



## Bill McGowan

I am interested in being re-elected to the board of directors of CRI because I've enjoyed being part of the decision-making process of this exceptional organization for many years now and want to resume that role formally. As a member since May 1988, I have served on the board from Sept. of 1988 until the mid-1990s and was re-elected to the board in 2012 for a 2-year term. Throughout my tenure at CRI, I have served on numerous committees, more-recently (since 2008) the facility committee and equipment committee. I have also attended ALL (except 3) board meetings at CRI for the past 10 years and as a result, am prepared to "hit the pavement running".

During my 30-year-long relationship with CRI I have accrued a wealth of institutional memory which has become more valuable with each passing year as new board members cycle through bringing much experience from their respective lives, but minimal, if any, knowledge of how CRI got to where it is today. I feel it's important to avoid "reinventing the wheel" or repeating past mistakes.

When it comes to the sport of rowing, my experiences are very broad-based and include having rowed for Assumption College (Worcester, MA), as well as having represented the entire Northeast USA for USRowing (East Field Service Coordinator), coached for Regis College (Weston, MA) and Miami Rowing Club, was the North American Sales Rep. for Empacher Racing Shells (Eberbach, DE), and later Resolute Racing Shells (Bristol, RI). Consequently, I know first-hand the needs and goals of rowing coaches, know the sport inside and out, and have had tremendous exposure to the best practices of rowing clubs, high school programs, college programs, and scullers' needs, all of which combine to create a strong candidacy for CRI board of directors.

In my real life, I've been a residential real estate agent since 2002, currently affiliated with Lamacchia Realty in Waltham, the #1 team agency in Mass. and number 48 in the USA. I have a strong sales and marketing background in quality retail businesses such as Brooks Brothers Clothing & Gucci, as well as the hospitality industry at The Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, FL and The White Elephant Hotel in Nantucket, MA. Each of these positions require top-shelf customer service skills, all very useful in my role as a board member at CRI.

If re-elected, I'm interested in insuring that CRI stays ahead of future capital expenditures for its facility, keeping cash reserves at sufficient levels to be prepared for costly maintenance as certain systems age and need replacement. Additionally, I'm interested in seriously re-visiting the idea of switching our fleet from Hudson to Empacher racing shells upon the upcoming expiration of the Hudson fleet contract. Upgrading to Empacher equipment would make CRI the undisputed greatest rowing club in the world, and that's not hyperbole. I hope each of you recognize my demonstrated devotion to the growth and success of CRI over the past 30 years, realize the value that my institutional memory brings to the table, and feel that my broad-based knowledge of the sport of rowing, CRI's facility, equipment, coaches' and members' needs will compel you to cast one of your two votes for me tonight.



## Christina Wood Baker

Christina joined the CRI community in 2015 when her daughter began rowing with the competitive youth program. After 9 months of experiencing CRI as a parent, Christina decided carpooling to CRI would feel much more compelling if she could also get in a boat herself. Having rowed at Brown University in college, she was not new to the sport, but was excited to learn to scull and be able to experience Boston from a new vantage point. Christina is now actively involved as a masters sculler, rowing as often as possible. She loves to be on the river alone in a single but also to row with the friends she has made at CRI. Believe it or not, she loves erging in the indoor winter training classes. In 2017, she began training and competing with an amazing group of women in both quads and doubles. She continues to support the competitive youth programs through chaperoning, volunteering at races and building parent connection and involvement.

While Christina loves rowing and training and seeing her daughter flourish as a competitive athlete, what she probably values most about CRI is that it is an inclusive, diverse and caring community with a strong sense of values and an active commitment to its mission. She has had the privilege of working with many of the coaches, as an athlete and a parent, and she is struck by their skill, their respect for athletes of all ages and ability and their mission-driven intentionality.

