

the Wave

Newsletter of the McGill University Rowing Club

Volume IX Issue 1

President's Message

Philip Hedrei, MD, CM, Class of 2000

I took on the job of MURC President because I am proud of what the Crew and its members have accomplished. During my three years with the Crew I learned about the successes of athletes such as Henry Hering, Gen Meredith and Ben Storey. I have seen (and experienced firsthand) how the McGill Crew experience can change peoples' lives by introducing them to the sport of rowing. When Alison Korn saluted McGill on T.V. after winning bronze in Sydney, I and the rest of the world caught a glimpse of how much the Crew and its athletes have done for the McGill name.

So I came into the job of President reflecting on the question: What has McGill in

turn done for the Crew? After repeatedly demonstrating excellence at the intercollegiate level and beyond, it infuriated me that we be designated an unfunded "level three" sport. It simply seemed unjust to be accorded this status from an institution in whose name we have achieved such excellence. After all, in today's world, the McGill name carries a lot of respect and recognition. Surely our athletes past and present deserve better in return.

With this in mind, I had the pleasure of submitting a 15-or-so page document to the McGill Athletics Classification Committee this past February. The report was easy to write: simply put, our spirit is strong, our record speaks for itself, and thus I felt we had nothing to prove. In the report, I reiterated

the success attained by our athletes at various levels such as those mentioned above. I praised our strong novice program, and the vast amounts of correspondence we receive from prospective athletes and coaches. I proudly boasted about how the McGill Eastern Invitational Regatta, which we organize without any support from the University, has grown into one of the largest eastern North American regattas. I described our symbiotic relationship with the Montreal Rowing Club, with whom we are in good standing today. I mentioned our inclusion in the newly-created Canadian University Rowing Association, whose purpose is to see rowing become a CIAU sport, thereby advancing the status of our sport in Canada. Most importantly to

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McGill-Queen's Boatrace—2001

Hannah Hoag

While most McGill students fled from campus celebrating the end of exams, 38 dedicated and tough-skinned McGill rowers travelled to Kingston for the 2001 McGill-Queen's Challenge. The team brought the Challenge Blade

(awarded to the winner of the Varsity Men's race) with them, and hoped to return to Montreal with it, its sister prize - the Women's Championship Trophy, and the D. Lorne Gales Championship Trophy (for overall performance).

A maze of unyielding channel markers ruined the Varsity Men's lead and cost them the win. The

shaft of bowman Ben Escott's blade splintered as the boat came dangerously close to a buoy. Disappointed, but proudly holding his souvenir, Ben claimed that he couldn't have been more pleased with the first 1500 metres of the race and his last race for McGill. For the first time in 5 years, *Queen's University* would

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Editorial

I had never been so happy to be so wrong, if only temporarily. If you read the editorial in the last edition of *the Wave* (of course you did, you wouldn't want to miss my musings, would you?), you became well-acquainted with my fears of relegation and elimination of the MURC by McGill Athletics. Like many of you, I had heard the rumblings and rumours that rather than slowly diminish their focus and attention to rowing at McGill, Athletics had responded favourably to the reclassification submission by Philip Hedrei (MURC *el presidente*). Unfortunately, the celebration was premature. Hannah Hoag

details the process and regrettable outcome of the committee's deliberations.

On the flipside, McGill Crew is bouncing back up and taking the show on the road. Jonathan Albright chronicles the return of the Light Men's programme, and Jamie Paterson submits a piece on an excursion to the Netherlands to take on Europe's best on the Amstel River.

By now you have all heard something of the new equipment purchased from alumni donations. We have decided to mark the occasion with an alumni reunion on September 15 where we will christen the Heavy Men's new boat. Please join us.

