

VOLUME 6

JUNE 2026

SCRC

DOCKSIDE

**FORGE
AHEAD.**



SCRC

Henley Island
St. Catharines, ON





CSSRA RECAP



The 79th Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association (CSSRA) Championships brought incredible energy to the Royal Canadian Henley Rowing Course. With 651 entries from 130 schools across Canada and the US, the competition was fierce.

For the St. Catharines Rowing Club, this weekend was a massive point of pride. Every single day, athletes from our member high schools train out of our boathouse, and seeing them dominate on home waters was the perfect lead-in to our summer club season.



Here is how our local SCRC schools performed on the national stage:

Denis Morris Catholic High School (4 Medals)

Denis Morris put together an outstanding regatta, highlighted by two brilliant gold medals.

- Senior Women's 63kg Single (Gold): Shanelle Burcher defended her national title in the most dramatic race of the day, winning by an unbelievable 0.003 seconds in a photo finish!
- Junior Men's Double (Gold): Best friends Oliver Bosak and Boris Osei-Kissi showcased their incredible chemistry, emptying the tank to claim a thrilling open-water victory.
- Senior Men's Quad (Silver): Joshua Vandervaart, Max Hardy, Domenico Patitucci, and Sam Cooper.
- Senior Men's 72.5kg Double (Bronze): Daniel Hunt and Macgregor Winslade.

Blessed Trinity Thunder (4 Medals)

Blessed Trinity put on an absolute masterclass in small-boat sculling, capturing four total medals, including a legendary double-podium finish in the same event.

- Junior Women's Double (Gold): Ashley De Silva Piques and Isabelle Austen flew down the course to capture a dominant gold medal.
- Junior Women's Single (Silver & Bronze): Showing incredible depth, teammates Ashley De Silva Piques (Silver) and Isabelle Austen (Bronze) pushed each other all the way to the line for a rare double-podium finish.
- Senior Women's 63kg Single (Silver): Olivia Wist rowed a tactically perfect race to claim a hard-fought silver medal.



Eden High School (2 Medals)

Eden's senior leadership stepped up big to ensure the Flyers found the top of the podium.

- Senior Women's Pair (Gold): Isabella Essig and Kennedy Bartel closed out their fantastic high school careers by finding their groove at the 1,000-meter mark and pulling away for a beautiful gold medal. (Isabella is headed to Penn and Kennedy to Northeastern for NCAA DI rowing this fall!)
- Novice Men's Coxed Quad (Bronze): Yihan Liang, Andrew Smith, Maxim Ruller, Evan Dikic, and Coen Root.





St. Francis CSS (1 Medal)

The St. Francis crew showed fantastic synchronization and grit in the lightweight sweep events.

- Junior Women's 63kg Coxed Quad (Silver): Isabella Quezado, Sophia Aranda, Jules van Haaster, Emerson Snell, and Lylah Bocchinfuso.

West Niagara SS (1 Medal)

The Wolfpack made their single podium finish count in a major way.

- Senior Women's Double (Gold): Sandra McNally and Molly Dodgson executed a beautiful race plan to win a spectacular gold medal against a highly competitive field.

Sir Winston Churchill (3 Medals)

Sir Winston Churchill proved their depth across the board, picking up three hard-earned medals over the weekend.

- Senior Men's Double (Silver): Finn Soyka Rozendaal and Bryce Dywan.
- Junior Men's 72.5kg Quad (Bronze): Alexander Xu, Travis Gale, Alexander Remollino, and Cole Priddle.
- Senior Women's Single (Bronze): Karina Biktimirova.

Holy Cross SS (1 Medal)

Holy Cross hit the podium with a powerful performance in the senior double category.

- Senior Women's 63kg Double (Silver): Samantha Frydryk and Danielle Smith.

Governor Simcoe SS

While they didn't quite crack the podium this year, the small but mighty crew from Governor Simcoe fought hard through the heats and semi-finals, representing the school and SCRC with incredible pride on the water.



A massive thank you to all the SCRC volunteers, parents, boat drivers, and organizers who put in countless hours on the island to ensure the 79th CSSRA was an absolute success!

Congratulations to all of our local student-athletes. We hope you enjoyed a brief, well-deserved break, and we will see you right back on Martindale Pond as our summer club program and racing season officially gets underway!



SUMMER ROWING STARTS!

As we turn the page on the high school season, the momentum isn't slowing down—it's shifting into high gear! We are thrilled to announce that our summer programs have officially launched, and the Henley course is buzzing with energy once again.

Whether you are looking to race at the highest level, try the sport for the very first time, or just enjoy the beautiful summer mornings on Martindale Pond, we have a program tailored for you:

- **Summer Competitive Programs (Junior, Senior, & Masters):** Our high-performance competitive athletes are back on the water under the guidance of our excellent coaching staff. Teams are already training hard for a thrilling summer racing circuit, building toward peak performance at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta.



