Hanover, New Hampshire

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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
 Regatta Co-Ordinator: Claude Saunders, Hamilton
 National Team Co-Ordinator: Alan Roaf, Toronto

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National Coach: Tudor Bompas, Toronto

Coaching Co-Ordinator: Peter Klavora, 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—from the back—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.



Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

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.

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

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.55] 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.55]

"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."



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

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

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.

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

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.

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

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)	Rothesay, 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

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

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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CARA's annual meeting was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia on November 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

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

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.

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]

Chapter 6: 1964 to 1999: 2,000 metres

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*, December 1, 1978, p.28] 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.

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 outstanding 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.

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. 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, "Larry is probably the greatest sculler in North America." [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*,

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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.

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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.

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

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

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Woodstock R.C.	(1/0)	Woodstock, Ontario
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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:

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

(1/0)

Mexico City, Mexico

CARA's annual meeting was held at the Empress Hotel 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 Monckton, 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, 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

Constitution: Rodger Sellars, Ottawa

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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

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The 98th Regatta of the Canadian Amateur Rowing Association The 75th Royal Canadian Henley Regatta August 6 to 10, 1980

On December 24, 1979, the Soviet Union began an invasion of Afghanistan. In reaction, many nations tried diplomatic and economic means to persuade the Soviets to withdraw.

It was the United States which proposed a boycott of the Olympic Games to be held in Moscow in July. On February 27, 1980, Vice President Walter Mondale addressed the U.S. Olympic Committee and presented the administration's rationale for the boycott.

[Among other points in his speech,] Mondale claimed that US participation in the Moscow Olympics would run counter to these [other] efforts and be seen as an implicit approval of the Soviets' continued aggression in Afghanistan.

....

Following Mondale's emphatic address, the USOC agreed with President Carter's proposal and voted to uphold this boycott of the Moscow Olympics. [Wilson Center. *The 1980 Moscow Olympics Boycott*. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/the-1980-moscow-olympics-boycott>]

"In total, 65 nations refused to participate in the games, whereas 80 countries sent athletes to compete." [*The Olympic Boycott, 1980* [Archive]. U.S. Department of State. <https://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/qfp/104481.htm>]

Canada was one of the 65 nations that refused to participate.

Before the federal government and Canadian Olympic Association announced the boycott, amateur sports governing bodies in the country were divided on the issue. However, they were unanimous in proclaiming support for whatever was decided. The CARA Executive Director, Rodger Sellars, summed up the position of most organizations when he said: "we would support the government whatever [Prime Minister] Trudeau does."

As announced in 1979, Canada Post issued a rowing-themed commemorative stamp on July 4. However, it was not a stamp marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen as the Canadian Amateur Rowing Association had expected. It was, instead, a stamp honouring Canada's greatest athlete of the 19th century, the professional sculling champion of the world from 1880 to 1884: Ned Hanlan. It marked the 125th anniversary of his birth (July 12, 1885) and the 100th anniversary of his winning the World Championship for



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the first time (November 11, 1880).



The CARA centennial got no press coverage. Nor does the Regatta souvenir booklet/programme contain a single word about the significant achievement. One has to look at the back cover to see this tiny graphic (left), the one and only acknowledgement that the Association which was sponsoring the Regatta was 100 years old.

This graphic was used as the model for the souvenir crest which was given out to competitors (below), but the alterations make no sense and one has to wonder how it got approved by the CARA Officers and Executive.

As a direct result of the Olympic boycott, the national team from West Germany paid a visit to the 1980 Canadian Henley Regatta. They, along with club competitors from Australia, Mexico, Ireland, and, of course, the United States, gave the Regatta a distinctly international flavour. The 28-member West German national team was restricted to Open events. However, since the Melbourne University was a club, its 14 members were eligible to compete in all the Henley club events. The same applied to the five competitors from both Club España and the Mexican Marine, and the two men from University College, Dublin. [The *St. Catharines Standard*, August 5, 1980, p.25]



Paul Patton, a *Globe and Mail* reporter, gives us an insight into why the Melbourne University team came to Canada, and what was involved in getting here:

“We consider this to be the world championship of rowing for women in the lightweight class,” [coach John St. Vincent] Welch said. “Canada and the United States are far advanced over anyone. There is a little bit of lightweight rowing in Britain and Scandinavia, almost none in Switzerland, Germany or Italy, and none at all behind the Iron Curtain.”

....

It cost \$30,000 to bring the 14-member team to Canada for the competition.

