



the Wave

Newsletter of the McGill University Rowing Club

Summer 1993 Volume VI, number 1

Club News

The Stein

by Bruce Smith, VP Fundraising

As the approach of Henley signals the end of the summer rowing season, McGill Crew is shifting back into high gear for the fall. After a successful trip down to Philadelphia in the early spring, the crew spread out around the world to train and row, everywhere from Lake Geneva in Switzerland to Toronto, leaving a small contingent in Montreal to hold the fort until their return. The fifteen-odd students left in the city have kept very busy training with the Montreal rowing club, finding sponsors for the fall season, fixing old boats, looking for new boats, raising funds and planning the schedule of fall activities and regattas.

The well-deserved reputation for hot summer weather has made the Montreal rowing basin the scene of many impromptu swims as practices begin to taper. The remainder of the McGill Crew joined forces with Montreal as women and men alike sweat it out every morning and evening, sharing the basin with a growing number of interested Montrealers in boats ranging from competitive eights to training singles, the un-flippable "bathtubs" renowned for their bulk and slowness.

Between double practices and summer jobs, McGill rowers have been pounding the pavement in search of financial support from local small businesses. Under the di-

rection of Kristen Pederson, our list of supporters has expanded to include Optimum Health Food Store and Japan Camera, along with sponsors from the 1992 season. Business support has contributed to the upkeep of several McGill boats, and new riggers are being ordered for two eights destined to be used this fall.

Along with the upkeep of our older shells, Friends of McGill Rowing Toronto Chapter has been very busy finding the means to purchase a new truck as a complement to the trailer the club acquired in 1993. With help of alumni and friends the campaign has gained momentum, and we should be fully mobile for the upcoming season. Our trailer is the maximum allowable size for highway driving, with the capacity for nine eights and various small boats; with a shiny new truck, no one will be able to miss us on the way to and from regattas.

On the list of events for the fall, we have five regattas, including the second annual McGill/Montreal Invitational, get-togethers for alumni, athletes and parents in Toronto and Montreal, and plans are already in progress for the Annual Banquet in November. Come September, an infusion of dedicated rowers, some careful preparations, and a small pinch of luck will add up to another exhilarating season of competition.

by Andrew Tees, long time team captain and admirer of beer vessels

The taste of victory is much sweeter when aged properly and pulled from the long-awaited McGill Intramural Water Polo Stein.

The team which has come within one victory of glory on more than one occasion finally put together a perfect playoff season. Indubitably, the playoffs began with the much feared Victory Cannonball which dampened the spirits of the opposition and ended the regular season.

The souls of past water polo greats Annabel Cooper and Lisa Holleman seemed to be inspiring the young and the lovely Sandy Bourke as she combined non-stop whining to the referee with a rifle arm. Sandy scored several decisive goals en route to the win.

Tony Tremain was outstanding in goal, stopping shot after shot, although it must be said that, in the final, the Wet Dreams didn't provide much of a challenge. However, with seconds left in the match, Tony stood his ground as one of the bad guys broke in seemingly close. With great courage, not to mention closed eyes, Tony challenged the shooter and saved the day.

The run through the playoffs began with a big victory over a team peopled by players so large that Japanese fishing boats were spotted

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FMR Update

by **Tony Tremain, President**

While the particularly strong MURC executive has been forging ahead, the FMR has been behind the scenes as well.

The recent Wave reported the Toronto chapter as fundraising for a truck. A friendly raffle is to be held on or about Labour Day weekend in Toronto, with the prizes being tax receipts of donations to the Club (for more details, please contact Terry Mactaggart, (416) 855-7020). The truck, it is hoped, will be pulling the boats to the Toronto regatta on September 24th.

The Toronto sales team has also taken the initiative on updating our mailing list. Most of you will have received a letter from Jeff Grange (or his minions) or me asking for information; those who did not receive such a letter and who may be reading this are hereby welcomed as returning to the fold--we missed you!