Finally, I'm stepping down as *Wave* editor, Board Liaison,

Director of Alumni Relations, and whatever other monikers I've been tagged with. So I'd like to say thanks to all of those over the past couple of years who have helped me try to bridge the MURC past and present: the execs, the *Wave* staff, and you who read this fishwrap and send in your cash and words of support. Crew has been an important part of my time here at McGill, as I know it has for many of you. I trust that you will keep that opportunity open for future oarspeople to carry the Red and White. "*To you from failing hands we throw...*" Wait, that's one of those damn Habs slogans! Nevermind.

Cheers.

McGill Crew's European Vacation

Jamie Paterson

In March nine members of the McGill University Rowing Club ventured overseas to represent our University Heineken Roeivierkamp Regatta in Amsterdam. This international regatta consisted of Crews from the Netherlands, Germany, Ireland and other European countries; McGill was the only "intercontinental" crew. The group that ventured across the Atlantic consisted of a collection of students who somehow managed to take time out of their busy university schedules to spend a week in Amsterdam. As a result, the crew that raced in Holland included a mix of Varsity Heavyweight (Philip Hedrei, Darian Silk, and James Rankin), Varsity Lightweight

Standard tourist
windmill shot

Photo: Jamie Paterson



(Jamie Paterson and Tatsuyuki Setta), and Novice (Mike Manlangit, Dennis Feeney, Andrew Wade, and cox Dallas Smith) rowers. The crew arrived in Amsterdam two days before the race, with the first day spent getting our bearings, visiting the Nerus Rowing Club (hosts of the regatta), and recovering from jet

lag. We were given a tour of the host club's boathouse including a pub overlooking the Amstel and an impressive collection of Empachers (and not just yellow ones). Our tour guides never missed a chance to point out the members of the Dutch national team who were from the club. We

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Ressurrection of the Light Men's Eight

Jonathan Albright

This past fall season, McGill Crew experienced something unprecedented in the past few seasons – among its crews were a Varsity Lightweight Men's eight. Recent years have seen a lack of Lightweight men at tryouts, as those who were competitive rowers despite being light enough to row lightweight were placed in the heavyweight (or open) men's boat. This left the Varsity lightweight men's program in shambles, unable to field a stable

crew from year to year. Reestablishing the Varsity Lightweight Men's program were returning novices Jamie Paterson, Donnie Ginsberg, Nicholas Seaton and Jonathan Albright. Complementing them were Alain Goubau (a novice of 1998 who rowed in the Varsity Men's Open boat of 1999), Charlie Carter (novice 1998), and experienced rowers Tatsuyuki Setta and Michael Bratty. The coxswain was the skilled and able Megan Angus. Coached by Light and Heavy alumnus Marc Tewfik and Geneviève Tetrault of the Montreal Rowing Club, the Lightweight Men experienced

success almost immediately. A narrow second place finish at the Head of the Rideau complemented another second place at the Queen's Invitational, a third place finish at Trent, and a first place finish at the McGill Invitational. Due to weather conditions, the McGill Light Men did not have the opportunity for a final OUA showdown with rivals Queen's and Brock.

The Lightweight Men's program looks to be once again on stable ground. With returnees Seaton, Ginsberg, Setta, Goubau, Carter and Bratty, the task of remaining competitive will be easy to achieve.

McGill-Queen's...

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appear on the Challenge Oar. The Varsity women would also leave the trophy in Kingston, unable to push into the head wind and past the Queen's boat.

The day's closest race was awarded to the Novice Men who finished dangerously close to Queen's in both races. However, it was the Novice Women who showed Queen's what to expect next fall. While McGill sent 2 Novice Women's coxed fours to

the start, Queen's could muster only one. Both McGill boats finished ahead of Queen's in the head race, guaranteeing an exciting fall season.

Sadly, not even McGill's alumni boats could squelch Queen's despite an enthusiastic and large group of Alumni (not to be confused with a group of large Alumni). The men's pre-race preparations included both discussions about methods to avoid "sausaging"¹, and bowseat of the Queen's Alumni boat.

