



Background

Early History of the Saskatoon Rowing Club

1. The Saskatoon Rowing Club (**SRC**) was formed in 1972 to prepare a crew for the 1973 Jeux du Canada Summer Games.
2. At the time, the Government of Saskatchewan was looking to expand the number of sporting opportunities available in the province and was willing to make funds available to take on initiatives to fund new sporting organizations.
3. While the Regina Rowing Club began in 1907, there had never been a rowing club in Saskatoon. As such, there was no equipment available for the new SRC to begin and a rowing “four” boat had to be borrowed from the Winnipeg Rowing Club before a boat could be purchased for the SRC using provincial funding.
4. As no boathouse existed in Saskatoon, the SRC’s equipment was first stored in an exposed archway behind the Bessborough Hotel, a two-block walk from the South Saskatchewan River.
5. A Saskatoon crew was able to compete at the 1973 Games and members of the crew later incorporated the Saskatchewan Rowing Association (**SRA**) – the organization that continues to govern the sport of rowing in Saskatchewan.
6. In 1975, the SRC made arrangements with the City’s Parks and Recreation Department to store the Club’s equipment in an old building next to the City’s waterworks plant.
7. During this period, the SRC wanted to grow the Club and train its athletes to be the best in Canada and were able to gain funding from Sask Sport through the SRA for this purpose. Under the leadership of Bob Haver, one of the founding members of the SRC, the SRC began to grow its fleet of boats and compete in regional and national regattas.
8. In the early 1980s, Saskatchewan rowing athletes and crews climbed to the top of Canada’s rowing ranks, winning gold medals in Nationals and other major regattas throughout Canada and at international competitions around the world.

The Construction of the Victoria Park Boathouse

1. In 1983, the Meewasin Valley Authority (**MVA**) prepared a working paper to be used as framework for the planning and construction of a boat dock and launch facilities in Saskatoon. For the report, the MVA received input from the SRC, the Saskatoon Club, the Saskatoon City Police and the Saskatoon Water Ski Club.
2. In 1985, the City of Saskatoon Parks and Recreation Department prepared terms of reference for architectural consulting services towards a proposed multi-use recreation facility to replace the existing Riversdale swimming pool building and include facilities to accommodate the sports of rowing and canoe.
3. A multi-use facility steering Committee was formed with members from the City of Saskatoon, the MVA and the SRC. Mark Simpson represented the SRC, Glen Grismer represented the MVA, and Rene Marleau represented the City and chaired the committee.
4. The Committee ultimately recommended splitting the new Riversdale swimming pool building and boathouse into two separate facilities.
5. The key issue at the time was funding for the new boathouse facility and the Committee took the position to wait until an announcement was made concerning whether Saskatoon would be awarded the 1989 Canada Summer Games before making any decisions on a new facility.
6. In 1986, the Victoria Park River Edge Facility Committee was formed to prepare a report to the City of Saskatoon Council on feasibility of construction of a building to accommodate the sports of rowing and canoeing in Victoria Park. The committee was chaired by Rene Marleau.
7. In 1986, it was announced that Saskatoon would host the 1989 Canada Games. The Games Corporation advised that there would be \$1 million available towards the building of the boathouse facility and that it was intended that the facility was to provide a legacy for the future of sport development in Saskatoon.
8. The budget for the boat dock in Victoria Park also came under the Games budget for rowing. When funding was announced, it was agreed that the City would own the Boathouse once it was constructed.
9. Facility requirements for rowing and canoeing for the 1989 Canada Summer Games for the facility were provided by the Multi-Use Recreation Facility Steering Committee.
10. In the fall of 1987, the Victoria Park Boathouse was officially opened in a ceremony attended by Canada's Head of State, Queen Elizabeth II.



**Queen Elizabeth II at the Opening
of the Victoria Park Boathouse in
1987**

The Boathouse Facility

1. The Victoria Park Boathouse has five boat storage bays for the three tenant Clubs: two bays for the SRC, one bay for the Saskatoon Canoe Club and two bays for the Saskatoon Competitive Canoe Club (**SCCC**). The SRC boat storage bays store over 40 SRC and private-member boats.
2. The Boathouse also has an indoor training room for the SRC that has 22 rowing machines/full-gym training equipment and a heated boat bay for the SCCC containing its full complement of training equipment.
3. The Boathouse also has Men and Women change rooms with showers that are shared by the SRC and SCCC and a public washroom accessible through Victoria Park.



