

President's Annual Report 2023

The 2023 inaugural winter season was a success. We look forward to a repeat in 2025. Spring was impacted again by high water levels, which were navigated without incident but with some unfortunate delay.

The ORC faced unfamiliar obstacles during our past season, presented by the activity and uncertainty of federal central heating line work on Lady Grey Drive and escarpment "scaling" by contractors working for the NCC throughout the season. The work on Lady Gray Drive is largely complete heading into 2024 however the escarpment stabilization initiative championed by the NCC is far from finished and is expected to last another (2) years.

The ORC's 2023 winter season revealed a number of challenges that will have to be solved before the coming Fall both by the ORC and with the help of our partners.

- Our proposal to install new washrooms at the upper level of the new boathouse connected to the existing septic system was not supported after regulatory review. The interim solution of a heated temporary washroom was successful but expensive.
- Snow clearing was effective but certainly can be improved.
- The fire and ambulance services expressed concern regarding the safety of the top of the driveway for their vehicles
- The top of the driveway was significantly constrained for trailer access

Collaboration between the NCC, City and ORC has defined a path forward on these issues;

- For the 2025 season, we've challenged the city and NCC to work with us to winterize the lower washrooms in the ABB as a bridge to a future state that allows us to finish the washrooms adjacent to the gym in the new boathouse.
- Snow clearing performance metrics will be better defined and the NCC will provide a recommended de-icing strategy for the driveway.
- Federal heating PMs and NCC leadership modified the Lady Grey drive geometry to provide a much more generous turning radius with better sight lines for ORC driveway access. Fire and Ambulance services will be asked to endorse the dimensions and details of the final reconstruction to ensure that we enjoy future consensus regarding the supports necessary to succeed during the winter season.
- The interim changes to the geometry at the top of the driveway will be made permanent.

There were many uncertainties and revisions to plans in 2023. We could not have navigated those uncertainties without the commitment and resilience of our staff, our coaches and the athletes and volunteers who adapted – often daily – to dynamic circumstances.

Recognition must be given to Pomerleau, the NCC and City representatives who consistently invested their time and effort to minimize the impacts to the Club.

Congratulations to all of our members who achieved competitive success, reached a new personal best or just managed to get on the water a few more times.

Our membership and financial metrics suffered some real material damage during the past season. 2024 will have to address those impacts in the year to come.

In spite of those efforts and in the face of more disruption in 2024, we'll undeservedly rely again on the personal resolve of every member to support the club in every communication, opportunity to contribute, peer support effort and recruitment message.

ORC's success continues to be a function of the new athletes who accept the challenge of our sport, the returning athletes who represent the foundation of the Club and our coaches, volunteers and staff that allow each to excel in their own way.

A personal thanks to our executive members and athletes' representative. Every member has served the Club with dedication, principle and innovation. To our departing members, the ORC is in your debt. To our incoming members, we encourage your engagement and look forward to your leadership.

ORC continues to be a magical place that creates positive lifelong memories for all who have the privilege of testing themselves, finding lasting friends and experiencing our Capital City from the unique perspective of the river at dawn.

We look forward to a successful 2024.

Peter T