Christina is eager to contribute more to the community and deepen her involvement in CRI by joining the board. She has been on the board of the Friends of Brown Women's Crew for almost a decade and works with the sports foundation, coaches, alumni and current rowers and parents. Professionally, Christina is a clinical health psychologist who specializes in eating and weight disorders and anxiety. She works primarily with adolescents, young adults and parents. Much of her work is focused on helping clients to clarify their values and goals and learn skills to live in closer alignment to those values and work towards goals in a balanced and healthy way. She would bring to the board the dual perspective of someone involved in both adult and youth programs. She would also bring a strong foundation in health psychology, values and commitment strategies and, mostly, unbridled enthusiasm for the people and mission of CRI and the sport of rowing.



## Jennifer Piescak

Attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology, majoring in Architecture: MIT BSAD, 1979, MIT March 1983

Logbook sculler and avid coached logbook enthusiast. Member of CRI since 2013. Rowed Women's Veterans 1 single entry in HOCR 2017.

Parent of Cecily Shiel, a former CRI "Junior B" rower who went on to win a National Championship as co-captain of Wisconsin Lightweight Women's rowing team, 2008. Continued training at the elite level in Seattle, WA. Son, Nick, now works at Mt Auburn Hospital and plays hockey.

Owner and Principal of Pieszak Lighting Design, LLC, a sole-proprietor WBE lighting design firm working with architectural and institutional clients supporting their mission by creating state-of-the-art, energy-efficient lighting environments. Currently working with Harvard Chemistry, University of Mississippi, and Simmons College on the new Gwen Ifill College of Media, Arts and Humanities.

Worked with Dave Snowdon on the design, installation, and continuing maintenance of the three large planters, 2015. Continued the effort with the installation of new plantings at CRI parking lot entry. Coordinated donation of plant material and compost.

Assisted Nonna Giunta on running CRI's team for the 2018 Concept 2 Virtual Team Challenge. We are the top on-the water team and the banner is in the works. We are stronger and faster together!

Facilitated connection between Shriners Hospital for Children' and Boston Firefighters Union's Team Brave and the Para Rowing outreach program.

Former Head of Friends Brookline Emerson Gardens group. Over 20 years of advocacy for the park, inclusive of design recommendations for both park renovations. Recently organized the salvaging of plantings and their reinstallation as 500 LF of border surrounding the park prior to the construction in 2017.

With a hope to further assist the Board's focus on Operations, I bring a skill set of my creativity, professional background in Architecture and Lighting, and experience in community activism, with a collaborative, constructive approach to promoting CRI's Rowing for All mission.



## **Mark Proctor**

Mark Proctor has a long history of involvement in rowing, and has been engaged with CRI for the past 6 years as a parent of a former rower and an ongoing active supporter of the competitive youth program. He was a college rower at Dartmouth in the 1980s, and remains active with Friends of Dartmouth Rowing. His son, Kenny, was a competitive rower at CRI, and continues to row at Wesleyan University. Kenny also serves as a coach in the Learn to Row programs over the summer.

Professionally, Mark is a pediatric neurosurgeon and an internationally-recognized clinical expert in congenital abnormalities of the skull and spine, as well as brain injury. He is currently the Neurosurgeon-in-Chief at Boston Children's Hospital, and Executive Director of the Boston Children's Hospital Brain Injury Center. He is also national Chairman of the Section on Pediatrics of the American Association of Neurological Surgery, and is immediate past-President of both the New England Neurosurgical Society and the Physicians' Organization at Boston Children's Hospital. He has served on multiple non-profit boards including being a current member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons Board of Directors and the Neurosurgery Research and Education Foundation Board of Directors, a past Chair of the board of the Thinkfirst National Injury Prevention Foundation, and a past board member of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. He is the Chair of Contracting at Boston Children's Hospital, and Chair of the newly developed physician billing entity he formed as President of the Physician's Organization. Mark is an alumnus of Dartmouth College and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and holds a degree from Harvard Business School.

