



The Wave

Newsletter of the McGill University Rowing Club

March 1990 Vol III No. 1

McGILL CHRISTENS MR. SPEAKER

•Lynne Ceré

To the sound of bagpipes on October 17, 1989, the McGill University Rowing Club reunited once again with the Friends of McGill Rowing at the Arts Building on the lower campus for yet another boat christening ceremony.

Senator Alan McNaughton, former speaker of the House of Commons and rower at McGill during his undergraduate years, donated a lightweight men's Kaschper eight which was christened *Mr. Speaker* in his honour. Attending the ceremony were Principal David L. Johnston, Rob Baxter, George Marshall of the Friends of McGill Rowing, Mr. Robert Dubeau, Director of the Athletics De-

partment as well as many rowers, modern and ancient.

Following the procession of the team to the Arts Buildings steps, varsity rower Lindsay Pollard addressed the audience with a chronology of Senator McNaughton's life accomplishments. After a few comments from Principal Johnston, the senator concluded the christening with a ceremonial bottle of champagne. A reception was held in Redpath Hall following the christening, where oarspersons of all ages delightfully exchanged their rowing experiences and stories.

Thanks to the efforts of Rob Baxter and the Friends of McGill Rowing, this event was a great success.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

•Jennifer Mactaggart

Coming out of our most successful year ever, the McGill University Rowing Club is poised to make the 1990's unforgettable. We are entering the new decade with a club that is rapidly gaining a reputation of excellence as a Canadian rowing power. Our novice program is strong, and our elite level is expanding as we are beginning to appeal to high calibre athletes from around the country. McGill is starting to rule the waves.

This year's Executive consists of a dynamic group of individuals. With a core of seasoned oarspeople, rounded out with the vitality of several novices, we're ready to roll. VP Internal, Alex Kuilman, a varsity oarsman with abundant energy, will bring credit to our name across campus, and bring life to the inevitable 'social' aspects of our Club. VP Communications, Brad Crombie, while busy training for the National Crew is also spending time producing this newsletter and binding the Club together. VP Fundraising, Gary Sterle, a novice this year, is definitely a seasoned fundraiser, and is already planning our needed 'get rich quick' scheme. Another dedicated novice in our ranks is Val Tremblay, our VP External. She will serve as an invaluable bilingual liaison between the MURC, the City of Montreal, and the Association Quebecoise d'Aviron (or AQuA), among others. Our Treasurer, Signe Gottfredson, has been rowing for many seasons, and has been constantly dedicated to the development of the MURC on all levels. And Annabel Cooper, as Past President and avid supporter, already has been, and will continue to be, of immeasurable help and advice to all of the Executive.

With the City of Montreal preparing for the 1992

COACH'S CORNER

•Mike Lizée

Another first was established by McGill Crews in the fall of 1989 as our novice women defeated their U.W.O. rivals on Western's home turf. The Welland and London Head Races are usually the first regattas for our varsity crews. This year all Martlet Crews travelled east, where the two Novice Women's shells handed their respective Lady Mustangs an opening day defeat.

At the Head of the Trent Regatta, McGill was the only school to have new Kaschper Shells for each of its Varsity Crews. The Red Dawn was purchased with the profits of the 1989 Crew Raffle. The new Men's Lightweight Eight, is thanks to a donation from Senator Alan McNaughton. These new shells helped the MURC obtain its best-ever performance at Trent as our Varsity Crews picked up a Gold, two seconds and a third.

Although travelling to the Brock Invitational Regatta is long and tiresome, the McGill Crews showed their speed and stamina as our Lightweight Women won both the eights and fours division. Our Heavy Men also took home gold in the coxed fours race. Thanks to Jennifer Mactaggart and the Ridley Boat Club, the men were able to row in a borrowed shell. Tom O'Conner's Varsity Women also broke new ground, because for the first time they were able to defeat the University of Toronto's crew over two thousand metres. Coxswain Michelle Jones led her crew through a bowball-to-bowball fight to the Henley Grandstand.

Thanks to all our coaches for a great job in 1989. A special note of thanks to the King of Gossip himself, Mr. Andrew Tees, who took on both the JV and Novice Men,

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FUNDRAISING

•Gary Sterle

Rowers:

Well, to begin with, I'd like to offer my thanks and appreciation to all those who helped in raising me to the most highly exalted position of fundraising VP.

