**Letter from the Executive Director**

Dear CRI Members,

Writing the Executive Director’s Letter for a year like 2008 is exciting as a concept — New boathouse! Increased enrollment! More outreach! Increased financial support! It turns out, however, that talking about these unique achievements doesn’t bring much to the table- if we aren’t careful, in fact, we might be a little blinded by all the glitter that surrounds CRI these days.

CRI can look from a distance like a numbers story; the biggest rowing organization in the World (COOL!): a payroll with forty plus people on it (we have how many coaches? THIRTY FIVE?); seven hundred people on the water every day (we own how many boats? A hundred and fifty?). In our case, though, numbers just don’t come close to telling the story - like the stroke rate in a shell, they can give you a clue about how things are going (rowing at a 35 is probably faster than rowing at a 24), but they don’t get to the heart of the matter (you can win the Olympics at a 36 while the crew next to you races frantically at a 40).

The real story of CRI this year is one of extraordinary beauty - the culmination of work that a whole community did to erect a building with a skin that matches the glory of being out on the Charles River through every season of the year. The last step of a visionary process, led by many and supported by thousands, to accomplish something at the very pinnacle of human achievement. Community Rowing Inc. has mirrored the joy and satisfaction of an ancient practice in the walls of a building, something few communities have ever attempted let alone succeeded.

And what is the most exciting part of our story in 2008? The fact that the best remains to be told - in a few short decades, we have just begun the process of building the connections between people that make Community Rowing such a rich place to be. We have a home now, we have a plan to keep our people safe on the river, we have an institute to teach our teachers, we have generous supporters to help pay the bills. We’ve got all the pieces we need to continue the extension of our wonderful sport, and as the years unfold in our new home we can look forward to deepening the connections that make us who we are. It is my hope you will enjoy reading the following 2008 Program Highlights.

Sincerely,

Bruce H. Smith
Executive Director

**Program Highlights**

In 2008, CRI experienced its largest enrollment with a total of 1560 youth and adults participating in both recreational and competitive rowing programs.

CRI’s Varsity Girls’ Team won a total of 9 gold medals including the Club Nationals at the Royal Canadian Henley in Ontario, Canada. The team also earned a silver medal at the Youth Nationals in Cincinnati, Ohio.

CRI had a record number of entries at the 2008 Head of the Charles Regatta.

- For the 3rd year in a row, CRI’s Varsity Girls’ first8+ won a gold medal by beating 67 other youth teams from across the U.S.
- Over a dozen CRI scullers competed in the HOCR with one CRI member, defending her title and winning the Gold for Grand Masters in the Senior Masters Double and another capturing 3rd in the Veteran Singles Women.
- The Competitive Women’s Lightweight4+ took 3rd in the Lightweight 4+ Women event.

CRI’s Competitive Adult Programs competed among the best in the country, with a great performance by the Women’s Comp. Team earning 3rd in the points trophy at the U.S. Rowing Masters’ Nationals held in Long Beach, California.
Community Outreach Program Highlights

CRI enrolled 500+ youth and adults in 11 community outreach programs to teach rowing and provide access to the Charles River. Programs included: G-ROW Boston, Boston Center for Youth and Families, The T.I.L.L. Program (Toward Independent Living and Learning), Perkins School for the Blind and Newton Special Athletes.

CRI launched two new community outreach programs:

1) Adaptive Rowing Program for youth and adults with physical & mental disabilities.
2) Summer Camp for boys from the West End House Boys and Girls Club of Allston-Brighton, the Commonwealth Tenants Association & Oak Square YMCA of A-B.

CRI’s free community programming in 2008 was valued at more than $250,000.