Mark has derived great passion from the sport of rowing and all it has brought to his life, and understands what the sport can bring to the community. He continues to get together annually with the members of his freshman boat; a book, *Working in Sync*, was written about their uniquely successful freshman year experience, and how the sport of rowing influenced their professional success. He hopes to share this passion with the rowing community in Boston by joining the Board of Directors of CRI.



## Sean Prior

My name is Sean Prior and I am interested in joining the governing board at Community Rowing Incorporated (CRI). I moved to Watertown in 2007 and became aware of CRI while running along the Charles River Path. I was always curious about rowing, but became more interested after CRI hosted an event for Wheelworks Multisport organized by Meredith (Haff) Breiland from Concept2. Being unable to join CRI at the time due to my work schedule and financial reasons, I stopped researching ways to join. But I ran the 5-kilometer (km) race before the Rumble on the River and found at that the race benefitted the CRI Military and Veterans (Mil/Vets) program. After the race I became a member of CRI through the Mil/Vets program this past season.

I feel that Veteran Representation on the board would have a positive effect, as the Mil/Vets program continues to grow. This morning (25Feb2018) was the first time I witnessed our group have additional rowers in the main room, even with two additional ergometers (ergs) being in the Studio space. Witnessing four additional Mil/Vets teammates rowing in the main room while we had two additional ergs in the Studio, with other team members talking about how the people they are trying to bring into the program is inspiring. I would welcome the opportunity to help grow the Mil/Vets group taking over the main room under the leadership of Marilyn Koban and Catherine Davie.

I also appreciate the outreach efforts of CRI via the Mil/Vets program, para rowing, and Row Boston. After talking with Coach Davie about Row Boston, I finally registered to be a tutor for the Row Boston program. As a runner along the Charles River Path, I have always welcomed the waves and kind words from the youth program rowers running as we pass each other on the path. The opportunity to be part of this program and CRI as a whole would be a welcome opportunity to give back to a resource and community that I have started to treasure in a very short period of time.

Outside of my new involvement in CRI, I work for Sarepta Therapeutics as a Quality Assurance (QA) professional overseeing the activities of outside contract organizations, while also managing internal cross-functional teams as we grow. This requires the building and maintenance of relationships between groups with conflicting goals. I am also a Babson Blended Learning Master of Business Administration (MBA) graduate. This cohort-based program required team-building skills and continued to develop my relationship building skills. While working on my MBA I participated in the Babson Board Fellows program and had the opportunity to participate in board meetings for a national non-profit. I also performed a feasibility study for a large multi-national for a proposed campaign rollout as part of a Managing Consulting Field Experience (MCFE) project.

I feel that the combination of my professional and MBA experience would allow me to become a contributing member of the CRI board and give me a path for giving back to an organization that I believe in. My experience in relationship building and working on cross-functional team could allow me to help bolster the outreach programs at CRI. While my MBA skills would allow me to help ensure the fundamental stability of operations at CRI. Thank you for your time and consideration.



## Ted Everett

I first came to CRI and rowing just 3 years ago as a parent of a Competitive Youth rower despite being from a family of rowers myself. Enough trips to CRI to pick-up and drop-off my son, and I decided to join the fun and “crossed over” to adult sweeps and sculling. I have also since volunteered to help plan and man the docks for the Fall Classic, support Patrick’s corporate team building efforts, set up/break down equipment for Theresa’s various events, keep coaches in pencils and paper for Matt’s ‘What Works” summit, and work with Lila and the Youth Coaches to revamp program material.

Since first walking through the doors of CRI’s architectural gem of a boathouse, I’ve been impressed by the organization’s facilities; its dedicated, competitive, and high-achieving staff; and its equally high-achieving yet welcoming members. This very building signals to the public that CRI is a professional, sophisticated operation.