“We got no money from our Government,” Welch said. “We raised money from dances, gambling, raffles and porno-movie nights.

“Linda Lovelace probably earned more money for us than she ever made for herself. For \$10 a head, you got all the beer you could drink and could watch all the movies you could take. That raised \$1,500 for us.

“One night we rented a ferry for an evening of blackjack and roulette with topless waitresses and that raised another \$1,500. None of that is legal, but the police didn’t bother us. Even so, some of the girls had to pay for part of the trip themselves.”

....

The team has been staying at Ridley College and even borrowed a shell from Ridley’s rowing club to compete in the women’s eight event. John Cain, an expatriate Australian living in St. Catharines, has acted as the team’s guide.

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“The hospitality here has been fantastic,” Welch said. “In the past six years I’ve been to Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Britain, Italy, the Soviet Union, New Zealand, the United States and here and nowhere have we been treated as well. People recognize our Australian accents and invite us to their homes and their swimming pools.” [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 8, 1980, p.31]

Including the Australians, the Regatta attracted 75 clubs, that brought 1,383 competitors, [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 9, 1980, p.S4] and filed 702 entries. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 5, 1980, p.25]

With so many clubs on hand, boat racking space was at a premium, with visiting clubs using their trailers when the temporary racks provided by the Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation were filled.

On the course, CHRC crews tightened the Albano buoying cables and replaced missing buoys.

The CHRC had also arranged with Ontario Hydro to shut off the current to provide dead water to meet FISA standards.

And, to forestall another accident like the one that took place on July 31, 1975: “The course, often used as an emergency landing area for float planes, has been closed for the week by the federal ministry of transport. No plans [sic] can land or take off from there.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 6, 1980, p.23]

Wednesday’s races were run on choppy water. It was a packed day with heats running at 10-minute intervals from 10:30 a.m. to 6:10 p.m.. As an indication of how heavily subscribed some events were, in 25 of the 40 heats, only the winners advanced to Thursday’s finals. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 7, 1980, p.31]

Thursday’s finals were rowed in 30 °C heat on choppy water.

The first final of the 98th Regatta, the Junior Women’s Singles, was won by Lisa Roy representing the Victoria City R.C.. She would also take the Senior event on Sunday.

The second final, the Lightweight Women’s Fours (Coxswain), was a nail-biter won on the last stroke by Melbourne University. “[C]elebrations began only with the official announcement of the finish.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 8, 1980, p.19] The official margin over the Potomac B.C. crew was two inches. The 1979 winners of the event were also from Australia, the Melbourne YWCA. The *Standard* Sports Editor, Jack Gatecliff is true-to-form when he concludes his article on the winning coxed four: “the Australians are not only super oarswomen but real smashers in the beauty department.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 8, 1980, p.19] Clearly, press coverage of women’s rowing still needed some work.

Sweep-oarsman-turned-sculler, 23-year-old Doug Hamilton from the Kingston R.C. won his first of three medals: the Junior Singles.

Competitors on Friday had to contend with a “slight cross-course chop” and a “driving rainstorm which hit midway through the afternoon’s marathon six-hour race card.” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 9, 1980, p.27]

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The first final of the day, the Junior Women's Doubles, was won by Patty Pinkerton and Robin Lothrop from the Riverside B.C., which had just begun to accept women members in 1979.

One of the more unusual wins yesterday was by Betty [sic] Pinkerton and Robin Lothrop of Cambridge, Mass., who scored a length decision over Heather Hattin and Anita Moller of Toronto Dons in the junior women's doubles, rowing a shell of their own design and manufacture.

Lothrop, 25, explained that she and Pinkerton, 26, [worked for] a plastic racing shell business in Watertown, Mass., [that] cannot keep [up] with the demand.

"We built more than 75 so far this year. They cost less than the traditional wooden boats and are easy to manoeuvre," Lothrop said, offering business cards to reporters with one hand, while taking her medal in the other. [The *Toronto Star*, August 9, 1980, p.D5]

"The two scullers are involved in Van Dusen Boats, a New England racing shell firm, and are undoubtedly their company's best on-water advertisement." [The *St. Catharines Standard*, August 9, 1980, p.27]

Van Dusen Racing Boats was founded by Ted Van Dusen, who won the Junior 155-lb. Singles in 1972 in a shell he had designed and built himself. Unlike other shells at the time, his boat's skin was not made of wood, but of a mixture of fibreglass and carbon. He was a 26-year-old graduate student in naval architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who had started building boats in his father's basement in Duxbury, Massachusetts. He turned his skills as a designer and boat-builder into a business, which took off after U.S. sculler, Joan Lind, won a silver medal in one of his shells at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal. The company is known today as Composite Engineering - Van Dusen Racing Boats.