G-ROW Boston is CRI’s model after-school rowing and academic support program for more than 200 girls (ages 12-18), enrolled in the Boston Public Schools. In 2008, G-ROW’s achievements included:

- G-ROW Boston Celebrated its 10th Anniversary.
- Dick and Lisa Cashin awarded $15,000 grant to purchase 15 new laptop computers, LCD projector, screen and software for G-Row classroom.
- Rutland Corner Foundation awarded $17,200 grant to purchase new Vespoli Quad.
- The Carl & Ruth Shapiro Family Foundation awarded $40,000 two year grant to hire and an academic coordinator and a full four year scholarship to a G-ROW senior to attend Boston College.
- G-ROW entered two 8s in HOCR and finished with fastest times ever.
- Every G-Row girl earned a medal at the 2008 Massachusetts State Public High School Championships.
- G-ROW established a partnership with Rowers Edge to enhance girls opportunities to gain acceptances to college. Rower’s Edge is an organization that helps high school rowers and their families navigate the college admissions process.
- G-Row seniors applied to D1 schools and 100% of girls earned acceptances to such colleges as Boston University, Boston College, University of New Hampshire, Regis College, and Roxbury Community College.
- Since moving into the Harry Parker Boathouse, G-Row has increased the number and attendance of its volunteers. Volunteers include members from CRI and the Boston College Women’s Crew Team.

Fundraising Highlights

CRI’s Annual Appeal increased its revenue by 17% in 2008. The number of gifts increased by 13%. Total revenue was $45,285 received from 213 donors.

CRI’s Corporate Team Building Program earned a total of $16,925.


CRI’s Annual Wine Tasting increased its revenue by 10% in 2008 with a total of $23,456 being raised from the event.

Boathouse Fundraising Highlights

A $1 million gift for CRI’s Boathouse for All Campaign was received by an anonymous donor.

Parents of CRI’s Youth Competitive Teams reached their $200,000 goal to name the lobby in the new boathouse. More than 75 parents contributed to this effort.

Jane’s Trust awarded a $100,000 capital grant. The State Street Foundation, a G-ROW funder, awarded a $75,000 capital gift.

During FY08, more than $1.1 million was donated
by individuals who were coached by Harry Parker, while either as a student at Harvard University or as a member of one of the six U.S. Olympic Crew Teams (1964, 1968, 1972, 1976, 1980, and/or 1984) Crew Teams coached by Mr. Parker.

In 2008, more than 320 donors contributed $1.7 million to the campaign. Since the campaign was launched in 2006, a total of $14.7 million has been raised toward the $16 million goal.

CRI member participation for the campaign reached 70% with many donors making two or more gifts to the campaign.

To date more than 1,000 individuals, corporations and foundations have donated to the campaign.

**Boathouse for All Campaign Highlights**

The campaign experienced success in 2008, because of its wide appeal. Many individuals expressed interested and chose to support the campaign in acknowledgment of:

- Harry Parker’s significant contributions to the sport of rowing;
- The importance of public access to Boston’s historic Charles River;
- CRI’s commitment to offer community outreach programs such as its: Adaptive Rowing Program and partnerships with the Perkins School for the Blind, Mass Congress for Down Syndrome, Mass Spinal Cord Injury Center, among others;
- Support for G-Row Boston—now one of Boston’s leading after school rowing and academic support program for 200 girls in the BPS;
- Concern for the environment: there are many green building design features throughout the new facility. Green features include: geothermal energy to heat and cool the building; natural light and ventilation, improved storm water management to reduce water pollution, a hydrotech/green roof and maximized open space.

The week leading up to the official opening of the Harry Parker Boathouse, 15 CRI members volunteered to serve as docents by hosting tours of the facility for all who wished to visit.

In September 2008, CRI officially launched its new Adaptive Rowing Program. This program was made possible through a $100,000 grant from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs to install a universal dock so individuals with physical disabilities would have easier access to the water.

On October 16, 2008, CRI hosted a Dedication Ceremony for the opening of its Harry Parker Boathouse. More than 400 CRI members, supporters, friends and Olympic athletes attended the celebration. Special guests included members from the Parker family, CRI Co-Founders, Olympic Athletes, The Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation as well as elected state officials.