Commensurate with my position comes the seemingly never ending task of not only raising funds for the crew by established methods of fundraising, but also exploring new and hopefully more lucrative avenues as well.

The next four months will be targeted towards the raffle as this is obviously our largest fundraiser of the year. Over the summer months I hope to be able to formulate a few new ways of fundraising that could prove to be quite lucrative for the MURC. One idea that has come up is lobbying McGill alumni, both rowers and non-rowers alike. In this endeavour I would like to make greater use of the 'Friends of McGill Rowing.'

If you are not already aware, a committee has been established to lobby the private (corporate) sector for funds and assistance. It is new approaches like this that I feel should be explored for their full potential, as they could (with a little effort) yield us great rewards with a minimal amount of long-term effort.

It is my hope that several years down the road, the MURC will have a more stable financial base on which it can operate, rather than going from season to season on a shoe-string budget. This is going to involve a lot of work from the entire crew, but will make life much more bearable for us all. The benefits that will result will enable us all to spend more time in the boat, and less time worrying about whether or not we'll be able to afford to go to the next regatta.

Jobs such as fundraising are never a joy, but as the old saying goes, a situation is what you make of it. If we can succeed in keeping our enthusiasm high, and not turn our backs in the face of adversity, I feel that we will be successful. As it is when we are in the boat, we have to all work together if we ever hope to get the club onto a more stable footing.

In the same vein, I would appreciate/welcome any and all ideas and suggestions from any of you that feel you have some ideas on fundraising. So please, don't hesitate to call me at 285-2245. If I'm not at home leave a message; I always return a call.

...COMMENTS cont'd

Lightweight Worlds, we couldn't be in a better area to promote the growth of our Club. The Montreal Region is on the brink of becoming the rowing mecca that its facilities warrant. Our goals are relatively simple, yet significant. We wish to continue building and reaching out to high performance athletes, as well as developing our own. We are determined to race the highest calibre crews

that we can, both nationally and internationally, and to make a name for ourselves as a top-notch rowing club. Most importantly, though, we are here to nurture a positive atmosphere of learning and development in a sport that we all have come to love.

Immediate priorities include the organization of our annual fundraising raffle, and the training of several competitive crews to represent us at the Dad Vail Regatta in Philadelphia in May. Our first major event of the year, the seventh annual McGill 'Ergatta' was run with much success, and fun was had by all. Off to a good start!

With the support of our own athletes, as well as our alumni, I am sure that this decade will bring with it much success, both on the water, and in the boathouse. As they say in rowing jargon...partez!

COACH'S... cont'd

and was often found holding all-night rigging sessions.

All Oarsmen and Women are to be commended for their commitment and dedication. The travelling to Laval forced our crews to increase their training and studying efficiency. Now that's a sign of good collegiate rowers! We edged up ever so slightly in overall points at the OUAA/OWIAA. The Men's and Women's Lightweight Coxed Four were McGill's very first Champions under the regatta's new format. Many more are to come.

The Dad Vail Crews have been training daily since Christmas. The respective crews meet at the Currie Gym at 7:00 am. As well, our Varsity Heavy Men are seriously into winter training, many of them hoping to place a berth with the Canadian Rowing Team. Good luck to all.

NOVICE ROWING

•Anne-Marie Sorrenti

I write this not just from the perspective of a cox, but from that of a novice cox of a novice women's crew-and to say the least-it's a rather interesting perspective. Just think, at the beginning, it wasn't only eight people who didn't have the slightest notion of what they were doing, it was nine. But we all learned, and I was spared being dumped on in the grand tradition, since the tendency to 'blame it on the cox' had not yet been absorbed into the bloodstreams of our up-and-coming oarheads.

The Novice Girl's Programme was a far greater success than the raw numbers might suggest. The 'A' Boat was faring extraordinarily well until, due to some unfortunate administrative error about race times, they missed their unofficial Novice Championship Race (and they had a great shot at it!). The 'B's had a strong, respectable season (we didn't even crash at Trent), highlighted by the sublime coaching skills of Ross Lizée. One of his most successful attention-grabbing techniques was the sporting of his fiery orange rowing shorts.

Currently, several novice women are training very intensely with Mike for the Dad Vail Regatta this spring. There was an outstanding turnout of novice girls at the McGill Ergatta, where two of our lightweights made the finals. So look out for us in the spring, and next fall, 'cause we're lean, mean and super-keen.

