A Note from the President

Dear Friends,

Rowing is a sport that changes lives. In this annual report, we share stories of growth and change that happen at the boathouse every day.

2014 was a successful year. Community Rowing is strong. Our programs are thriving, financial support is healthy, and our reputation as a place of innovation and excellence continues to grow.

What we have accomplished together is simply astounding. We are who we are because of people like you who believe in our mission and engage in our rowing community.

Thank you to everyone who was there for us in 2014 – those who volunteer, row, coach, cheer, work at CRI, and/or financially support our mission. Every one of you makes a difference.

It is a true honor to serve as the Board President of CRI. 2014 was especially gratifying to me. I hope that you are as proud of our accomplishments as I am.

2015 will prove to be absolutely ground-breaking for Community Rowing as we bring in an entirely new fleet of boats, ensuring an equal and gratifying rowing experience for all. Thank you for being with us on this incredible journey!

Yours truly,

Lila McCain
President
Dear Friends,

With 1,000+ rowers getting on the water every day at CRI, there are hundreds of stories we have to tell. The recovering heart attack patient who, isolated and depressed at home, started rowing in rehab and found connection and joy at the boathouse. The 13 year old girl who, suffering from obesity, started rowing at CRI through our partnership with Children’s Hospital. Within three months of learning to row she could go shopping in the same stores as her friends for the first time in her life. The teenage boy who learned how to be a committed member of a team that will carry him into college and beyond.

This year, we decided to try and save just a few of these stories from the thousands that disappear every week. With the amazing help of wildly talented volunteers and visionaries, we made videos, took amazing pictures, and built a new website to share what happens at CRI. We developed e-news blasts for parents, we put up posters, we Tweeted. In fact, we tried for the first time to tell our story to the world.

Why? We really believe that CRI is ground zero for positive cultural change. We have unique tools to bring people together, to create health, to share a model for behavior that captures the best version of ourselves.

Rowers are healthy, connected people who know how to cooperate, to be productive members of society. We want to share this inspiring message with the world.

Thank you for your extraordinary support, your passion and your daily investment in our community. We’re just getting started!!

Bruce Smith
Executive Director
Change the World.
Row at CRI.

Mission Statement
Rowing changes lives. At CRI, we are dedicated to fostering a community that is both welcoming and supportive. Under the banner of “Rowing for All” we make rowing accessible without regard to individual ability, background, or experience. We seek to raise the standard of rowing programs through internal excellence, and to share our knowledge and expertise with others for the advancement of the sport at all levels.

Rowing for All
Community Rowing Inc. (CRI) was founded in 1985 by a group of Olympic and national team rowers who wanted to widen the circle of rowing and secure public access for rowing on the Charles River.

Today, CRI is a thriving non-profit with over 30 programs, and a fleet of over 180 sweep and sculling shells. With more than 7,000 participants, CRI is the largest and most successful community-access rowing facility in the United States.

Outreach
Para Rowing
The Para Program at CRI led the world with a record number of rowers, and a first ever medal for the USA in the U23 4x at the World Championships in Amsterdam.

Outreach
Military
The Military Vets Program had multiple entries in the Head of the Charles this year, including a top five finish in the Men’s Club Single.

Outreach
Military
Two new CRI staff members worked on deepening relationships between Veteran Community Services and the CRI Military program this year. CRI is actively working with veteran support organizations to learn how best to serve veterans and their families. The Military/Veteran Outreach program hosted a number of outreach initiatives and is extending service to the Department of Veterans Affairs, offering rowing sessions to a class of Veterans that are focused on healthy lifestyle.

Para Rowing
CRI gained USOC “Silver” club status, added two new Boston Public Schools to the Row Boston program, increased support staff, and continued to set a new level of excellence in 2014. The program now serves athletes in multiple groups from intro and recreational, to elite performance.
OUTREACH

Row Boston Boy’s Varsity

The Boys Row varsity squad continued to grow in size and had a great fall racing season, participating in the Head of the Quinnocequin and Head of the Charles Regattas as well as the MPSRA Fall Championships. Accountability and team-wide attendance were at the highest rates ever. Fitness improvements during the season were steady and impressive.

One team goal was to have every participant learn to row a single, which simplifies the transition to rowing as a lifelong activity. Coaches worked on and increased unity and partnership within the squad. Because the boys come from different schools and backgrounds we see a great opportunity for forming unique friendships that transcend geographic, socioeconomic, and racial boundaries.