- **Junior Development Programs:** Perfect for younger rowers looking to transition from high school racing or sharpen their skills, our development programs focus on technical excellence, boat feel, and building fitness in a supportive team environment.
- **Youth Summer Camps:** Our popular youth camps are officially underway! These camps offer a fun, safe, and engaging introduction to the sport for young athletes, combining on-the-water learning with teamwork, outdoor activities, and plenty of summer fun.

A huge thank you to the coaches, parents, volunteers, and alumni who make this seamless transition from the high school system to our club programs possible.

If you or someone you know is still looking to get involved, detailed schedules, session dates, and registration links for all our community, youth, and recreational programs are available directly on our website.

See you at the island!



TONY BIERNACKI REGATTA

The early summer racing calendar is officially in full swing, and our masters athletes made a serious statement at the Tony Biernacki Sr. Memorial Regatta. Taking place on the 1,000-meter North Course at the Welland International Flatwater Centre, the "Tony B" brought together top masters rowers from across the province for a highly competitive day of straight finals.

Named in honor of the legendary Brock University rowing coach, this regatta always promises tight racing, and the 2026 edition did not disappoint. Navigating a warm and breezy day, the St. Catharines Rowing Club contingent proved that the club's depth spans all generations, capturing prominent podium spots across multiple boat classes.

Our crew combinations executed brilliant race plans, showcasing the technical precision and endurance built through early-morning training sessions on Martindale Pond.

The following SCRC boat classes secured their well-earned spots on the podium at this year's Tony B.



Gold Medalists

- Masters Men's H Single (1x): C. Blackwood
- Masters Mens C/D/E/F Single (1x): C. McAlpines
- Women's D+ Quad (4x): J. Lancaster, S. Nichol, M. Kerr, S. Anderson
- Women's C+ Double (2x): H. Talbot, E. Crawford



🏆 Silver Medalists

- **Masters Men H Single (1x):** P. Jones
- **Women's D+ Quad (4x):** V. Faccani-von Buren, N. Love, R. Ceccato, L. Michaud
- **Women's Lwt AA++ Double (2x):** B. Guembel, M. Stoutenburg
- **Women's AA+ Eight (8+):** B. Rosloski, R. Lockyer, J. Lancaster, M. Kerr, K. Constantini, E. Sharpe, S. Anderson, M. Gralewicz, M. Stoutenburg



A special thank you to Row Ontario for hosting a seamless event, and to all the SCRC boat drivers, supporters, and handlers who helped get our fleet to and from Welland safely.

LAKESIDE PARK

ROW ONTARIO BEACH SPRINTS

Lakeside Park Beach in Port Dalhousie was absolutely electric as at the RowOn Beach Sprints Cup #1 on June 20. The event officially shattered records, drawing 67 entries from 20 different clubs across Canada and the U.S. to make it the largest beach sprint regatta in Canadian history.

With coastal beach sprints officially debuting at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, the competition was fierce. Navigating heavy waves and a challenging crosswind, rowers completed a 50m soft-sand sprint, dashed into the water for a 250m slalom row around three buoys, and powered back to the beach for a frantic footrace to hit the buzzer.



When the sand settled, St. Catharines Rowing Club sat comfortably at the top of the overall Club Standings with an incredible 780 points—nearly doubling the score of the second-place club! SCRC Podium Highlights Our athletes put on an absolute clinic in technical boat handling, rough-water power, and pure beach-sprinting speed.

SCRC Podium Highlights

Our athletes put on an absolute clinic in technical boat handling, rough-water power, and pure beach-sprinting speed. Here are the podium finishes from the historic weekend:

Gold Medalists

- Open/U19 Men's Double: Boris Osei-Kissi & Oliver Bosak took home the gold, showcasing incredible chemistry and power to dominate the field.
- U19 Men's Solo: Merik Sommer navigated the morning's tough crosswinds flawlessly to capture first place.

Silver Medalists

- Open/U19 Mixed Double: Rheagan Hamm & Josh VanderVaart fought through highly competitive knockout rounds, dropping a thriller in the final to take a well-deserved silver.
- Open/U19 Men's Double: Avery Haddon & Domenico Patitucci finished just behind their SCRC teammates to secure an all-St. Catharines top two.
- U19 Men's Solo: Mason Dearborn executed a phenomenal race trail to grab the silver medal spot.

Bronze Medalists

- Open Men's Solo: Jacob Thomas stayed exceptionally consistent through the knockout rounds to earn a hard-fought bronze.
- Open/U19 Women's Double: Ashley De Silva Piques & Isabelle Austen braved the crashing waves to claim a spot on the podium.
- Open/U19 Men's Double: George-Cooper Seminerio & Mason Dearborn rounded out a complete SCRC podium sweep in the men's double event.