Fifty minutes later, Pinkerton and Lothrop were back for their second medals, having won the Junior Women's Quads (Coxswain). Since Van Dusen Racing Boats made only singles and doubles, they used another company's shell.

The Lightweight Women's Singles was won for the second year in a row by 30-year-old Sandra Kirby from the Laval R.C..

The Detroit B.C.'s Brian Myers took the Junior 145-lb. Singles. He had also won the Junior 155-lb. Singles on Thursday.

The Thunder Bay R.C. had won the Junior Women's Pairs and the Junior 155-lb. Pairs on Thursday, and on Friday, one of the club's coaches, Sean Down, stroked the Junior Quads winner.

The Argonaut R.C. took the Junior 155-lb. Fours. That accomplishment was so newsworthy that it was the headline and lead story for the *Toronto Star's* coverage of Friday's Regatta.

ST. CATHARINES — Toronto Argonauts' slump as a rowing club doesn't go back as far as that of the football team (1952).

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However, until yesterday afternoon it had been several [2] years since Argos had claimed a gold medal in the Royal Canadian Henley regatta and, at one point last year, the club was down to a handful of oarsmen.

“I think we are on the road back,” said coach Gary Garland after Argos won the Canadian junior 155-pound fours championship by a deck-length over London, Ont. Rowing Club. . . .

“Our bow man, Jim Ingram, has done it all,” said Garland, who refused to take any credit for the victory. “Last year at this time we had half a dozen oarsmen. Jim started recruiting from high schools and now we have 75 people rowing, including some women for the first time in our history.” [The Toronto *Star*, August 9, 1980, p.D5]

In 1980, Jim Ingram, a long-time oarsman and coach, agreed to become rowing captain and to implement the changes needed to rejuvenate the Club. [In 1979, Argos had only one four in the finals.] Jim accepted the job only on the condition that the Argonaut Club allow women to join and row. It is to his immense credit that he took this position – not a popular one with many long-time members. However, with little choice, the Board relented and, in 1980, women finally began joining the Club as members and competitors.

From the outset, the women proved their commitment to train hard. . . . Women rowers surprised their male counterparts by quickly developing skill and speed. Any resistance from the men, at dock level, quickly faded. There was, once again, the prospect of Argo winners on podiums in dominant numbers. [[Ann Shelton et al., *Perseverance and Glory: The History of the Argonaut Rowing Club*. (Toronto: Argonaut Rowing Club, 2022) pp.75 & 77.]

One longtime Argo who was present during the dark days before 1980 is even more enthusiastic about the move to allow women to row at the Club. At the 2023 Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, Barry Shaw, veteran Argo coxie, was on hand to do a joint presentation with Detroit Boat Club Crew’s Stephen Malbouef of the Geoffrey Baron Taylor Memorial Trophy. The ceremony marked the 100th anniversary of the trophy’s being donated by the Detroit B.C. to the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen in memory of the renowned Argonaut oarsman who was killed in World War I .

While on the presentation platform, Shaw, who has always been an advocate of women’s rowing, recounted some stories about the struggle of women to join the Club in the 1970s. He had some harsh criticism for the Argonaut Board, whom he referred to as “an old boys’ club.” On several occasions he said with great fervour, that after they were permitted to join in 1980, “the women saved Argonauts.” There is no doubt in his mind that the Club would have died without the introduction of women’s rowing. [August 11, 2023]

Conditions on Saturday “could only be described as perfect regatta weather.” The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 11, 1980, p.17]

The big story on Saturday, as proclaimed by two headlines—“Toronto sculler unbeaten at 97th Henley Regatta” [The Toronto *Star*, August 10, 1980, p.C5] and “Hamilton was Mr. Big” [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 11, 1980, p.17]—were the two wins by Kingston R.C. sculler Doug Hamilton. He had won the Junior Singles on Thursday, and on Saturday, he took the Association Singles (which made him eligible for the Championship Singles on Sunday), and 40 minutes later, he joined Kevin Wilberforce

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to win the Junior Doubles. What made his story headline-worthy, was the fact that, although he had been a sweep oarsman at the Hanlan B.C. and Queen's University, he had not begun to scull until the previous spring. Since then, he had won the Junior and Senior Singles at the U.S. National Regatta—the only sculler to do so—and three Henley medals.

