

# Quick Start!

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## A Newsletter for RCA- Atlantic Region's Umpires

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Hi all,

I hope you all had an awesome summer of umpiring, and maybe even managed to sneak in a race or two, yourself as an athlete.

So, just a few quick notes to keep you all updated on other umpiring issues... regattas, and beyond!

### Administrative Stuff -

Please note – your local members of the *RCA Umpires Members-At-Large Committee* are

- Linda Lee (Nova Scotia; [linda\\_margaret\\_lee@hotmail.com](mailto:linda_margaret_lee@hotmail.com)),
  - New Brunswick's position is currently not confirmed (Roger Tremblay, [roger.tremblay@gnb.ca](mailto:roger.tremblay@gnb.ca)),
  - Newfoundland's position is currently vacant (Doreen Hamlyn, [doreenhamlyn@nl.rogers.com](mailto:doreenhamlyn@nl.rogers.com)).
- If you require a *Refresher* course, please contact your Provincial representative... which is required 1 year after your original licensing, and then once every three years to maintain your licence.
  - If you know of someone interested in *becoming an RCA Umpire*, please contact your Provincial representative...
  - If your *contact information* (mailing and electronic addresses) has changed, please contact your Provincial representative...

If you would be interested in *becoming a FISA Umpire*, please contact your Regional RCA Umpire Working Committee representative... (Trecia Schell, [trecia.schell@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:trecia.schell@mail.mcgill.ca))

### National Championships Notes & Other Official Regatta Gossip –

#### *Canadian Masters Championship Regatta (Guelph)*

... Shockingly, this national regatta was cancelled due to lack of registration. Darn it. We had one umpire from the region that was all raring to go, Marilyn MacMullin – who thankfully, was able to redirect her airfare to Montreal instead and pitch in with the QIRC's (that was held that very same August weekend).

### *The Quirky QIRC's (Montréal)*

This year was the inaugural year for the Québec Interprovincial Regional Championships! This small intimate regatta was hosted this year in Montréal, at the Olympic Basin facilities, Parc Jean-Drapeau and co-ordinated in large part by the AQA's (Association Québécoise d'Aviron) coordinator Anne-Renée Thibault. The Chief Umpire was Charles Hauss (Lachine Rowing Club). This new regatta is intended to support elite athlete development by providing some provincial-level athlete competition amongst the Atlantic region's rowing associations and Québec. The athletes were of Canada Games and Senior age categories, and the results were used by the PRA's to qualify their athletes to the National Rowing Championships and to also provide a benchmark for the upcoming year's preparation for the 2009 Canada Games!

The Atlantic Region supported this regatta with three umpires – Marilyn MacMullin, Linda Lee, and Yetta Withrow. (I was also there, but I have dual provincial citizenship, and was therefore AQA-claimed for this event.) Since this event is Interprovincial (and not National), the regatta notification and umpire delegate selection was done through the various provincial rowing association (PRA) presidents in association with their provincial umpire committees.

- ✓ **Our Umpire Rating is - 3 gold stars!** Well organised, good support, beautiful weather.

### *National Rowing Championships (London)*

Okay, this was the party event of the year according to the umpire reports. The NRC's are only 3 years old, and every year it has been held at a slightly different time in fall (2006 in October, 2007 in November & it included the CURAs (Canadian University Rowing Association) Championships, and 2008 in September). And by all accounts, it sounds like Goldilocks has finally 'found the right spot'. Although national 'carded' athlete attendance was a bit lower than expected, many events were well populated. The eventage (?real word?) has again evolved this year and included some larger boat races to round out the last day of completion with Canada Games categories, in addition to the dominance of the Senior and Junior small boat races. The Chief Umpire for this regatta was Wayne van Osterhaut (Victoria City Rowing Club).

*"Time trials were held on Friday morning; Sprints started in the afternoon and continued on Saturday and Sunday. The regatta was comprised of mostly small boat races with a few 4Xs on Sunday. ...*

*We were surprised at times by the athletes' lack of ability to follow flow patterns and their eagerness to enter the Start area but we were also surprised by their friendliness and calm. "*

Folks, .... *never* be surprised by the lack of direction-following, until you hit the FISA level I hear – and *even* then ... (And yes, you do need eyes on the back of your head, along with mind-reading capabilities - unfortunately, these incredibly useful items are not noted in the list of mandatory equipment in RCA Umpires manual nor can you buy them online... suggestions are welcome...). Athletes are usually focussing on their race preparations, and coaches often forget to mention the 'fine, but yet *'oh so important!'* details' such as traffic flow... and unfortunately – it'll earn them a yellow card, and not a yellow medal if they're not careful...☺

This year we were fortunate to send to two umpires from the region – Linda Lee (NS), and Roger Tremblay (NB).

