

# DON ROWING CLUB

Inside...

Captain's Address

Video Night

Board of Directors

House Update

UTM Ergathon

CIRC Highlights

## Captain's Address

by *Laura Middleton*

I am excited to be your captain this year--but also recognize the responsibility that I have taken on. I look forward to an enjoyable and successful year for Dons. Your support and contributions will be invaluable! If we have not met, please introduce yourself if you see me around the club (that is, if you recognize me). I hope to get to know everyone better.

Along with the board, I am in the midst of finalizing the coaching structure for the upcoming season. We will see some familiar faces--led by head coach Paul Westbury. There will also be some role changes and a few new faces in the mix. I hope that we will be able to announce the finalized coaching lineup in next month's newsletter.

Further on the coaching front, we are also looking to recruit learn-to-row and recreational coaches. If you are keen to help, please let me know! It can be a lot of fun to impart your rowing knowledge and meet a new group of people. We will run a coaches training session in March or April to ensure that everyone feels well prepared for the sessions. The learn-to-row sessions represent a huge fundraising opportunity that will offset costs for the rest of the club. Even better, we can recruit more rowers to further grow our rowing community.

Congratulations to you all for making it through the majority of a winter training season. We can soon start counting down the days until 'rowing' means being on the water and not inside on a machine or in the tank! The last weekend in March will likely be membership renewal and boathouse cleanup day. Book off the date so that we can make sure we are ready to row the moment the docks go in!

## Video Night

On 16 March at 6.30 pm the Friends of the Don Rowing Club are hosting a Video Night for all club members.

We will have two historical videos, one of Jack Guest at U.K. Henley and his triumphant return to Toronto, about 1930. The other is of UK Henley in 1951. After a short break we

will have a video of the 2007 Oxford - Cambridge boat race with comments by Mike Forgeron. Mike is an Olympic oarsman and a member of the DRC. He will lead some discussion and learning points from the boat race video.

Please join us for this interesting social evening and see how much or little rowing has changed in the last 75 years. Submitted by Patrick Vincent.

## 2008 Board of Directors

The 2008 Board of the Don Rowing Club of Mississauga is now at its full complement of twelve Directors. Each brings something different to the table. *John Cary* was elected as President, with *Jane Breitman* again fulfilling the duties as the 1st VP. *Andrew Bellerby* and *Laura Middleton* offer the club their experience as both coaches and competitive rowers, and they fill the duties of 2nd VP and Captain respectively. *Laura* chairs the Rowing Committee. *John Moorcroft* with his financial qualifications again performs the responsibilities of Treasurer. He also has shouldered the duty of Membership Director.

*Roelof Makken*, *Cynthia Drewry* and *Eric Sugar* contribute their experience as past members of the Board and as competitive athletes. *Jim Mercer* continues as the Director who is responsible for the whole Clubhouse and plays a crucial role in maintaining and repairing our equipment. Without him our great boathouse and all our athletes would be in deep trouble.

Rounding out the Board are the following members: *James Walker*, knowledgeable in website maintenance and a rower for both UTM and the DRC, *Natalia Borzszcwo* is a highly involved rower and coach of recreational programs and *Laura Sanhueza* who has been appointed as the Board's Secretary. The Board is determined to work hard to satisfy and meet the needs of the Club, its members and the community.

Our Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at the Club and members are very welcome to attend. Please approach any member of the Board when you



see us as we are good listeners and need your input. Submitted by Laura Sanhueza and John Cary.

### House Committee Update

On the building side, all fans, heating and air conditioning units have been replaced. The new (fourth) coach boat and motor have arrived and are being prepped for spring. The "Ernst Peters" worn out shoes and footstops are being replaced with Concept 2 types, similar to those on the ergs. The "Excalibur" will have its bottom scratches repaired this month. Submitted by Jim Mercer.

### Annual UTM "Ergathon"

*Apparently, masochists need money too...*

Last year, members of the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) Rowing Team erged for 42,195m. They survived the ordeal to never discuss it again...until now! The Ergathon is scheduled from 1:00pm to 6:00pm on Friday February 15, 2008 at UTM's Recreation, Athletic and Wellness Centre (RAWC). Although this is an event to be dreaded by UTM rowing members, it is for a fantastic cause – a chance for the team to compete at this year's Dad Vail Regatta in Philadelphia.

Last year, the Ergathon raised slightly more than \$1000. This year we hope to shatter that record and have therefore been avidly collecting pledges. Some support has even come from DRC members! We thank all of you who have contributed thus far. And, for those of you still checking the size of your wallet, what are you waiting for? Every donation, no matter how small, adds up. Submitted by Caitlin Pakosh.

### CIRC Highlights

The 2008 Canadian Indoor Rowing Championships took place on Sunday, February 3rd at York University. Many DRC members were involved in the organization, set-up, and running of the event, making this a highly successful operation. Not only were they involved with putting together

ergometers and holding clipboards, but many athletes were also extremely successful at the competition itself! What follows are the highlights of the Toronto event:

GOLD - Dennis Hartung, Sr.B Men, 6:10.0

SILVER - Josh Metcalfe, Sr.Lwt. Men, 6:28.5

SILVER - Michelle Bradbury, Sr.B Lwt. Women, 7:43.2

SILVER - Denis Moiseenko, Yuri Dashko, James Walker, Dennis Hartung, Club Four, 3:08.0

Approximately two dozen athletes from DRC competed in the event, and congratulations are due to all of those who went out and pulled their hardest! Submitted by James Walker.



<http://www.donrowingclub.com>

The newsletter is published on the first Tuesday of every month. Submissions can be made to James Walker at [jamesjoseph.walker@utoronto.ca](mailto:jamesjoseph.walker@utoronto.ca)