STORIES

Alison Magian Scholarships for Row Boston

For the first time, Let’s Row Boston youth had the opportunity to earn their Captain’s certificates at CRL, to be ready to scull on their own when they graduate from high school. The program, established through the support of the Alison Magian Scholarship Fund, supported sculling lessons for six Row Boston students throughout the summer, and they ALL passed the toughest Captain’s Test on the Charles River with flying colors in August of 2014.

Let’s Row Boston

After four weeks of erging at their BPS school, BPS middle school students head down to the boathouse to row for the very first time.

Photograph by JAD Zabala Photography
OUTREACH

Row Boston G-ROW Varsity Girls

G-ROW aims to provide valuable lessons of the importance of team work and provides opportunities for accomplishment for some of Boston’s most vulnerable girls. Academic support outside the classroom is one of the hallmarks of G-ROW, and GPAs and academic improvement mirrored athletic progress and accomplishment this past year.

Coaches noted that the team shifted from being externally driven (i.e. motivated by the coaching staff) to being internally driven, which resulted in huge improvements of commitment and effort levels from all athletes. In the fall, rowers experimented by using smaller, more technically demanding boats, sending their self-confidence and rowing proficiency skyrocketing. Girls raced in the MA Public School Rowing Championships and the Head of the Charles Regatta.

PROGRAMS

Novice G-ROW

The novice girls had unprecedented full success with regard to attendance and accountability. This was a big step toward reflecting the team values of attendance, attitude, effort, and improvement.

The team practiced in 8+s and 4+s for the majority of the fall season, racing at the Masse Public School Championships. The squad spent the final two weeks of the fall racing season transitioning to sculling skills and entered novice sculling entries at the Merrimack Chase for the first time.

Novice Competitive Boys

2014 was a breakthrough year for the Boys Row. Novice team with a record number of recruits from three target recruiting schools, and the boys set new standards for high practice attendance, with 1/4 of the team having no unexcused absences for the season. The entire team raced the final race of the fall season. The boys have continued to train through the winter in preparation for the 2015 CRASH-B championships!
PROGRAMS

Competitive Girls’ Varsity
The Competitive Girls’ squad had an extraordinary year with sixteen CRI seniors medaling at the Regional championships. The team also qualified four boats for Youth Nationals in Sacramento, CA.

Competitive Boys’ Varsity
The Varsity Boys’ program has earned a record number of medals in 2014. The teamwork and dedication that these young men practice daily has produced extraordinary results - a record 24 athletes to travel to the Youth National Championships.

STORIES
Ricky Swanton, Varsity Boys Competitive Team Co-Captain
Ricky Swanton started rowing at CRI his freshman year at Winchester High School (Winchester, MA) and quickly established himself as a team leader. Now a senior with a commitment to row for Princeton University in his fall plans, Ricky is known around the boathouse for his tenacity and drive to excel.

“Ricky expects a lot from himself and from his teammates. He has a great athletic motor and an exceptional work ethic,” says Coach Will Congram. “He has USA National Team and international competition aspirations and is not afraid to work relentlessly for what he wants.”

Ricky stroked the CRI Competitive Boys’ 2014 Head of the Charles 8+ entry to a 5th place finish, the best in the team’s history and just 13 seconds out of first place. He was also in the CRI 4+ that won a gold medal at the 2014 Canadian Henley Regatta.
STORIES

Hugo Gulliver, IRL Fellow from Great Britain

I arrived in Boston mid-July 2014 from London, England to join the Institute for Rowing Leadership (IRL), as it is the only coaching education program of its type on the planet. I stepped off the plane with more than an ounce of trepidation, having left a full-time professional coaching position in London, but settled in quickly, due mainly to the hard work of the dedicated IRL staff. I immediately joined classes on Biomechanics and Exercise Physiology and by the end of the first week I’d already had more access to rowing specific coaching education than all that is available in the UK and Europe combined.

My notebooks are always filling up and so I constantly feel the need to put my newly gained knowledge from the classroom into action on the water. The IRL and my move to Boston also provided the opportunity for me to join the coaching staff for the Harvard University Heavyweight Men’s program. Joining Charley Butt and his coaching team in mid-August, it became immediately obvious I was joining a very positive environment for athletic performance, which in turn would allow my coaching skill set to improve. This, coupled with the coaching education I receive at the IRL, means my improvement curve as a coach is better than it’s ever been before.

Am I an even better coach now for having come to the IRL? Yes, I’m capable of producing faster crews, running a program more efficiently, and recruiting better athletes. The education I’ve received thus far and the opportunities that have opened up since my arrival in the USA make the above question very easy to answer.