Meanwhile, the women fought amicably over boat-order (the men, of course, had already subjected the entire Alumni e-mail group to their bickering and their prowess). The men performed well, maintaining a stern-to-bow lead for 1000 metres. The women, who stayed within one boat-length of Queen's, felt better about their race after watching the Queen's Alumni crush both Varsity crews in the 500 metre sprint with a stroke rate of 42. "It was fun to row again, but let's not do it for another year!"

Congratulations to all crews, to the MURC executive for organizing the event, and to Kristen Shantz and Laura Gordon for providing the Alumni with another excuse to squeeze into their CoolMax. Queen's may have the trophies now, but they needed to be polished anyway...

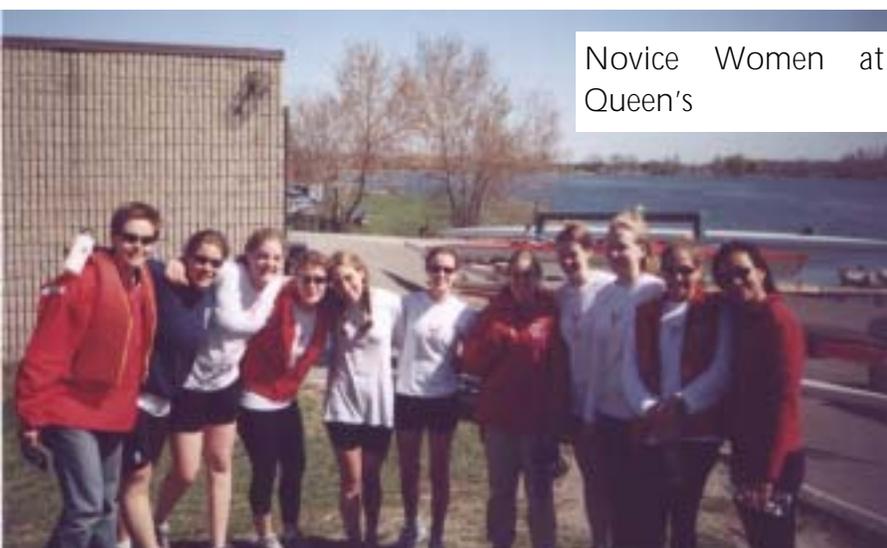


Photo: Cattie Lichten

¹Ask Ben "Oprah" Escott for details.

The Prez...

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me, I discussed the McGill Crew Alumni, and how this extensive network of former McGill rowers have kept the Crew alive, despite McGill's efforts to have us silently slip away. Because of your generous financial support, the Crew is able to make some unprecedented changes. In addition to the equipment

purchases due to fundraising efforts detailed in this edition of *the Wave*, we foresee the creation of an endowment fund, thereby laying the framework for financial stability and the wise use of future alumni donations. With this Classification report I hoped to enlighten McGill as to why it would be in their best interest to fund rowing. Regardless of the outcome,

preparing this report and announcing these major purchases have strengthened my pride in McGill Crew.

On behalf of the Crew Executive 2001, I extend a heartfelt thank-you to all of you for your support. As always, your feedback is welcome and I look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime, I invite you to enjoy this issue of *the Wave*.

Innertube Waterpolo

Ben Storey

The quest for a McGill Intramural Stein is a challenge which has defeated many tremendous MURC athletes. OUA champions, Henley victors and Olympians have had the intramural mug door repeatedly and unceremoniously slammed in their faces. And in no other sport has our dearth of achievement been so painfully and pointedly highlighted as in the game of innertube waterpolo. Since a glorious victory by the *Oarheads* in 1993 (although reportedly

tainted by a diminished swim-team lineup), there have been seven straight failed attempts. Named in honour of Largo's separating vessel in Thunderball, *Disco Volante* began the 2001 season with zero individual intramural titles in over 100 collective attempts. Thus, this campaign began with a total retooling of team strategy. Led by the thinking of Rob "Sisyphus" McDowall and Ben Escott, *Disco Volante* decided to stray from traditional ideas of greater success such as better teamwork, more accurate passing, greater communication. Instead,

our tactical analysis was actually applied not to team PLAY, but to team FORMATION. This year, a team was created which simply had enough great waterpolo players that it could not lose. This would be no Cinderella story, but a team created in the image of Goliath. Led by the Canadian Olympic Waterpolo team's captain, Jana Salat and Team Canada's leading scorer at the Olympics, Marie-Luc Arpin, there wasn't much else to do but feed them the ball and watch the magic. What's more, in support of this duo was ringer Neil