Two University of Western Ontario eights were victorious. The men won the Junior Eights. They had split into two fours on Thursday and won the Junior Fours (Coxswain) and Junior Fours. And, the UWO women won the Junior Women's Eights, beating their nemesis, Hanlan B.C.. The two crews had split four other meetings before Henley.

The press reported that the Lightweight Women's Pairs was won by Melbourne University. That's the name I originally posted in my records database [<https://goldmedalphotos.com/records.html>]. However, in 2016, I received an email which said, in part:

[M]y mother Kim Brown (stroke), and her pair partner Jannell Williams (bow) rowed for Australia that year and won gold in Canada. However the Club they rowed for was the Leichhardt Rowing Club which is based in Sydney, as opposed to the club listed on the records which states Melbourne University." [Byrne, Sarah. "Gold Medal Photos - Contact Form [#12]." Message to Stan Lapinski. June 13, 2016. Email]

In a subsequent email, Sarah sent some documents. One undated newsletter article explains how they got on the Melbourne University team, and reveals something which may surprise Canadian readers. The Australian National Championships were held on Lake Wendouree, Ballarat, Victoria in March. At that Regatta, the Leichhardt pair beat Melbourne University and four other pairs. "While at Ballarat they were approached by the selectors for the Canada World Lightweight Championships to be held in August this year." [National Australia Bank newsletter clipping from Sarah Byrne] So, in Australia, the women's lightweight events at the Canadian Henley were seen as the "World Lightweight Championships." They made the trip with the Melbourne University team, and won their event, and in Australia, that made them world champions as this photo caption from an undated newspaper clipping makes clear:

**Pretty pair
world's top
at the oars**

KIM Brown of Ryde and Janell Williams of Gladesville have every reason to look happy — they are world champions.

Kim (front) and Janell won the women's lightweight championships world title at St. Catherines [sic], Canada, recently in the coxless pairs.

They row with the Leichhardt Rowing Club and have had a very successful year.

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In addition to the world title, they have also won the NSW [New South Wales] and Australian titles in the same event. [newspaper clipping from Sarah Byrne] [See Appendix I to see the two clippings cited here.]

The claim of being world champions is not all that far-fetched. They beat five of the best Canadian pairs at one of the most prestigious regattas in the world. They did it on a FISA-approved course, over the FISA-mandated distance, and all competitors adhered to the FISA weight standard. It certainly was an accomplishment worthy of world champions.

And so, the record now shows that it was the Leichhardt R.C. pair, which was part of the Melbourne University team, that won the Lightweight Women's Pairs.

Although the press reported that a Burnaby Lake Aquatic Club crew beat a Dartmouth R.C. crew in the Senior Women's Fours (Coxswain), in reality, if there was no Olympic boycott, they both would have been in Moscow representing Canada and the United States, respectively.

Doug Hamilton was not the only sculler celebrating his third win. Brian Myers from the Detroit B.C., who had already won the Junior 145- and 155-lb. Singles, also took the 500 Metre Dash, 145-lb. Singles. For curious readers who are wondering: Larry Klecatsky did not compete at the 1980 Regatta.

And, of course, Jim Dietz from the New York A.C. took the 500 Metre Dash, Open Singles for the 12th time.

West German Olympians took three of the eight Open events: Open Women's Fours (Coxswain), Open Eights, and Thea Groehl won the Open Women's Singles.

Competitors on Sunday had to row on choppy water into a headwind under threatening skies. [The St. Catharines *Standard*, August 11, 1980, p.17]

The Toronto *Star* reporter was probably being overly generous when he estimated the size of the crowd at 5,000. [The Toronto *Star*, August 11, 1980, p.B8]

The first final of the day, the Senior fours, was won by a Ridley Graduate B.C. crew. The same four plus coxie won the Senior Fours (Coxswain) two hours later.

The West German winning ways continued into Sunday. They beat the Canadian National Team in the Open Quads. However, the results were reversed in the Open Women's Eights. As a footnote to the quads race, Jim Dietz—not a Canadian—was seconded into the Canadian boat for the race.

The Sellars brothers—Douglas, 24, Robert, 23, David, 20, and James, 16—took the Senior 135-lb. Fours for Windsor Crew. Their father, Rodger, was the Executive Director of CARA.