- ✓ Again, our **Umpire Rating is - 3 gold stars!** Superbly organised, lots of support, gorgeous weather. Also a 'must-do if you can' regatta to mark in your calendars.

FYI –

*“Fanshawe Lake where the NRC was held, is a small man-made lake east of London, Ontario. It is fed by the Thames River from the north, and is separated from the river to the southwest by Fanshawe Dam. In addition to being a popular rowing venue, boasting several regattas throughout the year, the lake is home to the Canadian women's national rowing team, the University of Western Ontario's rowing team and Western-Middlesex Rowing Club.”*

### *2009 Canada Games (somewhere on an island, across the Northumberland Strait...)*

Coming soon to a potato-growing beach-lovin' province very near us! The test regatta is scheduled for June, and the CG-JG in August. Which is great news, because - as the most locally situated base of umpires in the region, we will be asked to provide the “local” umpire contingent to the CG-JC regatta in PEI. So there should be lots of opportunity for newer umpires to participate and gain some experience umpiring at a national championship calibre regatta!

### *2009 NRC's and beyond...*

Well at least from 2009 'til 2011 the NRC's will be held at the Olympic Basin, Parc-Jean Drapeau! Montreal was successful in winning the bid to host the National Rowing Championships for the next three years. And given the current and ongoing major renovations going on at the Bassin, I think the NRC's going to be enjoying their new digs for the next few years.

### *2010*

Don't forget – *Rowing Canada Aviron* is the host national association for the *FISA World Masters Championship* in St. Catharines in August, and the *2010 Commonwealth Rowing Championships* in -?TBA. The last Commonwealth Rowing Championships was hosted by Scotland in 2006 (Strathclyde). Canada last hosted the Championships in 1994 (London).

### **Other very interesting items -**

RCA-FISA umpire training will start soon for the 2009-2010 class, with exams to take place at the FISA World Masters Championships. We have three candidates from our Region, whose applications have been forwarded to the National RCA-FISA Umpires Committee for consideration.

- We may be able to squeak some funding from our National RCA Umpires budget to bring the Umpire Trainer's Trainer, Wayne van Osterhaut, out East for a session... keep your fingers crossed!

Some regional statistics for the Atlantic finishing out the year in 2008 - Nova Scotia has 9.5 umpires, New Brunswick has 2, and Newfoundland has maybe 1? So folks, it's time to start some recruiting efforts. *Please* let your provincial umpire representatives (Linda and Roger), know if you have heard from someone who may be interested in becoming an umpire – either as an Associate Umpire or Umpire.

- The CURC's (Canadian Universities Rowing Championships) are being added to the roster of RCA National-sponsored regattas, and depending upon the varsity participation will determine if we have umpire jury positions. Unfortunately this year, NF, NS, NB & PEI do not have any crews participating.

In our area we have had a few retirements from active umpire duty, and I would like to thank the following RCA umpires for their years of support and selfless promotion of the sport. We wouldn't be where we are today without your many, many tireless efforts - Moe Cody, Charles Thornton and Bob

Sawler – *Thank you!* For all that you have done. & Take care, ... we hope you can now sit back, and enjoy watching the regattas for fun (& cheer!! ☺ )

## Reminders -

This upcoming year RCA will be reviewing the *RCA Rules of Racing*, and changes will be proposed at the end of 2008, in accordance to the *FISA* review of rules that follows every Olympic Summer Games. If you have any suggestions of rule improvements (or clarity in expression!!) please forward them to your *provincial rowing association president* (Yetta, Doreen or Flo), your provincial member of the *RCA National Umpires' Members-At-Large committee*, (Linda or Roger T.) and your regional *representative to the RCA National Umpires' Working Committee* (Trecia).

Although Umpires are usually the 'Front Line Defence' of the *RCA Rules of Racing*, we actually do not write the rules... the RCA Executive and Task Force do! We are but one committee at a table of many...

- ✓ I have received a few rule clarification suggestions already such as age category continuity, and flagging at the finish tower (to flag or not to flag...!?!). *Merci beaucoup a tous!*

If you have any questions, requests, need for clarification on items,... etc. Please do not hesitate to contact me, at [trecia.schell@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:trecia.schell@mail.mcgill.ca).

- ✓ *As an RCA umpire we are beholden to follow the standard procedures as outlined in the RCA Rules of Racing, such that when athletes row in Halifax, Nova Scotia or Victoria, British Columbia – they will experience the same official RCA racing procedures.*
- ✓ *We're not perfect, but we darn well try to be.*

Cheers all,  
Keep your flags at the ready!

Yours in Rowing,  
~ *Trecia.*

Atlantic Regional representative to the RCA National Umpires' Working Committee, and RCA Umpire clinic instructor & examiner.