Essay by Hugo Gulliver, IRL Class of 2015

PROGRAMS

Institute for Rowing Leadership (IRL)
The Institute for Rowing Leadership is the only yearlong post-graduate sport-specific coaching education program in the USA. USRowing became CRI’s official coaching education partner this year, and has helped the IRL program attract applicants from all over the world. The IRL alumni network continues to grow, and we have 20 graduates working across the USA at prestigious programs like Harvard and Princeton. The Class of ’15 has touched every program at CRI, and we will miss them as they move into leadership roles around the USA.

Business Engagement/Corporate Rowing
Business engagement programs taught over 550 people to row and directly supported our continued growth in outreach programming. Amazing coaches, along with many of our IRL fellows and CRI volunteers make these programs an unforgettable experience for Boston’s business community.

Telling the CRI Story
More Stories

With over 40 programs, CRI provides rowing opportunities for all—from the beginner rower to the elite competitor. Come row with us!

**Programs**

**Scullers**
CRI scullers enjoy the freedom of rowing on their own schedules.

**Girls Row Boston**
Our G-ROW program for Boston Public School girls boasts a 65% high school graduation rate with nearly all going on to college.

**Competitive Men**
CRI’s “Comp” Men partake in a robust practice and racing schedule and are among the most competitive in the country.
 PROGRAMS >>

Adult Programs
CRI offers a myriad of choice: Learn to row, recreational, and competitive programs for adults of all rowing levels and abilities.

STORIES
Cheryl Egan Finds Her Home At CRI
Cheryl Egan caught the rowing bug in 1995 after a session at Boston University’s Learn to Row Summer Program. After a few seasons at BU, she started to look for a competitive place on the river that she could call home. “CRI seemed to be the best fit and there was no looking back,” says Cheryl.

“CRI is the environment that truly embraces their motto of rowing for all. CRI leads the curve in many areas, presenting opportunities for not only athletes but coaches too. There are so many programs offered and if a need is identified, it is looked at as an opportunity. CRI offers something for everyone.”

“Being part of the CRI Competitive Women’s team gives me the opportunity to push myself to not only reach my personal goals but also be part of something bigger than myself, working together and celebrating the rewards together. Go CRI!”

PROGRAMS

Competitive Adult
The Competitive Adult teams had a banner year, playing a key role as CRI won the points trophies at the two largest regattas in the world this fall – Head of the Charles and the Head of the Hooch.

Competitive Women
With more than 35 women from ages 21-63 competing with the CRI wave on their back, 2014 brought many highlights for the Competitive Women’s squad including 12 medals at the Masters National Championships in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The fall season was highlighted by the contributions of the squad towards CRI winning the team trophies at the two largest races in the world, the Head of the Charles and the Head of the Chattahoochee.

Competitive Men
The Competitive Men’s Team enjoyed considerable success finishing a strong 9th at the HOCR, guaranteeing an automatic entry for 2015 in the highly competitive Senior Masters 8+.

Recreational Youth
CRI helped more than 1,000 youth from metro-Boston try rowing for the first time! In a non-competitive environment, young people between the ages of 12 and 18 learned to row on the Charles, and we hope they will be lifelong fans of both CRI and our amazing sport.
PROGRAMS

Novice Youth
The Novice programs at CRI continued to shine, bringing hundreds of new rowers into our community to experience the thrill of teamwork and shared success.

Novice Comp Girls
2014 was a year of improved racing outcomes and sustained on-the-water performance for the Novice Girls program. What was more inspiring, however, was the team’s unity of effort. From winding up boat straps to taking the final 20 strokes, everyone pulled together! With the “leave no athlete behind” motto, all 86 team members gained the knowledge, skills, and abilities to compete up front. One of our athletes expresses it best, “We believe that personal sacrifice for the team is a privilege, and that a team that trains hard together goes fast together!”

O.W.L. On the Water
The O.W.L. program was the most successful community partnership for Boston Children’s Hospital’s anti-obesity program. More than 20,000 people heard about the story on NPR’s Common Health program.

STORIES

The Coach B Bode 2014 Boat
As all good coaches know, one of the challenges you face on race day is the availability of equipment. During races, boats are often shared and multiple crews will race the same boat allowing for tight turnaround between races.

This scenario played out at the 2014 Youth Northeast Championships. One of the parents of a CRI novice girl competitor took notice. Soon after, the family made the generous decision to donate a boat in honor of an appreciated coach: Brent B. Bode.
FINANCIALS

Revenue & Support

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*Scholarships                                      | $144    |

Expenses

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Income/(Loss) from Operations                      | $(64)   |