The opening of CRI’s Harry Parker Boathouse earned local and national news coverage. News stories on the subjects of Harry Parker, the boathouse design, Anmahian Winton Architects (AWA), and CRI rowing programs were featured in the Boston Globe, The Boston Herald, The Harvard Crimson, Rowing News, Cambridge Chronicle, The Newton Tab and the Allston-Brighton Tab in addition to live coverage by WBZ-TV Channel 4.

Anmahian Winton Architects (AWA) were awarded two prestigious architectural honors for the modern design of CRI’s Harry Parker Boathouse. These awards are given each year to North American firms for both national and international projects that exhibit strong design and advanced architecture.

- In January 2008, AWA was awarded “The P/A Award” by The Center for Architecture in New York, by Architect Magazine for the building’s smart and progressive design.
$20,000-$30,000
Bank of America
The Charles Hayden Foundation
The New Balance Foundation
The State Street Foundation
The United Way of Mass. Bay

$10,000-$19,999
The J.E. & Z. B. Butler Foundation
Dick & Lisa Cashin
Nesworthy Trust
The Rutland Corner Foundation
Toshiba Europe
The William E. & Barbara Shrafft Charitable Trust

$5,000 - $9,999
The Blossom Fund
Boston Children’s Hospital Fund
Jane & Bob Morse
David E. Retik & Christopher D. Mello Foundation
Howard Schmuck

$2,500 - $4,999
Entrepreneurs Organization
Harvard University
Justice For Athletes
Ernie & Kim Parizeau
Benard Taradash Charitable Trust

$1,000 - $2,500
Aspect Medical Systems
TD Banknorth
Donald E. Besser
Cambridge Trust Company
John & Susanne Carlson
Jamie S. Somes
Elliot Steinberg
Alice Taggart
Catherine Truman

$100 - $249
Miriam Alandydy
Marylene Altieri
Alfred B. Bigelow
Linda Borden
Myles Brown & Judy Garber
Anna Buehler
Daniel Casals
Diane Cotting
Michael & Victoria Curry
Bert Dane
Monica Karin Davis
Charles Dougis
Anne Eisenmenger
Timothy Ernst
Exxon Mobil Foundation
Anne Faber
Carol Facey-Holmes
Mark Faithful
Dennis Fiori
Beth Anne C. Flynn
Helen Fremont
GE Foundation
Amy Gault
Elizabeth George & Fred Davis
Joe & Maura Glandorf
Deborah Grinnell
Google, Inc.
Amy Haley
Elizabeth Hohmann
Natasha Hope
Barbara Howard
Virginia Inglis
Myla Kabat-Zinn
Kathleen O'Dea Kelly
Karen Krag
Harri Kytomaa
Barbara Lenes
Julius & Rocky Levin
Robert Licht & Lila Heideman
Robert Manning
Eugene F McCabe
Katie Jones
Richard Kaplan
Jonathan Kerr
Janice Kerwin

Alexandra Knotes
Elizabeth D. Kraft
Sarah Kuhn
Kariann Kulig
John Lazarus
Lallie Lloyd
David Lobron
Gary & Gail Lockberg
James Lonergan
Tom Lovett
Catherine Lugar
Spencer Macalaster
Eugene Mahr
Joseph Marcus
Jeanette Maillet
James & Cynthia Marsh
Jeanette Maillet
Sarah McCaffrey
Ingrid McCarty
Andrew McClurg
Paul & Jean McGinn
Lisa Mediano
Ami Mehr
Lauren Meier
Rebekah Michaels
Elli Crocker Morse
Stephen Murphy
Sue Mushinski
Suzi Naiburg
Regina Navia
Melanie Northrop
Samuel Opland
Thomas Payzant
Pioneer Investments
Mary Richer
Deborah Rivers
Kara Rogers
Peter Rosser
Lynn Salmonsen
William Schauffler
Gregg Shapiro
Catherine Sheehan
Robert & Karen Shusterman
Jonathan Stone
Lisa V. Stone
Meg Tabaka