A massive shoutout goes to the small army of SCRC volunteers, coastal boat holders, umpires, and cheering fans who lined the Lakeside shoreline. Events of this scale don't happen without a community stepping up, and our club represented St. Catharines beautifully on and off the water. The RowOn Beach Sprint Cup Series now takes a break until August, when the circuit moves to Kingston. Safe to say, SCRC has set the gold standard for the rest of the summer!

SCRC

BOAT CHRISTENING

The Henley Island Helpers patio was buzzing with celebration as the St. Catharines Rowing Club (SCRC) officially welcomed four new shells into its historic fleet.

The ceremony celebrated the addition of more than \$100,000 worth of elite-tier equipment—a massive expansion made possible by the enduring generosity of local donors, dedicated alumni, and the Sir Winston Churchill rowing alumni.

The newly christened vessels hitting the water include:

- The Stevenson Brothers (Bill and Eric) / The Radford Memorial – Four (4+/x)
- Greg Pinder – Four/Quad (4+/x)
- Marilyn Hainer – Double (2x)
- Dr. Heather Coombe / They Call The Wind Mariah – Single (1x)



In addition to the beautiful new racing shells, the club recognized an incredible wave of practical support from the Henley Island Helpers, who graciously donated much-needed outboard coaching motors, oars, and stationary training bikes to keep the club's athletes performing at peak levels.

The new single shell was generously donated by George Darte and named in honour of his wife, Dr. Heather Coombe, celebrating her 25 years of volunteering at local regattas. Darte's contribution did more than just add a world-class single to the docks; it served as the official launchpad for a vital new SCRC fundraising campaign alongside Sam Baio and Louise Hastings aimed at providing financial aid for young rowers and keeping the club's equipment world-class. Read the Full Stories Behind the Names

Every boat christened carries decades of local rowing history, passion, and community dedication. Local sports outlet BP Sports Niagara has published comprehensive, must-read features detailing the legacy of these incredible community figures. To learn more about the lifelong impact of the Stevenson brothers, Greg Pinder's decorated history from the 1960s to the world championships, and how the Hainer family automotive business kept the club trailers safely on the road for 30 years, readers are highly encouraged to visit BP Sports Niagara.

- For the full breakdown of the afternoon's honors: Check out Bernie Puchalski's detailed pre-ceremony feature, "SC Rowing Club's christening ceremony set for Sunday".
- For details on the new alumni fundraising push: Read "Rowing club launches new fundraising campaign" to see how local leaders are ensuring the next generation of St. Catharines rowers can afford to stay in the sport.

Head over to bpsportsniagara.com to read the full articles and support local sports journalism!

[CLICK HERE TO HEAD TO BP SPORTS ROWING PAGE](#)







TRIVIA NIGHT

Save the Date

Wed July 22 2026
e.




JULY 22ND
TRIVIA!

Location:
St. Catharines Rowing Club Alumni House

All proceeds go to SCRC rowing programs.

To make a donation - click the link below

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PORT DALHOUSIE 200TH

It is going to be one of the busiest, most vibrant weekends of the summer on Martindale Pond. As hundreds of athletes from across the province descend on Henley Island for the high-stakes RowOntario Championships, right across the water, our community is throwing a historic party. Port Dalhousie is officially turning 200, and the St. Catharines Rowing Club is diving right into the heart of the bicentennial celebrations!

The peak of the festivities takes place right on our doorstep at Lakeside Park for the official PD200 Summer Birthday Party. The SCRC will have a prominent presence alongside local vendors, historical displays, and live entertainment.

Whether you are an athlete looking to stretch your legs between race intervals, a parent needing a breather from the tense grandstand finishes, or an alumnus visiting the old stomping grounds, we are encouraging everyone to make the short hop over to Lakeside Park.

The rowing club and Port Dalhousie have grown up side-by-side. For over a century, the waters of the old Welland Canal have been the training grounds for our Henley champions and Olympians. Having the RowOntario Championships align perfectly with the Summer Birthday Party is a beautiful reminder of how deeply connected our sport is to this community.

Come out to support our crews on the water, and then join us over at Lakeside Park to wish Port Dalhousie a very happy 200th birthday!

For more information on the bicentennial, vendor maps, and incoming schedule details, keep an eye on the official website at pd200.ca.



UPCOMING EVENTS

AT SCRC

Dominion Day Regatta

When: July 1

Where: IFWC North Course, Welland, Ontario

Cora Welland

When: July 4

Where: IFWC South Course, Welland, Ontario

Cora St. Catharines

When: July 11

Where: SCRC, St. Catharines Ontario

RowOntario Masters Championships

When: July 12

Where: IFWC North Course, Welland, Ontario

RowOntario Championships

When: July 18-19

Where: SCRC, St. Catharines, Ontario

Port Dalhousie 200th Anniversary

When: July 18

Where: Lakeside Park, St. Catharines, Ontario

SCRC Trivia Night

When: July 22

Where: Alumni House, St. Catharines, Ontario