



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WINNIPEG ROWING CLUB STARTS SEASON STRONG
AT WESTERN CANADA SPRINTS IN REGINA**

Winnipeg MB (June 16, 2014) -- A rainy, cool day didn't dampen spirits at the 37th Western Canada Sprints Regatta, hosted by Regina Rowing Club on beautiful Wascana Lake.

The annual regatta drew 279 competitors from six rowing clubs (Regina, Winnipeg, Kenora, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton). Winnipeg Rowing Club sent a team of 34 athletes to compete in junior, open and master events.

WRC crews had a strong start to the 2014 racing season by winning seven events:

- Open Men's Single – Keven Kowalyk
- Master Women's Single – Sheila Wilson-Kowal
- Lightweight Women's Double – Brandi Smith, Tracy Taylor
- Master Women's Double – Sheila Wilson-Kowal, Freddie von Aweyden
- Open Men's Double – Loch Inglis, Kevin Kowalyk
- Lightweight Women's Quad – Brandi Smith, Fiona Rettie, Hanika Nakagawa, Tracy Taylor
- Open Men's Quad – Andrew Lamont, Josh Mintz, Loch Inglis, Kevin Kowalyk

“Our athletes did a tremendous job,” says WRC Head Coach Steven Taylor, who oversaw the Winnipeg team in Regina. “It was a very successful regatta, and a great kick-off to the 2014 rowing season.”

At 133 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 in age from teenagers right up to the 80's, and the club offers programs for all skill levels. www.winnipegrowingclub.ca

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