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Fall Schedule

Tryouts	September 3-14	Olympic Basin, Montreal
Boat Christening	September 15	Lower Campus, McGill
Head of the Rideau	September 23	Ottawa
Head of the Trent	September 29	Peterborough
Brock Invitational	October 13	St. Catharines
Stonehurst Capital	October 14	Rochester, NY
Head of the Charles	October 20-21	Boston, MA
McGill Eastern Invitational	October 27	Olympic Basin, Montreal
Queen's Invitational	October 28	Kingston
OUA Championships	November 2-3	St. Catharines
Canadian University Championships	November 10-11	St. Catharines

Alumnotes

Caroline Anthian just returned from teaching Columbia for a festival-filled summer in Montreal. She's off again in September to begin work at Arthur Anderson.

Daniel Charlet, having already spent a stint in Kenya, is off to Africa again, where she will spend the summer in Senegal.

Jane Shepherd Guttman writes: I trained as part of the national B

team until my car accident in April of 1988 - Rita Toperowski, Doug Christie, Jeff Grange, Colin Duffield are my contemporaries. Any ways to the point. I had a beautiful baby girl June 24th - Jacqueline Kathryn Shepherd Guttman. I have lost touch with a lot of the "gang" so it is nice to hear about each other through our news letter.

More baby news: **Maureen Pecknold** and **Tony Tremain** are expecting their first child around Labour Day.

Sarah Pape has been hired back with Rowing Canada Aviron as Technical/Administrative Assistant at the London High Performance Centre.

Keeping one step ahead of the pack in the newborn department, **Ian Spears** and his wife Sarah celebrated their third child, Nicholas, to go along with siblings Jordan and Jack.

Tosha Tsang sends her regrets
(Continued on page 6)

WANTED: rowing team. No clubs, please.

Hannah Hoag

At McGill there are clubs and teams. Everyone wants to be part of a team and feel the warmth of the spotlight. But there is a nasty little 'C' in MURC reminding us of where we stand. There's good news though: clubs can evolve into teams, and although it may not take a million years, it can be a long arduous process.

The Sports Classification

Committee, the first of three steps in the club-to-team decision-making tree, undertakes many, many months of meetings once every three years to review the status of each athletic club and team. A number of students, the intercollegiate coordinator, an outside representative and others comprise the committee. Their recommendations are forwarded to the finance committee, which determines whether there are sufficient funds available to proceed with the recommendation

and carry it to its final step. Ken Schildroth, McGill's Intercollegiate Coordinator, cleared-up some rumors that had been circulating among the MURC's devotees. Yes, we were recommended for level II classification by the Sports Classification Committee. No, we didn't get it; the funds weren't there.

Many frames of reference, including performance and campus facilities, determine

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Flashback

MURC's latest contest involves a trip down memory lane. Who is the suitor in the picture to the left? Whom is he wooing? Identify them and win a McGill Crew hat! Easy? Well, here's the catch. You must submit some story or anecdote for at least one, but preferably both, of these two former McGill Crew members, 150-200 words. The truth is good, fiction is better. One winner only, so make it good.

Ergathon

James Rankin (VP Fundraising)

Post hoc ergo propter hoc. I don't know what that means. But I do know that this year's Erg-a-thon on April 6 was a huge success, despite uncooperative weather and a difficult exam schedule.



Photo: Jamie Paterson

Just like a triangle (equilateral, not isosceles), there were 3 (like the corners) things that made the erg-a-thon a success:

- 1: A lot of rowers came out,
- 2: A lot of rowers rowed (thankfully all who came, cause personally, I can't stand dem

poser rowers)

3: A lot of rowers raised a wot of money. Dang, lost it there.

