



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***WRC MEMBER HONOURED BY ROWING CANADA:
Sandra Kirby named RCA Rowing Umpire of the Year***

February 2, 2015 (Winnipeg MB) – Winnipegger **Sandra Kirby**, a tremendous supporter of and contributor to the sport of rowing, was recently honoured with a prestigious award by Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA).

The **RCA Umpire of the Year Award** recognizes the contribution of an Umpire who has made an exemplary contribution to rowing racing in Canada. The award was handed out to Sandra Kirby at the RCA's 34th annual awards, in Burnaby BC.

ABOUT SANDRA KIRBY

Sandra Kirby is a member of the Winnipeg Rowing Club, Board member of the Manitoba Rowing Association, member of the RCA Umpire Committee, and Chair of the RCA Umpire Education and Development sub-committee.

Sandra was selected to the Umpire jury for the 2014 World Rowing Masters Championships, and umpired at the Paralympic Games in London in 2012. She has umpired numerous local, regional and national regattas, including the Alma Coastal Regatta with a view to bring coastal rowing to Manitoba.

Passionate about developing the field of future rowing officials, Sandi helped establish the clinician's program for umpire training, and organized three working groups – one for each level of umpire development. She is involved with the transition of full implementation of the new training programs, and as Prairie Clinician, is responsible for delivery and evaluation of umpire education in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

More on page 2...

A sport scientist and international expert on harassment and abuse in sport, Sandi has written numerous books and reports on the subject. Up until her retirement in 2014, she was a professor of Sociology, Associate Vice President Academic, and Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Winnipeg. She now carries the distinguished title of Professor Emerita.

Sandi is a former competitive rower herself, and was part of the Canadian team at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal. Today, she is an avid competitor in cross-country skiing, and is in her second year of coaching the masters' rowing program at the Winnipeg Rowing Club.

Sandi truly is a lifelong champion for the sport of rowing, and the Winnipeg Rowing Club is extremely proud of her.

At 134 years old, the Winnipeg Rowing Club is the second oldest sporting organization 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

-- 30 --

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