Thanks are also due to Michelle

Pampin (current rower) who brought our two mailing lists into one. We now have over five hundred fifty people on one list, enough to keep me busy for a while (and for the statistically minded among you, about 2/3 of the list are in the first half of the alphabet).

Be that as it may, there are still some lost sheep: see below. Please help us to keep our records up to date!

All that being said, both the Club and its umbrella (the FMR) are in good shape. Of particular note is the growing number of young alumni who are offering to pitch in and give back to the Club. Two goals for the fall are to create an action group in Montreal to begin new tasks, and for them to categorize our alumni into years and crews.

In the meantime, please make a note of the Club's fall calendar and join us wherever and whenever you can. And please, feel free to feed the rowers!

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in the area soon after the game.

The semi-final was played against longtime rivals the Poobahs. The game was played the day after the largest snowfall to hit Montreal in more than 20 years. As a result, the poobahs could muster only 6 people to the pool. We moved the ball around the pool with ease while stifling their potent attack.

In the final we met the infamous Wet Dreams, founded by ex-rowers, ex-executives and ex-Montrealers Peter Zandstra and Steve Woodside [ed. note: though they be ex-, they do still see each other]. Joined by the feeble-shooting Rachel Carson, the Wet ones have always provided a great deal of entertainment with their annual claims to greatness. Nonetheless, they have always finished their seasons flopping around the pool like a beer without a stein.

With the help of Andrew Tees (Captain and long time Steinhugger), Patrick Bourke, Sandy Bourke, Devra Hendleman, Jen Mactaggart, Sidney Omelon, Mike Roberts, Tony Tremain, Peter Ventin and Frances Vice, the Steins are finally ours!



The Wave, newsletter of the MURC, published by The Drawing Board. Editor, Tony Tremain. Layout (in spirit), Tom O'Connor.

Reflections in *the Wave* are opinions of the authors, and should be treated as such. Not responsible for articles lost or stolen.

Questions, comments and advertising requests may be addressed to: THE WAVE, MCGILL UNIVERSITY ROWING CLUB, 475 PINE AVE. WEST, MONTREAL, H2W 1S4.

Who?

We have no address or information about the following people. If you know any of them or anything about them, please contact The Wave.

Andrews, Mr. Mark
Aust. Mr and Mrs
Bennett. Mr. Sydney
Delbridge. Ms. Janet
Fein, Mr Stephen
Fripp, Ms Alison
Hameline, Mr Marty
Haslam-Jones, Dr. Thomas
Hoefert, Mr Fred A.J.
Lee, Dr David L.
Morley, Mr David
Orme, Mr Geoffrey P.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Congratulations - the Fifth Anniversary Edition of *the Wave* is excellent. Great articles - and we particularly enjoyed "Just Visiting", "To Row, Perchance to Dream...", "On the Racks" and the Editorial. Not a dull moment from cover to cover. Well laid out too - it's a triumph.

Continued success to your crews - and your news - sincerely, **Diana Tremain**, Toronto.

Ed. note: Mrs. Tremain donated the "Rusty" oar to the Club in 1991, as part of the name an oar campaign.

Rowing in Canada - the most Canadian of sports

by Jen Mactaggart, reprinted from the Dominion Day Regatta programme, summer 1993.

While the media would have us believe that hockey and baseball are our national sports, the most "Canadian" of sports must be rowing.

A competitive sport since the days of ancient Greece and Rome, rowing as we know it has been extremely popular for the last 50 years - so popular, in fact, that until the 1930's it was considered to be a professional sport driven by massive betting and huge purses up for challenge around the globe.

In the late 1800's a prize of \$200 000 was not uncommon - still a sizeable sum today. Not surprisingly, athletes would travel vast distances by steamer and coach in order to compete for the glory. Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, Canadians dominated much of the competition.