Despite temperatures hovering around the freezing point all day, and winds that really made one feel like they were racing, thirty-three rowers and non-rowers made it down to the Redpath

Library terrace to remind themselves why ergs suck. We had a couple newcomers to our sport: a few passers-by actually got on and rowed short pieces. The highlight of the day happened around 2:00 p.m., when Hengamah, a blind student, got on the erg and rowed for the first

time in her life!

While a lot of rowers can't stand the sight or sound of an erg, others just don't want to get off. We kept track of all the kilometers rowed, and the grand total comes to: 181,498 meters, which is a long way when you're really not going anywhere (stupid foot straps!). Who rowed the farthest? The longest? For the women: Catie Lichten (Novice Women) rowed 15,000 meters in 75 minutes and Christy Pentland (novice women) rowed for a combined 15,476 m. For the men: my hat goes off to Gerald Sheehan (Heavy Men) who rowed 120 minutes totaling 30,500 m! We even got a few coxies to erg: Emily (Novice Women), Camelia Ibrahim (Heavy Men) and Megan (Lightweight Men) all pulled their part.

And dah dough. After setting a goal of 500\$, we managed to raise 566.41\$. This kind of donation will help the club with either new equipment (like cox boxes) or coaches, or maybe even a decrease in crew fees. Finally, this event would never have

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Alumnotes...

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for the upcoming christening ceremony: Unfortunately, I'll be back in Edmonton for school (U of A) at that time, having spent all my money travelling during the summer (still on a student budget!). I'm actually going to be visiting Montreal, but I imagine there won't be too many McGill Crew types around, it being summer and Henley happening around then. Unless I get lucky and bump into some McGill

rowers while I'm there, I may have to wait awhile longer before being able to touch base with McGill Crew again. Oh well, enjoy the christening!

Candice Welsch has accepted a job with a branch of the Department of Justice called the International Assistance Group. She will be working mostly on files where countries other than the U.S. want to extradite an accused from Canada or where we want to do the same.

Reclassification...

(Continued from page 5)

which clubs are recommended for level II classification. In fact, "performance is a very important variable in that decision tree," Shildroth says. Although we haven't evolved yet, the committee was thoroughly impressed with the club's performance over the past few years.

Earning level II classification is the *über*headrace. Dig in and pull harder, the finish line will come.

Holland Bound...

(Continued from page 2)

got a further introduction to Dutch life when we were offered the opportunity to stick around and watch some videos (the kind that are only available in liberal-minded Holland). Unfortunately by that time the jet lag was getting to us and it was time to get some rest. One of the race organizers, Gwen Bakker,

is a yearly event marking the start of the Dutch rowing season. As we were about to find out, the Dutch season begins much earlier than the rowing season in Montreal and all of the boats we were going to be competing against over the weekend had been on the water all winter. The regatta, held on the Amstel River in central Amsterdam, consists of four races. On Saturday we raced

racers, we were quite happy with the way that we rowed in the longer races. We got into a good rhythm, managed to row efficiently, and were pleased with the way that we came together as a crew. One major indication of the progress that we made was that over the course of the weekend we managed to improve enough to hold the same split over the 5 km race as we did in the 2500 m race. The races were a great experience for all involved and it was a great opportunity to get on the water while the Olympic Basin was still under a couple of feet of snow. There was a considerable amount of interest in our crew, being the only crew to come from outside of Europe. Phil, the president of the MURC, and Darian, who organized the trip, were asked to do a couple of interviews with the media. Also, over the course of the weekend and at a party at on the Sunday night, we got to know a number of the Nerus club members and make some excellent rowing contacts. Our Dutch hosts were excited to see a crew that had come so far to compete in their regatta. Despite our less than stellar performance on the water, we could hear enthusiastic cheers from our Dutch friends and were invited back for next year's regatta. As one of our typically blunt Dutch hosts put it "McGill, come back next year, row better."



