

Dear Friends of McGill Rowing:

I find myself with the honour of introducing the parents, alumni, and others to McGill's first Rowing Newsletter. Although this is meant to be an introduction newsletter, I hope to help the team to set a precedent of keeping the parents and alumni interested and active in the Club.

Rowing is a give and take sport; it takes time, effort and concentration while it gives back confidence and a great sense of personal accomplishment. It complements university life by serving both as an outlet and as a diversion from the daily grind. However, it is much more than that. It is a team sport both on and off the water. We alumni may be free from McGill water, but we cannot forget the good times we had and what we learned about ourselves while we were there.

I was fortunate to be able to watch rowing at McGill grow as I grew within the programme. The programme has continued to build and grow over the years; it is now a well established organization. I am impressed with the organization and energy which the leaders of the team are showing.

We as rowers share a common bond and can assist the McGill programme in many ways, from introducing new students to the "experience of rowing" to cheering louder than any Queens alumnus ever could at a regatta. Our moral (and monetary support) is much needed and can be shown by our presence at any event or regatta of which the red and white is a part. The team, led by the executive, is doing its part; it is time we alumnus did ours.

Sincerely hoping to see you again,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rita Toporowski". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Rita Toporowski ('86)

MCGILL ROWING NEWSLETTER

The Club is proud to present its first newsletter. In it will be a brief history of the Club, a report of recent racing results and annual fund raising events, and a look at where the Club is heading in the future. The newsletter is written by active members of the Club. Its purpose is twofold: one, to introduce parents to rowing and two, to keep in touch with our alumni. As well, there are a few others who take an interest in the Club who are neither parent nor alumnus; together you are all "friends of McGill Rowing."

HISTORY

The McGill Rowing Club began in the roaring twenties. In 1924 the Lachine Boat Club (now defunct) gave McGill room to practice its "oaring," which, as any smart rower knows, is really the desire to go backwards as fast as possible. The first Canadian intercollegiate regatta was held between McGill and the University of Toronto; McGill was the first winner of this event. With the outbreak of the war in 1939, the Club folded.

In 1976 the Club started up again, this time taking advantage of the Olympic facilities on Ile Notre-Dame. The team started with sixteen people (men and women), out of which only one mens' racing crew was formed. 1980 saw the appearance of the first head coach, as well as the first womens' crew. In 1981 the first Canadian University Rowing Championships were held in Montreal, hosted by McGill University. The first head coach was Dave Moore, who was helped by Jeff Shaw and Jeff Craig in 1980. The second head coach was Atilibio Magione, later replaced by Bob Marlow in 1982. Mike Muchnik took over in the summer of 1984 and handed in his resignation as of August 1987. The crew survived the past fall season with no head coach. We are presently in agreement with the Montreal Rowing Club to share future coaching staff.

In the past McGill has given Canada several outstanding oarsmen (women are oarsmen too). All of Guy Savard ('84), Doug Christie ('85), Rita Toporowski ('86) and Colin Duffield ('89 hopeful) have represented Canada on various national teams. All of them are still challenging the world of international rowing.

AS IT IS NOW

Fall is the rowing season for most Canadian universities. McGill usually attends the Head of the Rideau

Regatta in Ottawa (where it is always cold and rainy), the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston (the largest single-day regatta in the world) and the Ontario University Championships in St. Catharines. The Club's best showing is usually at the Head of the Rideau Regatta, where the varsity crews often win their events. However, rowing greats such as Trent University show up to the other regattas and manage to defeat us time and time again.

The reason for this is mainly McGill's three year academic programme. The Club has seen its share of good oarsmen, but by the time they can lead a crew to victory they have graduated. When talent graduates, the remaining spirit is what will win races for McGill. This year the spirit in the Club was exceptionally high; to survive a season without a head coach is no small feat.

It is opportune to attempt a short introduction to rowing for the "novices" who may be reading this. Rowing is an unusual sport in that it demands a great deal from its participants; yet the more it demands the more people are willing to give.