Long before our beloved Silken Laumann, scullers like Ned Hanlan, Joe Right Sr., Jake Gaudar, Lou Scholes, Jack Guest and Joe Right Jr. dominated word competition (interestingly, all of these athletes were from Toronto, with the exception of Orillian Jake Gaudar). Ned Hanlan captured the world title six times in the 1800's; Jake Gaudar was world champion from 1896-1901; and when Lou Scholes captured the coveted Diamond Sculls at England's Henley Royal Regatta in 1904, 70 000 fans welcomed him back to Toronto! Joe Wright Sr., both a world champion sculler and sweep oarsman himself went on to coach his son Joe Jr. and fellow Toronto-nian Jack Guest to both world and Olympic medals in the 20's and

30's. Over and over again, Canadian scullers have defined rowing excellence. Silken carries the torch passed on through a formidable Canadian tradition.

In larger boats - primarily fours and eights - Canadians have also excelled. Between 1867 and 1870 a group of four fishermen from St. John NB swept away the competition, despite their supposedly inferior equipment. Dubbed the "Paris Crew" after winning the 1867 Paris Exhibition, they remained undefeated for four seasons. Crews from Winnipeg and

Toronto dominated world competition in the years spanning the turn of the century to WWII, and then from 1949 to 1964 crews from Vancouver and University of British Columbia won a plethora of Olympic and World medals. After a "dry spell" of 20 years, in 1984 Canada captured another Olympic gold in the Men's Heavy 8+ - and we haven't looked back. The 1992 Canadian Olympic results (four golds, one bronze) have once again proven how well we rule the waves!

Previously eclipsed by the "professionals," amateur rowing began to thrive, understandably, around the time of the depression - to the point where the idea of "professional" rowing died out. Rowing became much more accessible to interested individuals both young and old - and finally to women. In 1972 the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta admitted women's competition, and the sport has never looked back. Canadian clubs doubled their numbers in no time - and our results internationally bespeak the excellence of our female athletes. Funding for rowing

in Canada is divided equally between the sexes - it is a sport for men and women of all ages.

Called "the most beautiful of sports" by the founder of the modern Olympic games, Baron de Coubertin, rowing really is a joy. There is an exhilarating feeling of immediate response to physical exertion when rowing - a sense of the run of the boat on the skin of the water, the rhythm of the crew in their harmonious cycle of each stroke; a feeling of graceful aggression, of explosive strength balanced by relaxation and control. The pulling, straining, driving phase of the stroke is continually followed by the recovery - where the boat runs out from under the rowers, water and bubbles rushing past, allowing a brief breather where the oarspeople feel a glorious floating sensation. "Sting and float" - that is how the feel of the proper stroke is described.

As a sport, rowing really is rather "Canadian." It is non-contact but highly competitive, rooted in tradition and politesse but fuelled by courage, dedication and determination, rather like Canadians ourselves. Rowers appreciate an intense camaraderie as they search to realize common goals. Each individual in a boat is an integral part of the whole, yet each retains the sanctity and individuality of his or her own seat.

There is something fundamentally good about being out-of-doors, surrounded by water and pulling together, melding your power with that of others. Intensely competitive yet never vicious, rowing is a sport Canada should be proud to excel in. Rowing is *the* sport for Canadians. Support our men and women as we compete with the world. And come and join us on the water.

"Rowing is the most beautiful of sports"

-Baron de Coubertin

MURC Fall Calendar

September 18th: Crews announced

September 24th: Toronto Banquet: Truck Christening

September 25th: U of T Sprints, Argonaut Rowing Club

October 2nd: Head of the Trent (Peterborough)

October 9th: Brock Invitational (St. Catharines)

October 16th: Western Invitational (Western University)

October 17th: Bauch and Lomb Invitational (Rochester)

October 23rd: McGill Invitational

October 24th: Head of the Charles (Boston)

October 30th: OUAA/OWIAA Championships (St. Catharines)

If undeliverable, please return to:
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Montréal, Québec
H2W 1S4