

Royal Canadian Henley Regatta fonds

1948-1983 (non-inclusive)

RG 75-17

Brock University Archives

- Creator:** Ontario Editorial Bureau
- Extent:** 33 cm textual material (1/2 box)
18 photographs, b&w
7 negatives (negatives are counted by frame with image present)
5 slides, col.
- Abstract:** This archive contains materials relating to the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. The bulk of the materials centre around the 100th Anniversary in 1982, including the commemorative stamp. The collection also contains promotional materials such as press packages and event programs.
- Materials:** Typed and handwritten correspondence, media releases, clippings, photographs.
- Repository:** Brock University Archives
- Processed by:** Jen Goul
- Last updated:** April 2015

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- Use Restrictions:** Current copyright applies. In some instances, researchers must obtain the written permission of the holder(s) of copyright and the Brock University Archives before publishing quotations from materials in the collection. Most papers may be copied in accordance with the Library's usual procedures unless otherwise specified.
- Preferred Citation:** RG 75-17 Royal Canadian Henley Regatta fonds, 1948-1983 (non-inclusive), Brock University Archives.
- Acquisition Info.:** This archive is part of the Ontario Editorial Bureau fonds, donated by Lou Cahill in November 1997.

History:

In 1903, the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen had their request granted to make the Old Welland Canal at Port Dalhousie the permanent site of the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. That same year organized rowing was established in St. Catharines when the St. Catharines Rowing and Canoe Club was formed. The Henley course was completed in July of 1903 after rowing was well underway. Although the Henley course served as an athletic and social event, rowing itself was slow to grow in the St.

Catharines area. In 1915 the Regatta was cancelled for the duration of WWI and reinstated in 1919 when an increased public interest in the sport began to grow. Two years later, the Henley Aquatic Association was formed in order to control, maintain and improve the rowing facilities. This association was responsible for building a new clubhouse at Ann Street in 1921 and in 1931 completing the grandstands. Also in the 1930s the association had the Federal Government approve their appeal to have the Henley waters dredged for the first time. The St. Catharines Rowing Club re-located its headquarters to the Lakeport Road site.

The 1940s brought more support from local groups and with that more events. In 1945, the St. Catharines Junior Chamber of Commerce began helping to organize and promote rowing locally. One of the new events at the Henley course was the "Schoolboy Championships". The growth of both rowing and the Henley continued growing through the 1950s. The Henley Aquatic Association acquired Reid's Island, now Henley Island, mainly through the efforts of Ted Nelson.

In the 1960s, rowing really took off in St. Catharines. Women began to become recognized in the sport when Brock University created a women's rowing team. The second dredging was completed in 1964, leading to the creation of a world class rowing course. The facilities were upgraded to international standards and the Henley rowing course became Canada's first Class A FISA (Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron or International Federation of Rowing Associations) rowing course. The first North American Rowing Championship was held at the Henley course in 1967 and again in 1970 for the third championship. The Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation formed in 1972, along with the St. Catharines, Parks and Recreation Department created the first rowing school for youth.

Since 1960, St. Catharines has been at a competitive level with other International rowing courses. The city continues to produce Olympic level athletes today.

Quick Facts:

- * Royal Canadian Henley Course is in between the Lake Ontario entrance to the old Welland Canal between St. Catharines and Port Dalhousie.
- * Rowing conditions are almost always favourable here due to the location of the wooded banks of the Twelve Mile Creek.
- * The course is 2,000 metres with 6 buoyed lanes.
- * Spectators receive race updates via a loudspeaker. The announcer receives his information from an underwater telephone cable.

Scope and Content: The fonds contains materials relating to the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta in the 1980s. The materials included are media releases, clippings, correspondence and photographs. Some duplicates remain within the collection, such as press packages and event programs. The collection is divided into two series, correspondence and media. The materials were placed in alphabetical order within a series and chronological order within designated titles. Original folder titles were retained.

Organization: The records were arranged into two series:

Series I. Correspondence, 1948-1983

Series II. Media, 1981-1983

Inventory:

Series I. Correspondence, 1948-1983

- 1.1 Correspondence, 1948-1950, 1952
- 1.2 Correspondence, 1969 included minutes of the World Rowing Committee
- 1.3 Correspondence, 1970 includes minutes of the staff of the rowing championships
- 1.4 Correspondence, 1981; includes clippings
- 1.5 Correspondence, 1982; includes meeting minutes (Port Dalhousie Merchants Association), "Tales of the Twelve" (summer 1982 vol.1 no. 2, issue. 2) clippings
- 1.6-1.7 Correspondence, 1982; includes clippings
- 1.8 Correspondence, 1982; includes commemorative stamp, "Port of Toronto News" (vol.39, no.4)
- 1.9 Correspondence, 1983; includes clippings

Series II. Media, 1981-1983

- 1.10 First Day of Issue, 1982; includes pamphlet of "launching" of the .30 cent stamp, 2 styles of envelopes with 1, 2, and 4 stamps each.

- 1.11 Media Releases, 1981-1982; includes press packages, handbills, magazines.
- 1.12 Media Releases, 1982; includes press packages, handbills, magazines, Cincinnati Regatta '82
- 1.13 Media Releases, 1983; includes press packages, promotional materials "skulls and shells", tickets.
- 1.14 Photographs, 1981-1982 [18 photographs, 5 slides, 7 negatives]
- 1.15 Programs, 1982-1983; includes 100th Anniversary Souvenir Program August 4-8, 1982, Souvenir Program August 17-21, Souvenir Program, 1977

Added Entries: 600 Adams, Roy T.
600 Cahill, Louis J.
600 Rigby, Tim

Subject Access: 610 Ontario Editorial Bureau.
610 Royal Canadian Henley Regatta.
650 Sports -- Ontario -- St. Catharines -- History.
650 Regattas -- Ontario -- St. Catharines.
650 Rowing -- Tournaments -- Ontario -- St. Catharines.
650 Rowing -- Ontario -- St. Catharines -- History.
651 St. Catharines (Ont.) -- Recreation areas.

Related Materials: Athletic Photographs/Slides. University Photograph Collection

Athletics Department, Brock University UA 5

Lapinski, Stan. The St. Catharines Rowing Club: 100 years in a row.
FC 3155.45 R59 S24 2003