



## ARGONAUT ROWING CLUB

### **President's Report:**

This has been a year of growth for Argos. Coming out of a challenging 2 years things are starting to get back to normal at the club. It's been great to see the life return and the crew boats back in full circulation and so much regatta participation.

We started the season early this year with a reorg of our boathouse to accommodate the addition of UoT Rowing. There was a lot of anxiety about fitting everyone in but we did it and a big thanks to Joel, Matt, Connor, Mark and Pierre (and many more) for working together to make this work.

This year we also partnered with Kingsway College School (KCS) who is now running a day rowing program at the club. We have seen good growth across our membership in most programs as well as in our U23 program due to the addition of UoT athletes.

Camp Argo and Learn to Row continue to be significant programs for the club, but they are normalizing back to pre-COVID numbers as during the pandemic we saw significant growth as they are outdoor activities.

Staffing has been a challenge as it has been for many organizations. We struggled to find and retain staff in both our ISP programs as well as our Banquet business. We are seeing more people return to the city which is helping but it's been a slow recovery and impacting our ability to staff programs.

That being said, this past year we were able to add more paid coaches to support the growth of the programs and add coaches to programs that had not had coaches before. Expanding program support is a commitment we have made to membership but must be balanced with managing costs and the Community Bond repayments.

We have had a tremendous amount of support from volunteer coaches, parent volunteers, and guest coaches and for our 150th anniversary celebrations, all the volunteers that supported our planning and events over the summer - a big Thank You to all those that contribute to the club where you can.

This year was another successful year for fundraising with some great fundraisers and successful grants which have allowed us to invest in rowing equipment, coach boats and motors, safety equipment, and community outreach. A big thank you to all those that supported these fundraising programs including Connor and our outgoing Fundraising Director, Odette Ziezold.

Not only are we celebrating our 150th this year but our very own Judy Sutcliffe was inducted into the Row Ontario Hall of Fame! Congratulations Judy and thank you to the team who captured her rowing community contributions so well in the nomination process.

Argos, it's good to be back. We will continue to invest so that we are supporting our membership growth, ensuring everyone has the ability to have fun and to be great.

Thank you,

Jason van Ravenswaay  
President – Argonaut Rowing Club