WINNERS

•John Younger

Over the past five years or so the McGill rowing team has slowly but surely developed into a club of spirited athletes who have through their work and camaraderie raised enough funds to ensure their continued existence and enhanced a competitive attitude to a point where first place is always in sight. Within the club, there have always been a contingent of athletes who have taken the step beyond the club level and pursued a level of excellence only to be found among the top ranked athletes whose efforts have rendered them among the best at their sport.

In the early 1980's when the McGill rowing team was witnessing a rebirth of sorts, the Canadian Amateur Rowing Association decided to station National Team coach Bob Marlow in Montreal with a twofold mandate. First Bob was to firmly establish the McGill team as an eastern rowing power and second, to develop elite athletes from both the McGill team and the Montreal area. Unfortunately, apart from a few exceptions, CARA's experiment failed and Bob left for greener pastures in Australia after 1984. Bob's departure left the team in somewhat of a shambles with relatively few experienced oarsmen around to develop a squad which could compete at the University level and even fewer elite athletes which Bob's presence was supposed to have produced. A couple of individuals stand from this era, namely Guy Savard and Rita Toporowski. Guy, under Bob's tutelage was an untiring competitor in the single and through his individual mental toughness managed to seat race his way on the Lightweight National Team Sweep Program, and helped the Canadian eight to a tenth place finish at the World Championships in 1985. Rita, in a single, enhanced her technique to a level which virtually assured her a spot as one of Canada's top scullers in 1986. Tragically though, her bid for a spot to wear Canada's colours was cut short by a back injury which forced her to quit the sport. At this point in time, the Montreal rowing scene was dominated sculling, mainly in singles.

New hope for a sweep program came to McGill in 1985 with the arrival of new head coach Mike Muchnick and some talented imports. By the spring of 1986 there were four McGill oarsmen trying to make the Canadian Senior B team: Tony Tremain, Colin Duffield, Doug Christie, and John Younger. On the women's side, Rita Toporowski and Pat Kanali were making a bid for the team. As a result of some bad luck and some bad backs, only Colin Duffield and Doug Christie managed to make

the team, Colin bringing home a bronze medal from the Sr. B regatta in Hamburg, West Germany (in the quad), Doug bringing home a gold medal from the U.S. Nationals in Indianapolis (in the heavy eight). In the spring of 1987, Colin Duffield represented Canada again, this time at the Universiade in Yugoslavia.

At the start of the fall of 1987, the McGill rowing team found itself in the ides of a dilemma. Head coach Mike Muchnick quit and the team was reduced to an organizational mess. Without the tireless work of Tony Tremain that fall, the program may have collapsed. Tony took on the job of head coach, varsity men's coach, president and treasurer of the club, and somehow managed to do it all and show a profit at the end of the year, something no treasurer has done before or since. Tony, riding on the enthusiasm of such rowers as Signe Gottfredson and Andrew Tees, managed to guide the team to a very respectable showing that fall. The following spring three McGill oarsmen, and for the first time one born and bred by the McGill system, made the Canadian Sr. B team: Andrew Tees (from his native Verdun), Colin Duffield and Grant Gush. Colin, after having sights set on the A team and a trip to Seoul, missed the National Team's phone call inviting him to come to the Olympics as a spare because he was visiting his girlfriend. As it turned out Colin had to settle for a trip to Australia with Grant and Andrew on the Sr. B team.

The ranks of McGill rowers striving to be among Canada's elite rose again in 1989 with Craig Duffield, Colin Duffield, Andrew Tees, Grant Gush, and John Younger all vying for a foot in the door for the next Olympic cycle. At the Canadian Small Boats Championship in Welland last spring, the Duffield pair won, and the Younger/Gush combination came in third. On the trip to the U.S. Nationals in Indianapolis, of the National Team's eighteen top sweep oarsmen from across the country, four were from McGill. In other words McGill oarsmen have now come to represent a major part of the National Team men's sweep program.

Over the years McGill rowers have proven themselves by winning the top club race, Canadian Henley, as well. Those who have brought home gold from St. Catharine's include Colin Duffield(4 times), Doug Christie(3 times), John Younger(3 times), Jeff Grange(twice), Dave Wilson, Steve Gregory, Matthew Lella, Will Tinmouth, Emil Gadjanski, Reid Salwin, Signe Gottfredson, Jane Shepherd, not to mention many others. McGill rowers really have, in a short period of time, established a tradition of individual achievement of which the whole club can be proud.