Because of water conditions and boat availability, some crews must train at 6:00 A.M. It takes half an hour to get to where McGill rows; the morning must start around 5:30 A.M.

Everyone must show up. Rowing is a real team sport; an eight cannot go out with seven people. The ninth person in an eight is called the coxswain (coxie). His/her job is to steer the boat and to encourage the crew to pull as hard as they can, each stroke, for either two hundred or five hundred strokes (depending on the length of the race). The coxie also gives technical pointers to the crew. Pulling hard is easy...rowing well is almost impossible. Do both at the same time and you might win a race.

The demands and sacrifices of the rowing season are obvious to the competitor. This is what builds the competitive nature of the sport: to make the sacrifice and to end the season with nothing to show for it is, as you can imagine, unsatisfying. The fear of this outcome translates into more effort during the workout; a harder workout means a more competitive race. That is why so many rowing races are decided by hundredths of seconds—nobody wants to give up on even one stroke. Of course, winning such a close race is one of the greatest feelings in sports. Losing such a race is equally devastating.

One of the most helpful things in rowing training is the presence of team spirit. It is easy to pull hard when there

are fifty other people at the Basin pulling as hard as you are, aiming for the same big race. This year the spirit at the Club was extremely high; as a result the teams performed better than ever, posting the most wins and the best overall placing ever in the history of the team.

The Club relies greatly on money which is raised by its members. This fall, for the first time, an ergathon was held which raised over \$3 000. Our yearly ergometer regatta was held on January thirtieth this year; this event raised \$1 500. Our first annual raffle sale is now underway; tickets are five dollars each and the projected profit from the event is \$10 000. The draw will be on April seventh at 6:00 P.M. here at McGill. We are trying to become self-sufficient.

THE RESULTS - FALL 1987

Head of the Rideau Regatta - October 10

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Varsity coxed four	first	n/a
Varsity eight	first	first
Lightweight coxed four	second	n/a
Junior-varsity eight	first	first
Novice eight	first	first
Open double	n/a	third

Head of the Charles Regatta - October 17

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Varsity coxed four	twelfth	n/a

Head of the Rideau regatta - October 31

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Varsity eight	third	third
Junior-varsity eight	eleventh	fifth
Novice eight	disqualified	fifth
Points Championship	sixth	fourth

THE FUTURE

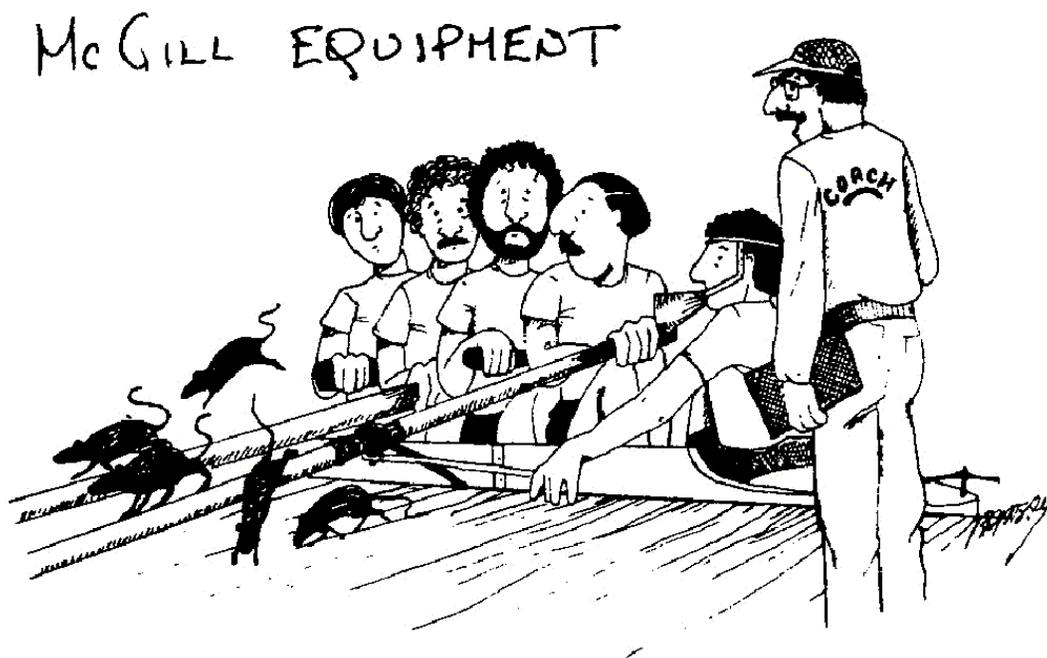
NEW HEAD ROWING COACH!

