



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Winnipeg MB (May 7, 2012) -- The Winnipeg Rowing Club is pleased to announce that **Paul Thiessen** and **Nia Perron** were selected to share the 2011/2012 **Peter Nykoluk Rowing Scholarship**, and each received \$2700.

NIA PERRON

Nia started rowing at the age of 15, and participated at the Western Canada Games in 2007. She won two gold medals at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta in 2008, and competed at Canada Games in 2009. She has been recognized nationally and provincially for her contribution to the sport, and was presented in 2011 with Rowing Canada's Tony Zasada Award, and Sport Manitoba's Woman to Watch Award. In addition to training as a competitive athlete, Nia was previously involved as a rowing coach for the Winnipeg Rowing Club.

PAUL THIESSEN

Paul graduated this spring from the University of Winnipeg with a degree in biology. He began rowing only a few years ago, and, driven by a commitment and passion, excelled quickly at the sport. In addition to being an athlete, Paul has also coached various programs at the Winnipeg Rowing Club, and enjoys helping others to improve. He plans to spend the summer training competitively, and is currently rowing in Toronto. Last fall, Paul had the opportunity to participate in the National Rowing Championships in Welland, Ontario. Paul's ultimate rowing ambition is to make the national men's team, and his invitation to an elite training camp this summer for promising young rowers is one more step towards the national team.

THE PETER NYKOLUK ROWING SCHOLARSHIP

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.

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A rowing scholarship in the memory of Peter 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. In addition to the scholarship and garden, Peter's memory lives on through the Nykoluk Memorial Trophy. This award is presented annually to the fastest women's senior pair at the NorthWest International Rowing Association (NWIRA) Championship Regatta.

At 131 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