Tom Hazeltine from the Undine Barge Club won the Senior 145-lb. Singles for the third time, and one hour later, the Senior 155-lb. Singles.

The premier women's sculling event, the Senior Women's Singles, was won—by 30 cm—by the winner of the Junior Women's Singles, Lisa Roy, from the Victoria City R.C.. Finishing sixth in the race, from the Don R.C., was Daniele Laumann, older sister of another sculler, Silken.

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There was plenty of drama in the Championship Singles. For starters, perennial winner, New York A.C.'s Jim Dietz finished third. The race was won by Canadian National Team member Pat Walter, like Lisa Roy, from the Victoria City R.C. who had also won the Open Singles on Saturday. However, it was the second-place finisher who got as much, or more ink in the press than Walter. He was Doug Hamilton from the Kingston R.C..

Claude Scilley, a reporter for the Kingston *Whig-Standard* wrote a long column about Hamilton. Here are some excerpts:

Hamilton began rowing in singles events last spring

. . . .

In the space of a few months, the first-year student at the Queen's University faculty of law has beaten three of the four national team scullers.

. . . .

What Hamilton accomplished this summer is not to be considered lightly.

At the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta at St. Catharines in July [sic], the unofficial North American championships, Hamilton won the junior heavy single, shared in a win in the junior heavy double, won the association single and in the championship single, he was second.

Pretty heady stuff, for anyone. For a novice, it's amazing.

. . . .

"What Doug did this summer is virtually unheard of in sculling," [coach Ian] McFarlane said. [The Kingston *Whig-Standard*, October 15, 1980, p.18]

Hamilton would be selected to the Canadian National Team, which had been his goal from the beginning.

The Senior Women's Eights was won by the crew that won the Junior: University of Western Ontario.

A Vesper B.C. crew took the men's Senior Eights beating a St. Catharines R.C. crew that had won the Senior 155-lb. Eights and hour and a half earlier.

The press declared the St. Catharines R.C. Regatta Champions for the 20th year in a row. However, since the trophy had been retired, it was an achievement on paper only.

The winner of the St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Association Efficiency Award was the Ridley Graduate B.C. with an efficiency score of 78.8%. Using the efficiency scoring method, the St. Catharines R.C. finished fifth, with a score of 54.7%. Put another way, Ridley achieved 78.8% of the points it had the potential of winning, while St. Catharines only got 54.7%.

All the winners and times for the 1980 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 64 of the 75 clubs that competed at the 1980 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

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heats only.] Clubs with (?/0) beside their names are mentioned in the press but did not advance to the finals.

The Open races are not included in these numbers.

Of the 75 clubs competing, 31, (41%) won finals, led by the St. Catharines R.C. with nine.

Argonaut R.C.	(4/1)	Toronto, Ontario
Boucherville R.C.	(6/0)	Boucherville, Quebec
Brock University	(2/0)	St. Catharines, Ontario
Brockville R.C.	(5/2)	Brockville, Ontario
Burnaby Lake Aquatic Club	(3/1)	Burnaby, British Columbia
Calgary R.C.	(10/0)	Calgary, Alberta
Don R.C.	(5/0)	Port Credit, Ontario
Edmonton R.C.	(2/0)	Edmonton, Alberta
Hanlan B.C.	(8/2)	Toronto, Ontario
Kennebecasis R.C.	(5/0)	Rothesay, New Brunswick
Kingston R.C.	(12/3)	Kingston, Ontario
Laval R.C.	(5/1)	Laval, Quebec
Leander B.C.	(10/0)	Hamilton, Ontario
London R.C.	(11/1)	London, Ontario
Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club	(1/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Montreal International R.C.	(3/0)	Montreal, Quebec
North Star R.C.	(3/0)	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Ottawa R.C.	(5/0)	Ottawa, Ontario
Peterborough R.C.	(5/0)	Peterborough, Ontario
Regina R.C.	(4/1)	Regina, Saskatchewan
Ridley Graduate B.C.	(5/3)	St. Catharines, Ontario
St. Catharines R.C.	(37/9)	St. Catharines, Ontario
South Niagara R.C.	(4/0)	Welland, Ontario
Thunder Bay R.C.	(13/3)	Thunder Bay, Ontario
University of Victoria	(2/0)	Victoria, British Columbia
University of Western Ontario	(12/5)	London, Ontario
Vancouver R.C.	(3/1)	Vancouver, British Columbia
Victoria City R.C.	(19/3)	Victoria, British Columbia
Windsor Crew	(3/1)	Windsor, Ontario
Woodstock R.C.	(1/0)	Woodstock, Ontario