The MURC Executive is pleased to announce that the formal search for a new head coach has begun. The position is jointly funded by the MURC and the Montreal Rowing Club. The position has been nationally advertised and the executive hopes to interview applicants throughout March to find the best candidate. The final selection is scheduled for May first, 1988.

The position of Head Coach is integral in the overall development of the McGill programme. Ideally we are looking for a young, enthusiastic and dynamic candidate. The coach will oversee the training of the athletes and it is our hope that the particular emphasis will be given to the development of the novice programme. We hope our new coach will be able to grow with the programme and to build the programme from the ground up such that the overall quality and competitive success of McGill crews will significantly improve over the next three to five years.

The purpose of the program is twofold: one, to provide students with a healthy, challenging sport where one makes good friends and has a good time, and two, to give anyone a chance to take rowing further, perhaps even to the national level.

Rowing is already a healthy, challenging sport. Everyone has a lot of fun at the 6:00 A.M. practices and at any of the several annual parties. As well, the team has been consistently improving its performance at every regatta. The talent is there. There is a sense of momentum this year at the club. The spirit should have been enough to give at least one win this year, but the number of setbacks we faced simply wore us down. But we have not stayed down. The executive is full of ideas and enthusiasm and there is a new fund-raising committee which is in the middle of a campaign to raise thirty thousand dollars by this fall. Both the executive committee and the Fundraising Committee are committed to providing the student athletes with an outstanding and memorable experience with the Club. Still, one thing remains in our path:



THE FUTURE

Rowing is a very expensive sport. We have a very small and young group of alumni to which to appeal for support.

In the last two years, two parents gave us enough money to buy a set of ten oars (about \$3 000 total). We would like to establish our own set of equipment, so we may become more independent from the Montreal Rowing Club which presently supplies us with boats to use). We are planning to buy one new and one used shell for our Club, this should cost about \$20 000. If our fundraising committee is successful in attaining its goal of \$30 000, the rest of the money will be put into a fund which will provide a capital base for the security of the Club.

Our first mail solicitation will commence on April first. This will be an opportunity for the Friends of McGill Rowing to support the team through gifts or donations. The solicitation will be comprised of two campaigns, the "buy an oar" and "buy a seat" campaigns. Details will accompany the solicitation.

REPORT FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

As you are no doubt aware, University funding has severely compromised many programmes which directly contribute to the quality and diversity of University life. The Intercollegiate Rowing Programme is among those to suffer.

Underfunding has compromised the quality of the Programme by limiting the size of the team, the number of competitions which we can attend and the quality of our equipment. Faced with these proposals, the MURC has undertaken an ambitious fundraising drive. The goal for 1988 is \$30 000. a new eight-oared shell costs approximately \$12 000 and a new set of oars \$2 500. the Club is desperately in need of two such shells for the next season. In light of these facts, a standing fundraising committee has been established to achieve these goals.

The mandate of the Committee is to generate enough revenue for the immediate needs of the Club and also to organise a meaningful support infrastructure such that the intercollegiate rowing programme at McGill can be permanently established. Further, the fundraising committee is committed to generating revenue for the operating and equipment costs of the Rowing Club with a view to increasing Club membership and the competitive success of its crew.

