



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINNIPEG ROWING CLUB PLACES 2ND AT HISTORIC REGATTA

Winnipeg MB (August 17, 2010) -- The 107th NWIRA Championship Regatta took place August 13-14 on Rabbit Lake in Kenora. Over 370 entries representing ten rowing clubs from Canada and the US participated in 50 events. Winnipeg Rowing Club athletes had strong results, with the club placing second overall in total points behind Minnesota Boat Club of St. Paul. The following placed 1st in their events:

- Open Women's 1x – **Claudia Blandford**
- Lwt Women's 1x – **Brandi Smith**
- Open Men's 1x – **Paul Thiessen**
- Masters Men's 1x over 50 – **Vic Bartel**
- Open Women's 1x Dash – **Claudia Blandford**
- Lwt Women's 1x Dash - **Brandi Smith**
- Open Women's 4x – **Brandi Smith, Nicole Nakatsu, Kaitlin Rempel, Claudia Blandford**
- Open Men's 4x – **Curtis Oleschuk, Loch Inglis, Paul Thiessen, Mark Zwaagstra**
- Masters Men's 4x – **Jeff Reithberger, Tom Pundyk, Vic Bartel, Andrew Lamont**
- Master's Men's 4- – **Tracy Kowal, Ryan Desilets, Eric Johnstone, Dave Cooke**
- Open Men's 8+ – **Tanner Prasek, Kirk Vilks, Pawel Glowacki, Loch Inglis, Mark Zwaagstra, Paul Thiessen, Andrew Lamont, Curtis Oleschuk, cox Nicole Bewski**

ABOUT THE NWIRA REGATTA

The NorthWest International Rowing Association (NWIRA) is a regional association of Canadian and American mid-western rowing clubs, founded in 1885 by the Winnipeg Rowing Club, Minnesota Boat Club, and St. Paul Rowing Club. The first competition took place July 16, 1886, on Lake Minnetonka in Minnesota. What started as a quiet evening erupted into mayhem, as the sound of the starter's gun blast echoed across the lake, and fans began cheering wildly from hundreds of small boats and steamers. Three crews raced down the course with Winnipeg in last place. With a quarter-mile to the finish, Winnipeg sprinted ahead and crossed the line first, winning a coveted championship that would trade hands many times over the next 107 regattas. The NWIRA Regatta has continued to grow and thrive since that first race won by Winnipeg in 1886. An annual event, it has only been postponed during times of war. The grand aggregate trophy – the Sir Thomas Lipton Cup – is up for grabs annually, and awarded to the club receiving the most points. In 2010, the Lipton Cup was presented to Minnesota Boat Club.

At 129 years old, the Winnipeg Rowing Club is one of the oldest sporting organizations in Western Canada. It has been in operation since 1881, stopping only twice – during WWI and WWII. A long-time tenant of the banks of the Red River in downtown Winnipeg, the WRC survived the North-West Rebellion of 1885, the General Strike of 1919, the Great Depression of the 1930's, the Great Flood of 1950, and the Flood of the Century in 1997. Over the years the clubhouse has been destroyed by fire, wind, and water, but has always managed to maintain its long and proud tradition. Today, the WRC is a non-profit organization with a rich and successful sporting history, fostering generations of camaraderie and friendships. Members range from 13 to 85, and the club offers programs for all skill levels.

www.winnipegrowingclub.ca