

# Quick Start!

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

Hi all,

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

Beginning with an address change, in July I relocated to Montreal. So please note that my e-mail address has changed. It is now [trecia.schell@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:trecia.schell@mail.mcgill.ca). Until the RCA AGM in Ottawa, in early December I will remain the Atlantic Regional Representative to the RCA Umpires' Working Committee, and a regional trainer. So if you have any concerns, ideas, questions, comments or issues on umpiring in the Atlantic region that you would like raised – please let me know.

So the Provincial Umpire for Nova Scotia in residence is Linda Lee. Louise Beland is the Provincial Umpire for New Brunswick, and Jim Skanes is the Provincial Umpire for Newfoundland. Prince Edward Island is in the process of recruiting new rowing officials, and over the next year we will have several new faces visiting our local & interprovincial regattas!

& many, many thanks to those of you who umpired the FRC's *Atlantic Crew Classic*, NSRA's *Bud Myra Memorial Regatta* (The Sprints) and this weekend's *ATL*! If you have any questions or observations, and ideas for improvements to those regattas; please pass along your comments to your respective Chief Umpires such that they may be included in their Chief Umpire Regatta Reports.

### Upcoming Regattas –

- 25<sup>th</sup> August – *MicMac RC's Summer Classic-Around the Lake* (Yetta has confirmed 4 licensed umpires)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> September – *Halifax RC's Northwest Arm Regatta & Cogswell Championship Medal* (Yetta has confirmed 7 umpires).
- 29 -30<sup>th</sup> September – *Fredericton RC's Head of the Four Bridges & Tour*, (please contact Louise Beland – [lbeland@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:lbeland@nbnet.nb.ca))
- 29<sup>th</sup> October – *NSRA's Really Chili and Atlantic Universities Championship Regatta* – we do need umpires for this one! Please contact Yetta ([yettawithrow@gmail.com](mailto:yettawithrow@gmail.com)), or Linda Lee, or myself. No word yet if there is

financial support for out-of-province licensed umpires to assist with this regatta.

- 1-4<sup>th</sup> November – ***RCA's National Championship Regatta & Canadian University Rowing Association's Championship Regatta*** – Welland, Ontario.

A formal call for Jury members will be made in September (I hope!) for the NCR-CUCR. This year RCA is combining the CURA regatta with the National CR. RCA Umpires at this regatta will also include those regional representatives who will be the Umpire clinicians as well. Jury members will be umpiring the regattas during the day, and taking the clinic course during the evenings. Unfortunately due to the severe budget cuts by RCA we have to combine several responsibilities into one National event.

And if you happen to be passing through Quebec & Ontario, and would like additional regatta experience just let me know and I can forward your contact information to those Provincial Umpires. I shall be umpiring at two upcoming local recreational regattas –

- 25<sup>th</sup> August – Sherbrooke RC's Invitational Recreational Regatta;
- 8<sup>th</sup> September – Montreal RC's Invitational Recreational Regatta (with the much coveted *Prize d'Oar*).

### **Other Items of Note:**

A **Recertification and certification clinic for Umpire trainers** will be held during the NRC-CURA regatta event in Welland, Ontario from the 1-4 November 2007. During this time, the new examinations and materials will be presented, and discussed. Unfortunately, the current approved written examination that I have does not reflect some of the new RCA Rules of Racing changes that were brought in this year.

And again, if you are interested in becoming a certified RCA Umpire clinician please let me know via e-mail.

### **Henley Notes –**

I am happy to report that as the Atlantic Region's only RCA Umpire to the 125<sup>th</sup> Royal Canadian Henley Jury this year was an exciting regatta. The RC Henley opened with fireworks, literally! Choreographed fireworks of the Opening Ceremony, and the new Jumbotron at the Grandstand highlighted a week of great racing.

They were long days, in 30+ heat and humidity, for a minimum of 8 hours per day on the water. Races were run on 7 minute centres for the 2000 m heats, semi-finals and 10 minutes for the finals. While the 1000 m Masters regatta was run on

5 minute centres. Adaptive racing events were centred on 10 minutes, over a 1000 m course. I was joined on the Jury by Mike Bagshawe (BC; RCA Safety&Events), Herb Challier (BC), Scott Allen (AB), Brian Fiorini (SK), Andy Binda (ON), Rob Millikin (ON) and our chief umpire was Joe Lyttle (ON); plus the dozens of Ontario RCA Umpires that assisted every day. We also had 8 associate umpires from Ontario participate.

I was also fortunate to umpire the Senior B LWT M2x's final and watch the NSRC crew race to Henley Gold! During the week, I saw some great racing from our crews – congratulations to them all! HRC (a Henley gold!), MMRC, NSRC (& another Henley Gold!), FRC, KRC, St.JRC and the Quebec crews too. One of the perks of umpiring, you have 'ring-side seats' all the way down the course.

On an administrative note, the regatta was thankfully relatively uneventful, and my Jury duties were light. We did have a few registered protests that were not of consequence and were resolved quickly. The Vespers RC Men's team (Philadelphia) was disqualified, and removed from the 2007 & 2008 regattas for false ID'S. While the Camp Randall Jr. (men) are also not invited to participate in the 2008 RC Henley for smuggling a stolen beer keg on to Henley Island (for the Junior party... but it was intercepted!).

We had 5 days of good racing, with reasonable weather... and then the Sunday Henley Masters regatta happened. The weather was still great – but in that one morning we had more boat tips, swamps, coxed boat crashes and jumpy false starts in 4 hours than we did in the previous 60+hours! Imagine that. But all in all, it was a great experience and opportunity to work with some FISA umpires and meet some amazing athletes and coaches. I would recommend it to you to try next year, if you can go and at least volunteer a few hours of your time – if you cannot do the whole week and happen to be in the area. A view of RC Henley from 'behind the scenes' is vastly different than participating at the regatta as a rower, coach or spectator! The sheer volume of dedicated and professional volunteers that is needed to present the RC Henley every year is incredible. They each deserve a very big 'Thank you!'

### **Reminders:**

Please review the newest 2006 edition (with the 2007 inserts of changes) of your RCA Rules of Racing prior to each regatta. There have been some changes within the past 3 years, particularly to umpire duties, Chief umpire regatta safety responsibilities in conjunction with the LOC's and formats of presentation (*i.e.* The Start procedures, and on-course flag use). 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; Saint John, New

Brunswick, or Victoria, British Columbia – they will experience the same official RCA racing procedures.

Cheers all,  
Keep your flags at the ready!  
Yours in Rowing,  
*Trecia.*

Quick Start!..... Attention!.....