



President's Report

2018 OAR Annual General Meeting, Barrie, Ontario

The 2017 season began as rain sodden and gloomy. Flooding occurred on the Ottawa River, Lake Ontario, and on the Grand River. The Lake Ontario flooding lasted until the end of July, at least. Rowing clubs were affected, e.g., QRC did not start rowing until July and saw a drop in members while the Haldimand Grand River Rowing Club lost docks. OAR was forced to cancel the Lake Ontario portion of Row3Capitals row in support of the Foundation Fighting Blindness and meant as a commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Confederation -- this down scaling limited media coverage possibilities. The Canadian Sculling Marathon had its lowest ever participation at about 50 scullers. On the same weekend the Gourmet on the Grand had to be cancelled.

The Rideau Canal portion of the Row3Capitals continued and was successful, although it was damp for several days.

The gloom lifted slowly. The Trent Canal tour attracted new participants. The Kingston harbour tour was lovely, if small. Accolades came about the Rideau Canal tours which generated enthusiasm for long distance, point-to-point expeditions. The Icicle Chase tour featured 6 coxed quad crews which was very good for mid-October. The Florida tour on the Gulf Coastal Waterway in February was lovely.

January brought the news of Ted Wolver's illness. Fortunately Ted is expected to have a full recovery after rest and recuperation. Arnold is stepping into the breach as the main trailer driver.

We had a great meeting at Port Credit on March 10 of this year. The 2018 distance schedule took shape. We began to dream of an international tour from Niagara (Queenston) to Toronto

via Niagara-on-the-Lake, Hamilton, and Port Credit, but we must do the full reconnaissance before proposing this.

Challenges are:

- Renewing the board
- Increasing participation
- Adopting the new RCA sanctioning/event management model while fitting it into or making adjustments to our business model
- Increasing revenues through rentals and tours.

Fortunately there are promising signs of increased interest and rejuvenation. Thanks to everyone who is participating in this journey.

*Richard Vincent,
April 14, 2018*