ROWING BANQUET

•Chris Lambie

Having been named the social butterfly of this year's annual McGill Crew Formal I have accepted the task of recording the events that took place on the night of

FALL 1989 RESULTS

	Welland	Thames	Trent	Rideau	Brock*	Charles	OUAA/OWIAA*
Men:							
Heavy Varsity 8	DNC	DNC	1/9	1	DNC	20	2/9 (5:54)
Light Varsity 8	DNC	DNC	3/6	2	DNC	29/56	4 (6:11)
Junior Varsity 8	DNC	DNC	6/6	1	✕	DNC	DNC
Novice Heavy 8	DNC	DNC	4/13	1	✕	DNC	DNC
Novice Light 8	DNC	DNC	6/13	2	3	DNC	DNC
Heavy Varsity 4+	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	1	DNC	DNC
Light Varsity 4+	DNC	DNC	DNC	1	DNC	DNC	1/10 (6:51)
Women:							
Heavy Varsity 8	2	2	2	1	2	DNC	3 (6:38)
Light Varsity 8	3	4	2	1	1	DNC	4
Junior Varsity 8	3	6	4/5	1	4	DNC	DNC
Novice A	1	1	5/13	1	DNC	DNC	DNC
Novice B	3	3	6/13	2	DNC	DNC	DNC
Heavy Varsity 4+	DNC	3	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	3 (7:27)
Light Varsity 4+	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	1	DNC	1
Varsity 2x	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	5
Final Point Standings							50 / 56

* 2000 m sprint race; all others are head races

DNC did not compete

✕ missed the cut for the final race

1/12 (6:54); first in a field of 12 boats (winning time)

...BANQUET cont'd

November the tenth, 1989. While the excitement of the event has somewhat blurred my memory, the major aspects of interest are still floating around in my head.

The affair began early in the evening with numerous cocktail parties around campus. The Varsity Heavy Men actually started off the celebration with a unified and somewhat too liberal application of Brill cream (sic) and fluffing of mutual sideburns. Once the entire crew had assembled in the lobby of McGill's superbly accommodating Faculty Club, the social engine known as crew unity roared to life. It was a true dedication to the bacchanalian spirit that forced the assigned bartender to double his staff after the first fifteen minutes of business.

Andrew Tees, the men's Junior Varsity Coach, initiated the formalities of the dinner. The head table was introduced; among the notables were Senator McNaughton, George Marshall, and Rejean Beauregard (head of the Laval Rowing Club and salvation of our 1989 season). During the whole affair young and old mixed with the easy familiarity of oarspeople; it is comforting to note that we at McGill have a framework of support that can be illustrated by the heartwarming telegram received from the Mactaggart family.

While coffee was served at the end of a sumptuous fare produced from the depths of the faculty club kitchens the program truly began to roll. Scott MacKenzie took the helm from Andrew, presenting both the Coxswain's and Coaches' awards to an obviously appreciative audience. While Scott's somewhat hazy delivery lacked a certain focus he more than made up for this with his sincere chatter and, of course, the fact that he was the only man sporting a kilt.

The President's Plaque was presented to Matteo Cendamo for his application and dedication to the crew as a coach, rower and untiring supporter. Awards for Best Female and Male Novice Rower of the season went to Lisa Carey and Gary Sterle respectively. The Coxes were singled out by respective crews with gifts relative to their

individual tastes and according to their unique experiences over the season.

The slide show followed, with lots of incredible photos produced by the, if nothing else, persistent Matthew Lella. The crowd was treated to shots of everything from the head of the Trent Regatta to the OUAA/OWIAA Championships in St. Catharines. The illustrious John Younger was seen to be passing out horribly cheap cigars throughout the entire performance and I even happened to notice that his date was happily puffing away under the cover of the dimmed house lights. The cheers were audible while the projectionist, with the aid, once again, of Scott lead us through an incredible pictorial review of the season.

The evening shifted gears one final time as the tables were cleared away and the dancing began. Thanks to the great dance music provided by DJ Dizzy D. Garside and Dave Wilson's school of Rhumba and Schmooze everybody appeared to have an amazing time. Thanks can also be duly awarded to Rob Baxter, John Hasty and Lindsay Pollard (ticket artwork) for pulling off McGill Crew's social success of the year.

The Wave is published three times annually by the McGill University Rowing Club as an information medium for itself and its sister organization, the Friends of McGill Rowing. Articles, comments, and suggestions should be sent to:

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