



**NOVA SCOTIA ROWING ASSOCIATION**  
400 - 5516 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1G6

## **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cogswell Harbour Rowing Championship**

September 20, 2008 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cogswell Harbour Championship. The race is scheduled to start at 7am, with medal ceremonies at 1pm and a dinner and dance to follow at 6pm at the Armdale Yacht Club.

The history of Canadian Rowing is rich with events, one of the most significant of which is the Cogswell Belt. Dr. Charles Cogswell, a British physician and the founder of the event, was born in Halifax on May 12, 1813 and died in England on January 2, 1892. He was a distinguished Haligonian who contributed much to the City.

As well as being a doctor of medicine, Dr. Cogswell took an interest in the civic affairs of Halifax. He was for a period of time a City Alderman. He donated the fence around the Grand Parade. His heraldic abilities produced the City Crest and he is credited with introducing the kingfisher into his design. In 1938, on his behalf, the Mayor presented to the Halifax Cricket Club a flag, which embodied in visible shape, for the first time, the Province's Coat of Arms.

In 1887, he proposed a design for a Canadian flag, which was to contain a beaver, three maple leaves and a jewelled crown. He also took an interest in the Province's education system, becoming one of the first members of the Central Board of Education. This Board had been created in 1841 to supervise the schools in the province.

In 1858 he donated four hundred dollars and a belt for annual competition by single scullers in Halifax Harbour. The winner of three consecutive championships would retain the belt. In 1880, Warren Smith won and retained the belt after which the winner received a silver medal on a blue ribbon.

In 1883 the original bequest was increased to one thousand dollars to be invested at not less than five percent and the interest used to pay for the medals. Any remaining interest would be added to the principal. If, for any reasons, the annual interest from the principal should be less than \$50, the City of Halifax agreed to make up the difference. The Mayor of Halifax and the Chairman of Public Accounts for the City of Halifax were appointed the trustees of the fund, now called the Halifax Harbour Championship Fund.

The first competition was held in 1858. For the next decade, the Belt was won and held first by George Lovett and then George Brown. Other notable Haligonians to have won the race include John Mann, Stewart Cogswell, Joe Reardon, William P. Martin, Daniel P. Wallace, Robert Sawler and Bud Myra.



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1984 Olympic Bronze medal winner Bob Mills along with Pan Am medallist and Olympian, Todd Hallett, have also won the Championship. September of 2007 Anthony Landry accomplished something only a handful of rowers have. Landry, who rows for the Mic Mac Rowing Club, captured the Cogswell Medal for the third consecutive year.

Details regarding registration will soon be available at [www.novascotiarowing.ca](http://www.novascotiarowing.ca) or [www.halifaxrowing.ca](http://www.halifaxrowing.ca)