Australian entries:

Melbourne University	(5/1)	Melbourne, Australia
Leichhardt R.C.	(1/1)	Sydney, Australia

Irish entries:

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University College	(1/0)	Dublin, Ireland
Mexican entries:		
Club España	(?/0)	Mexico City, Mexico
Mexican Marine	(?/0)	Mexico City[?], Mexico
American entries:		
Cambridge B.C.	(1/0)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Crescent B.C.	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Dartmouth R.C.	(3/1)	Hanover, New Hampshire
Detroit B.C.	(9/5)	Detroit, Michigan
Durham B.C.	(3/1)	Durham, New Hampshire
Eastern Development Camp	(2/0)	Boston, Massachusetts
Ecorse B.C.	(6/0)	Ecorse, Michigan
Fairmount R.A.	(1/0)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Florida A.C.	(1/0)	Winter Park, Florida
Lake Washington R.C.	(8/1)	Seattle, Washington
Los Gatos R.C.	(1/0)	Los Gatos, California
Malta B.C.	(6/1)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Minneapolis R.C.	(5/0)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Minnesota B.C.	(4/0)	St. Paul, Minnesota
New York A.C.	(4/2)	New York, New York
Potomac B.C.	(3/1)	Washington, District of Columbia
Princeton University	(1/0)	Princeton, New Jersey
Riverside B.C.	(2/2)	Cambridge, Massachusetts
Syracuse Chargers R.C.	(4/0)	Syracuse, New York
Undine Barge Club	(8/4)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
University of California Irvine	(2/0)	Irvine, California
University of Minnesota	(2/1)	Minneapolis, Minnesota
University of Pennsylvania	(3/2)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
University of Wisconsin	(1/0)	Madison, Wisconsin
U.S. Coast Guard	(2/0)	New London, Connecticut
Vesper B.C.	(7/3)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
West Side R.C.	(11/1)	Buffalo, New York
Willamette R.C.	(1/0)	Portland, Oregon
Wyandotte B.C.	(13/1)	Wyandotte, Michigan

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Globe and Mail reporter, Paul Patton, interviewed longtime Regatta Co-Ordinator Claude Saunders during the Regatta and got an insight into how expensive rowing equipment was.

“A single shell costs between \$2,500 and \$3,000. An eight-oar [shell] is at least \$8,000 and the oars are from \$150 to \$600 each on top of that. So you’re looking at a \$10,000 investment.”

[*The reporter then got a brief glimpse of the former-Olympian’s well-known sense of humour.*]

“It’s not like being a runner. All you need is a pair of shorts, a jock strap and shoes and away you go.” [The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, August 9, 1980, p.S4]

CARA’s annual general meeting—billed as the 100th Annual General Meeting—was held at the Wandlyn Viscount Hotel in Windsor, Ontario, from December 4 to 7. Representatives from every Canadian rowing club were in attendance. These Officers were elected for 1981:

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: Don Hornby, Winnipeg
Secretary: Thomas Croston, Mississauga
Treasurer: James Pogue, Port Credit
Executive Director: Rodger Sellars, Ottawa
Regatta Co-Ordinator: Claude Saunders, Hamilton
Coaching Certification Co-Ordinator: Peter Klavora
Technical Co-Ordinator: Jim Joy, Ottawa

The 1981 Executive Committee was made up of these Chairmen:

Awards: James Minards, St. Catharines and Peter King, Ottawa
Constitution: Rodger Sellars, Ottawa
Finance: James Pogue, Port Credit
Grants: Pat Hughes, St. Catharines
Medical: Dr. John Stewart, St. Catharines
Public Relations (Catch magazine): Peter King, Ottawa
Publicity (Henley): Craig Swayze, St. Catharines
Referees: Claude Saunders, Hamilton

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In November, the Canadian Amateur Rowing Association announced that in honour of the 100th anniversary of its founding, it would be presenting Centennial Awards—bronze medals designed by Sigfried Puchta of Toronto—to 100 men who had made outstanding contributions to the sport. Another 100 people received certificates of appreciation for their significant contributions. The medal pictured at right is the one presented to Charlie Adams. The complete list of medal recipients appears in Appendix J.



1980

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 August 27, 2025. If you find errors or omissions, use the Contact link at <http://goldmedalphotos.com/> to point them out to me. Stan Lapinski.