**President’s Report**

Thank you for taking the time to join us for Ontario Adventure Rowing’s annual general meeting.

The meeting will be called to order shortly, but first I would like to provide an update on our past year.

In the 2024 rowing season, we had twelve tours, many covering new ‘ground’. Bob’s Lake, Brockville, and Morrisburg were completely new areas. The French River tour was a revival of the Blackfly Tour, though a little further downstream. The French River will be repeated this year and we have 5international rowers signed up!

Our website ticks along, ably managed by Homam Michael – who is also featured in a profile on the RO website. The profile highlights both Homam’s accomplishments and the joy of touring. Homam, with Shelagh’s assistance, has been producing a newsletter ten times a year, which is delivered to our subscriber’s in-boxes at the beginning of the month. If you haven’t been receiving the newsletter, please let Homam know.

For our 2025 season, we have 11 events planned for this season.

* As always, our season opener is the Banana Belt on May 17. This is the perfect tour to reacquaint ourselves with the rigging routine and to get the first opportunity to harden our hands again.
* This is followed by a 2-day tour in the always beautiful Rideau Canal.
* Bob’s Lake, new last year and well received, is twinned with a brand-new tour on Loughborough Lake just north of Kingston.
* The ever-popular Toronto Island Gourmet Picnic is on July 7. There will be rowing as well.
* The Kawartha weekend will take place on July 21 and 22. We will start in Bobcaygeon, overnight in Buckhorn, and finish in Young’s Point.
* We have a return to the Bay of Quinte on August 9
* The Canadian Sculling Marathon returns in a new location on the Ottawa River. But it will still be a long hard challenge to your rowing technique and stamina!
* The rugged French River Delta is again the location of our multi-day tour. Row into the remote fishing lodge on Day 1, row Days 2-3-4 on the various arms of the delta, and row out on Day 5.
* An autumn tour for two days on the St. Lawrence is planned. One day in Brockville and one day in Gananoque. Brockville was new last year and was very well received.
* The Icicle Chase is back on, on October 18.

A big thank you to our tour organizers for this year – Shelagh Baker, Liane Bell, Joan Robertson and the ONEC touring committee, John Easton, Jane MacDonald, Sheila Perry, Brian Howe, Ildiko Jurina Cleary, Shawna Pereira, Brian Howe, and Arnold Vandermeer, who also is graciously hosting this meeting.

I’ve mentioned a few of my fellow Directors; Homam Michael, our previously mentioned webmaster and newsletter guru, and Shelagh Baker who handles outreach and publicity. I want to take a moment to thank everyone else.

Shawna King is our vice-president, Diana Watson is our treasurer, Arnold Vandermeer is the equipment manager, and Ildiko Cleary-Jurina member-at-large.

Nancy Keilar our secretary has brought her enthusiasm and thoroughness to the position and we are sorry to lose her to the demands of the Guelph rowing club. Luckily for us, Heather Palmer has offered to step into the role of Secretary. Good luck, Nancy, and thank you, Heather!