The fifth annual McGill-Concept II Ergometer Regatta was held on January thirtieth at the Sir Arthur Currie Memorial Gymnasium. This year's 'ergatta' was by far the most successful. Over one hundred athletes from eight clubs participated. This was the first event in the 1988 Fundraising Drive organised by the MURC Fundraising Committee. The net profit for the day was \$1 500. The event was therefore successful in terms of both fundraising and participation.

The Fundraising Committee has undertaken the responsibility of organising two support groups for the MURC. The first is the Parents of McGill Rowing. An overarching goal of the Club is extend the McGill rowing family such that the parents may be given a significant and meaningful role towards the success of their daughters and sons as they compete in the intercollegiate sphere for McGill. Parents can contribute to the rowing programme through their attendance and encouragement at various regattas, their billeting of athletes during regatta weekends and their organizational efforts and attendance with respect to the MURC Parent/Alumni Annual Crew Dinner (November 12, 1988).

The second support group which we are establishing is the Friends of McGill Rowing. Ms. Rita Toporowski ('86) has graciously accepted to be the first honorary Chairperson of this group. The Friends of McGill Rowing will eventually provide much of the funding necessary to keep our equipment up-to-date through gifts and donations from alumni, corporate sponsors and other associations.

It is hoped the Parents of McGill Rowing and the Friends of McGill Rowing will provide a solid organizational foundation upon which the MURC can build the intercollegiate programme to that of a national rowing power. This commitment to excellence is first and foremost a commitment to our student athletes. The MURC Executive and Fundraising Committees are committed to improving the quality of the rowing experience for the athletes such that it is both an outstanding and memorable feature of University life at McGill.

A major upcoming project is the Annual Raffle Ticket Draw. This year it the lottery is targeted to raise \$10 000 through the sale of 2 000 tickets. The tickets are priced at \$5 each and will be sold beginning March 2nd, 1988. Tickets will be available from any MURC member and at the general office in the Sir Arthur Currie Memorial Gymnasium. The draw date has been set for Thursday, April 7th, 1988 at 6:00 P.M., in the COTC lounge of the gymnasium. Prizes include a weekend at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel here in Montreal, a ski weekend at Tremblant, a houseboat cruise, MSO tickets and much more: over thirty-five prizes have already been donated

to our raffle. A complete list of prizes and winners will be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

FINAL MESSAGE

Rowing has been a low-profile sport for too long; many people simply don't know anything about it. It is a world worth discovering. Ask your son or daughter what it's all about, or write us a letter and ask to be a part of an upcoming event. Your interest will make us stronger. A schedule of our upcoming events is as follows:

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 7th, 1988: First Annual MURC Raffle Draw, 6:00 PM.
May 1st, 1988: Announcement of the new Head Coach
August 26-September 3, 1988: Varsity Training Camp
September 6th, 1988: Classes begin (Tuesday)
September 10th, 1988: Boat Christening (Saturday)
November 12, 1988: MURC Parent/Alumni Annual Crew Dinner

A regatta schedule will be included in the next Newsletter. We hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,

The McGill Rowing Club.

ps. The next edition of the Newsletter will be published on June 1, 1988. Look for the following reports: the name of a new Head Coach, the profits and prizes of our Raffle, some interesting historical notes about our Club, the fall racing schedule, an official logo and hopefully much more.

PPS. OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS:

McGill University Rowing Club
475 Pine Avenue West
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The MCGILL ROWING CLUB COMMITTEE 1987-1988

President.....Signe Gotfredson
Vice President External.....Jeffrey Grange
Vice President.....Andrew Tees
Vice President.....Andrea Dingle
Secretary.....Pamela Mahal
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Robert Kosoy	Tony Tremain
Christine Maw	Brian Turner
Tanja McPherson	Robin Unger

The McGill Rowing Club would like to thank the following people for coaching in the absence of a professional:

Tony Tremain, Tom O'Connor, Matteo Cendamo, Kathy Denis, David Goldsmith, Mr. Simon Bailey, Jeffrey Grange.

The Club sends a special and hearty thanks to David Goldsmith for undertaking the severe task of being our manager.



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The McGill University Rowing Club says "Thank you" for your support.