Home Sweet Home

Photo: Mike Manlangit

graciously lent us her apartment for that night; the floor area was just barely big enough for all of us to sleep there. Friday consisted of a long practice, our first time on the water since October and our only chance to row together prior to the race. After spending the fall rowing season rowing past the Casino countless times, it was quite a nice change to be rowing to the outskirts of the city and passing by windmills. The Heineken Roeivierkamp Regatta

the 2500m head race immediately followed by the 250m dash. On Sunday morning there was the 750m sprint, and then the 5000m in the afternoon. All of the races went about as well as can be expected for a crew that had one day of practice, that is we did not fare very well when compared to our opposition which had been training together all winter. Most notably it was difficult to get the stroke rate up on the short sprints. Despite the lack of success in the

pick up one of the boats. These same brave folk helped clean up during the snowstorm that was the perfect close to a cold and dreary day.

Ergathon...

(Continued from page 6)

happened were it not for the hard work of several individuals. Kristen Shantz (lightweight

women) and Ulrika Drevniok (novice women) got out of bed quite early to help bring the ergs down from the gym, while the heavy men went to the basin to

Waterpolo...

(Continued from page 4)

McComb (former jr. National Team waterpolo player) and some strong defensive coordination by Paul "the Wall" Campbell in goal.

The regular season saw the team, sometimes playing a man down, outscore the opposition 126-9, including a record 37-0 victory over the *Rubber Duckies*. Even the final against traditional

powerhouse *Joe Mamma* (a.k.a. McGill Swim Team, our annual nemesis) was a virtual whitewash at 25-9. Victory was ours. Even poolwater tastes sweet out of the champs' stein.

New Equipment— Christening This Fall

Megan Angus

One of the greatest challenges to the Club, as many past executives and helpful fundraisers have discovered, is finding equipment for the crews to row in each fall. This problem arises because of the lack of University funding that many of our competitors are able to obtain. This puts the MURC at a definite disadvantage, since while most other teams, including their Novice crews, are using newer equipment, MURC rents those teams' old boats for our varsities, and uses heavier wooden shells for our Novices. It was becoming increasingly apparent this past fall that new equipment was definitely in need. Thanks to some of our generous alumni, the MURC is proud to announce the arrival of a new Hudson Elite eight and a forthcoming set of oars for the Heavyweight Men. More recent

donations have been put together with the hard work of the Lightweight Women, their families, and friends. Under the leadership of Alex Conliffe and Collyn Ahart, efforts started this past Christmas have brought together enough money to buy a new set of oars. Finally, the Heavyweight Women oar campaign, spearheaded by the inimitable Sid Omelon, reached its goal, and their *oar*der has gone

on to Concept II as well. These new acquisitions should help to level the equipment playing field with the rest of our better-funded competition.

In light of these positive outcomes of crew and alumni initiatives, the upcoming seasons are looking good. Hopefully, other members of MURC, past and present, will follow lead, and get the crews together for some more fruitful fundraising efforts.

You are cordially invited to a christening ceremony in front of the Arts Building of McGill's lower campus on Saturday, September 15 at noon.

On that afternoon, the MURC will be christening the latest addition to the Red & White fleet. As is tradition for McGill Crew, the shell will be paraded north from the Roddick Gates to the lawn in front of the Arts Building, where champagne will douse the newly-named boat.

Please join us to meet both the McGill team and old crewmates on this special occasion. Immediately following the ceremony, a wine & cheese reception will be held in the Ballroom of Thomson House at 3650 McTavish St.

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Editor: Paul Campbell

Staff: Megan Angus, Jamie Paterson and Christy Pentland

Comments and Suggestions may be sent to the following address:

The Wave c/o MURC

475 Pine Avenue West, Montreal, QC H2W 1S4

h: (514) 288-3788

<http://www.mcgill.ca/athletics/rowing/>

