



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **WINNIPEG ATHLETES RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARDS**

*Winnipeg MB (January 30, 2012)* – Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA), the national governing body for the sport of rowing in Canada, recognized several Winnipeg athletes this weekend. The RCA's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Awards banquet took place on Saturday, January 28 in Toronto, at the RCA's national conference and AGM. Athletes from across Canada were honoured in a number of categories, including the following Winnipeggers:

**President's Award:** The recipient of this award is selected by the President of the RCA, Dr. Michael F. Murphy, for outstanding service to the sport of rowing over a number of years. Presented to **Andrew Lamont** of the **Winnipeg Rowing Club**, for his long-time involvement with the RCA as past president of the Manitoba Rowing Association, and also for his achievements as a competitive athlete and advocate of rowing.

**Tony Zasada Memorial Scholarship Award:** This award was established by the family and friends of Tony Zasada of the Regina Rowing club. Tony was fifth in the coxed pair event at the 1984 Olympic Games and was killed in a car accident shortly after. Presented to **Nia Perron, Winnipeg Rowing Club**, for her involvement in rowing as a competitive athlete and coach, as well as academic achievement.

**Female Adaptive Athlete of the Year:** This award is presented for excellence in adaptive rowing. Presented to **Meghan Montgomery, Winnipeg Rowing Club**, along with Vicky Nolan of the Argonaut and Bayside Rowing clubs.

**RCA International Achievement Awards:** These awards are presented to athletes who won gold, silver or bronze medals in international competition at either the Olympic Games or FISA World Rowing Championships. The Adaptive Mixed Four crew, which won, the Silver Medal at the FISA World Rowing Championships in Slovenia last year, was presented with an RCA International Achievement Award. This crew includes **Meghan Montgomery, Winnipeg Rowing Club**. Also, The Women's Eight, which won Silver at the FISA World Rowing Championships in Slovenia last year, was presented with an RCA International Achievement Award. This crew includes **Janine Hanson, Winnipeg Rowing Club**.

More information about the annual awards presented by RCA can be found at [www.rowingcanada.org](http://www.rowingcanada.org).

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