



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***PETER NYKOLUK ROWING SCHOLARSHIP
PRESENTED TO TWO WRC ATHLETES***

Winnipeg MB (January 20, 2010) -- The Winnipeg Rowing Club is pleased to announce that two of their competitive athletes have been named recipients of the 2009 Peter Nykoluk Rowing Scholarship. **Nia Perron** and **Natasha Tersigni** will share in the scholarship, with each receiving \$2650 to help them pursue post-secondary studies.

ABOUT PETER NYKOLUK

Peter Nykoluk was a competitive rower who proudly represented the Winnipeg Rowing Club in many regattas, and supported his club and colleagues in many ways. Peter died on October 12, 1990, coming to the aid of teammates involved in an accident that occurred on the way to a regatta in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Peter was a unique individual whose enthusiasm for life was evident in everything that he undertook. He had an endless capacity for learning, and the dedication, perseverance and optimism he consistently displayed were contagious to all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

ABOUT THE PETER NYKOLUK ROWING SCHOLARSHIP

An award in the memory of Peter Nykoluk was established to recognize individuals whose outstanding contribution to and/or achievements in the sport of rowing closely parallel the values of determination, commitment and sportsmanship consistently displayed by Peter. The award has been administered annually since 1995, with the first recipient being Karen Styrchak, current Chairperson of the Peter Nykoluk Rowing Scholarship Selection Committee. The purpose of the award is to financially assist athletes to pursue their educational goals while they continue to participate in the sport of rowing.

The Peter Nykoluk Rowing Scholarship was initiated by Peter's father, Jim Nykoluk, to honour Peter's memory while ensuring the future of the sport that Peter loved: "The scholarship not only helps athletes pursue their post-secondary studies, but also recognizes individuals who embody the kind of leadership that will help sustain the sport of rowing in future years," says Jim, who has been a member and supporter of the Winnipeg Rowing Club for many years. He can often be found during the summer rowing his single down the Red River, or tending to the Peter Nykoluk Garden that adorns the northwest corner of the Winnipeg Rowing Club grounds.

In addition to the scholarship and garden, Peter's memory lives on through the Nykoluk Memorial Trophy presented annually to the fastest women's senior pair at the NorthWest International Rowing Association (NWIRA) Championship Regatta – which takes place in Winnipeg in 2010.

More on page 2...

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Natasha Tersigni started rowing as part of a high school rowing program in the spring of 2007. Two months into the sport, she was asked to replace a rower in the women's eight that was set to compete at the Western Canada Summer Games. Natasha rose to that challenge, helped her team win a silver medal, and quickly became hooked on the sport. The summer of 2009 saw Natasha attend the Canada Summer Games, competing in the women's four and eight. Her goals are to have fun, train hard, and see where the sport takes her. Natasha is currently attending her second year at the University of Winnipeg, pursuing a degree in journalism.

Nia Perron began rowing in the summer of 2006 at the age of fifteen. Not knowing anything about the sport, her mother convinced her and some friends to give it a try. The realization she loved rowing came early one morning during the fall, while out on the river watching the sunrise. Since then, Nia has participated in many competitions including the Canada Summer Games, and the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta where her crews captured two gold medals in 2008. Her goals are to continue competing for the province of Manitoba, and making the under 23 national team. She is currently enrolled in her first year at the University of Winnipeg, with plans to pursue a degree in environmental sciences.

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