I would like to help CRI continue to deliver on that impression and grow as the organization continues the transition from its beloved boot-strap, rink-based roots. I have experience with member organizations in such transitions. I’m currently on the board of Newton’s NewTV Media Center, serve on programming & membership committees of the CFA Society Boston, and am past-president of the Dartmouth Alumni Club of Greater Boston. I have helped these groups adapt to evolving member needs and expectations while thinking strategically about how to allocate available resources.

The CRI “community” is in part about relationships and I have spent a career managing relationships. For 30+ years I’ve served as a trusted investment advisor to families, small institutions, and charitable entities. I have managed individual investment portfolios for the likes of Babson Capital Management and TIAA-CREF, marketed advisory services to high net worth individuals, and edited and written for various investment publications.

Key to this work has been the ability to gain an understanding of clients’ wide-ranging and often conflicting needs. So has being able to develop and maintain long term relationships. Being able to communicate has also been critical, and as an investment writer, I’ve been able to engage and educate the general public on a range of complex topics.

Working to understand who CRI serves, what its various member groups need, and how to successfully meet and manage member expectations will be critical to CRI living up to its inspiring potential. Helping CRI’s various member groups work together as a true community--sharing resources and building cross group relationships--will also be important. I’d like to try to help.





## Wendy Paul

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself as a candidate for the board of CRI. Over the last four years I have come to know and appreciate CRI, primarily through my daughter's time on the Girls Comp Team and for a short while with my son on the Boys Novice Team as well. In this time I've had the good fortune to serve as co-coordinator of the Girls Team, supporting their efforts at CRI, and in travels near and far, and by doing so, coming to understand the 'rowing world'. What I've observed and admire is the common denominator of undeniable passion for the sport, on and off the water, and collegiality of the rowing community. At CRI this collective passion is evident across all programming, a clear commitment to their mission of 'Rowing for All'. With my daughter soon to 'graduate' from CRI, my interest in serving on the CRI board is grounded in the desire to continue my support of an organization committed to healthy lifestyle and inclusivity, 'meeting every rower where they're at'.

In addition to my personal alignment with CRI's mission, I offer here my professional experience and background I believe relevant to the Board's work. Currently I am on the Board of Walker, Inc. of Needham, an organization dedicated to delivering multidisciplinary programming & intensive services to youth facing complex emotional, behavioral and learning challenges. The central focus of my work is as Chair of the Capital Projects Committee, currently charged with oversight of a \$2.5 mil reno/addition project on the Needham campus. I've been involved with Walker for nearly 10 years, as an advocate, three times co-chairing its annual fundraising event, 'Lives in Bloom'. I also serve on the Board of the Fund for Wellesley, a permanent endowed fund of the Foundation for Metrowest and have been an elected Wellesley Town Meeting Member since 2011.

Past experience includes two terms (2011-2017) on the Wellesley School Committee, was Vice Chair three years, and Permanent Building Committee liaison for the \$20 mil renovation of two elementary schools and the district-wide School Security project. Prior to being elected to the School Committee I served as PTO President at two Wellesley Schools, on the Executive Board of the PTO Central Council and as President and Treasurer of the Wellesley Hills Jr. Women's Club. I have been dedicated to supporting community and non-profit organizations since 2001, when our family moved to the Boston area from Los Angeles. My work in Los Angeles was in health care and outcomes research administration; education includes a M.S. in Health Care Administration from California State Univ. Northridge and a B.S. in Applied Physiology from Boston University.

In closing, I think it's reasonable for one to ask, "well, are you a rower?" Short answer, "No, I'm not", but I did try! A couple of summers ago after enjoying the sport from the riverbanks I decided it was time to see for myself what was drawing folks to this sport. My husband and I enrolled in a 'parent class' – loved the coaches, loved being on the water, loved the camaraderie. The sport for me, well, let's just say my coach asked with a kind smile "do you like tennis?" All in good fun & there's a sport for everyone. That said, we've been completely drawn into the spirit and kinship of the rowing community and I'd be honored to continue to support this tremendous community in service on the Board.