



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **WINNIPEG ROWING CLUB WELCOMES NEW HEAD COACH**

*Winnipeg MB (March 24, 2011)* -- The Winnipeg Rowing Club is pleased to announce the arrival of their new head coach. **Brent Figg** moved his family from Cincinnati to Winnipeg last fall, to take up head coaching duties at the club. He spent the fall and winter getting to know Winnipeg's rowing community, and taking over the program reins.

"We were thrilled to find someone of Brent's calibre as our new head coach," says Eric Johnstone, President of the Winnipeg Rowing Club. "Brent has a successful background in international coaching, and he brings that world of experience to our club. It's great to have him here in our community, and we are excited by the potential of our programs under his guidance and direction."

### **ABOUT BRENT FIGG**

Brent Figg has an extensive and dynamic history with the sport of rowing. Prior to taking over head coaching duties at the Winnipeg Rowing Club, he coached the summer elite rowing program for women at Vesper Boat Club in Philadelphia – one of the oldest and most successful rowing clubs in the United States – where his athletes won US national championships and Canadian Henley gold. Other coaching highlights include Director of Rowing at the University of Cincinnati, coaching the US Junior National Team at the World Championships in Beijing, and apprenticing at the Murray Bridge Rowing Club in Australia.

As an athlete, Brent rowed for the University of Cincinnati and Duluth Rowing Club. He was an all-state soccer player in high school, and played NCAA Division 1 soccer before transitioning to rowing. Coming from a sporting family, Brent's grandfather was Director of Recreation in Frankfort, Kentucky, and played football for Paul Brown and Georgetown. His father was a baseball player who was offered a contract to play for the New York Yankees.

Originally from Grosse Ile, Michigan, Brent moved to Winnipeg in 2010 with his wife Alice and two young children. He currently resides in Osborne Village, and awaits his first Winnipeg flood down at the Winnipeg Rowing Club.

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*At 130 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](http://www.winnipegrowingclub.ca)