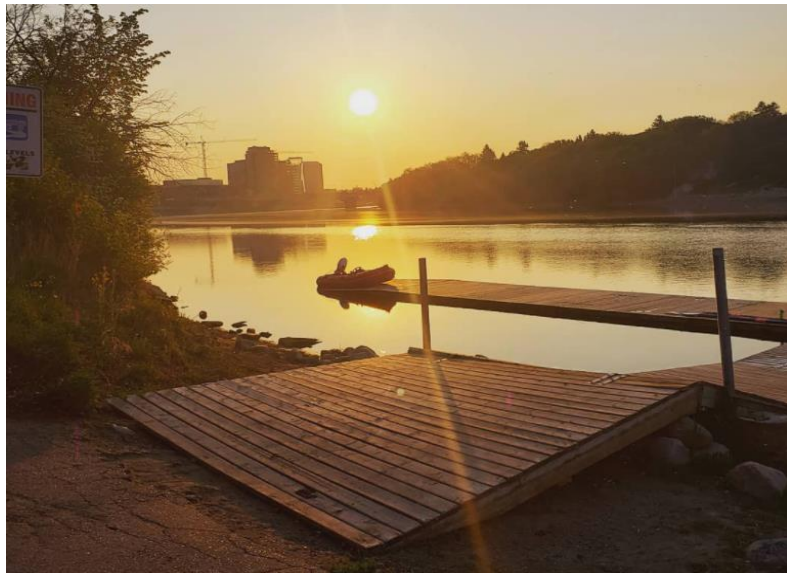
SRC Indoor Training Room

Current SRC Equipment

1. two motorized Coach Boats;
2. 20 Concept2 Rowing Machines;
3. two RPG Rowing Machines;
4. full Weights/Gym;
5. two Eight boats - including one racing condition Eight;
6. six Quads/Fours boats;
7. seven Doubles/Pairs boats;
8. one Para boat;
9. 11 Singles boats;
10. seven Trainer boats; and
11. dozens of Sculling and Sweeping Oars.

General Overview of SRC Club Membership/Programing

1. The SRC had 60 members and had 73 Learn-to-Row participants over the summer of 2021. Members range in skill from Junior to Masters Level athletes.
2. The SRC offers a full year rowing program with summer programing on the water running from 5:45am to 7:00pm on weekdays and Club races on Saturday mornings. In 2021, the SRC also ran summer camps that had 26 kids participate.



3. During the winter season, when the South Saskatchewan River is not accessible, the SRC runs coached indoor rowing training on the rowing machines in the training bay of the Boathouse for all levels of junior, high performance, novice and senior/masters athletes.

4. The SRC offers the following programs:
- a) **Learn to Row:** In the Learn to Row Program, participants are provided with a clear understanding of the skills necessary to effectively and safely maneuver a single scull over 61.5 hour lessons.
 - b) **Junior Development:** The Junior Development Program provides young athletes with experience in sculling that begins with a focus on good technique at an early age. The goal of this program is to identify athletes with potential early in their rowing careers and put them in an environment where they can learn and grow in the sport.
 - c) **Junior High Performance:** The Junior High Performance Program is coached by the Saskatchewan Rowing Association's Head Provincial Coach and is for athletes training to compete at provincial, national and international high-performance competitions including the National Rowing Championships.
 - d) **Senior/Masters:** Competitive Senior (Ages 19-27) and Masters (Ages 27 and up) rowers train together throughout the year. During the on-water months, from April to November, there are nine weekly coaching training opportunities for this category of rower.
 - e) **Pararowing:** The SRC offers Pararowing Programming in the specialized rowing shells in the summer months and on indoor rowing machines during the winter months.



- 5. The SRC was the recipient of Rowing Canada's 2021 Club "Outstanding Achievement of the Year" Award.
- 6. SRC had 15 athletes compete at the 2021 National Rowing Championships in Victoria, B.C., with two SRC junior athletes winning the gold medal in the Junior Men's Pair event.
- 7. In 2021, Saskatoon Rowing Club underwent a complete re-branding with the goal of elevating their marketing and social media use to attract new members in a post-COVID world. The re-branding process included creating a new logo, club merchandise, racing unisuits and equipment signage.
- 8. In September, Saskatoon Rowing Club hosted the first ever sanctioned Head of the Saskatchewan regatta on the South Saskatchewan River in Saskatoon. The 62 boats entered in the Regatta made it the largest head race Saskatoon has ever hosted with rowers attending from the Calgary, Lloydminster, Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert and Winnipeg rowing clubs.

9. The SRC and the Regina Rowing Club alternate hosting the Saskatchewan Indoor Rowing Championships - an indoor rowing competitive event where junior, high performance and senior/masters athletes compete in races on indoor rowing machines.
10. In 2022, the SRC had 20 athletes compete in the Canadian Indoor Rowing Championship event – the national indoor rowing competition held by Rowing Canada, which is used as a qualifying event for the World Rowing Indoor Championship. Two athletes from the SRC went on to qualify to compete for Canada at the 2022 World Rowing Indoor Championships.
11. Past SRC Olympic athletes include: Tracy Duncan, who competed in the Women’s Lightweight Sculls event in the 2000 Olympics, and Cam Baerg, who won a gold means in the Men’s Four event at the 2004 Olympics. Other notable SRC athletes include: JohnHaver, who won gold for Canada in the Pan-American Games in 2007, and Larissa Werbicki, who won silver for Canada at the 2014 World Rowing Junior Championships.

