



*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

***“HEAD OF THE RED” REGATTA***  
***Annual rowing competition coming up September 26***

*September 17, 2015 (Winnipeg MB)* -- The **Winnipeg Rowing Club** and **Manitoba Rowing Association** are joining together to host an annual racing tradition in downtown Winnipeg. “Head of the Red” welcomes local athletes and visiting teams from LOCATIONS to compete on the Red River.

**Head of the Red Regatta**  
Saturday, September 26  
Racing begins @ 9:00am

Winnipeg Rowing Club @ 20 Lyndale Drive  
\*\*Come out and watch the races – no charge!\*\*

## **RACING FORMAT**

After a summer of sprint racing in the rowing world, with courses varying from 500-2000 meters, ‘head races’ start up in the fall. These competitions consist of longer, slower distances, ranging from 4000-6000 meters. The Head of the Red – named after the Red River – offers a 6000 meter course.

In order to make regatta more spectator friendly... for the first time, the Head of the Red will be raced over three loops – each loop 2km long. Races will start and finish at the same point – beside the Winnipeg Rowing Club docks – and competitors will depart at 30-second intervals.

“On a normal 6000 meter course that races from end to end, you only see the boats for a short time when they pass you. So we decided to make this year’s regatta more fun to watch by designing the course in loops,” says Steven Taylor, head coach of the Winnipeg Rowing Club, and lead organizer of Head of the Red. “Each stretch is essentially 1000 meters long, so in one race, you’ll see each boat pass by six times. It should make for an exciting day of races.”

Awards will be presented to the fastest crews in each category, and prize money awarded to the overall fastest male and female scullers in single boats.

## **BEST PLACES TO WATCH THE RACES!**

Members of the public are invited to come out and watch the races – no charge! The best vantage point for viewing will be from the riverside bleachers set up at the Winnipeg Rowing Club. You will also get a great view from the Lyndale Drive park just south of the Winnipeg Rowing Club, from anywhere on the Norwood Bridge, or from either shore near the bridge. The Winnipeg Rowing Club will have porta-potty facilities set up outside, and a small canteen for purchasing drinks and snacks. Racing begins at 9:00am, and will finish by 3:00pm.

*More on page 2...*

## **ABOUT THE WINNIPEG ROWING CLUB**

At 134 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 early teens right up to the 80's, and the club offers programs for all skill levels. [www.winnipegrowingclub.ca](http://www.winnipegrowingclub.ca)

## **ABOUT THE MANITOBA ROWING ASSOCIATION**

The mission of the Manitoba Rowing Association is to lead performance excellence and promote sport for life by developing and sustaining rowing in all its forms. Our vision is for the Manitoba rowing community to work together in leading, guiding and organizing program and athlete excellence. The Manitoba Rowing Association has sent more athletes to the Olympics than any other sport in the province. Most recent Olympians include Colleen Miller, Jeff Powell, Janine Hanson, Meghan Montgomery, Kevin Kowalyk, and Morgan Jarvis. We truly put forth exceptional athletes who perform on a world stage with huge success. Due to this, Manitoba is a strong candidate for a future Talent Identification Centre through our National Sport Organization, Rowing Canada. This would be a huge accomplishment for the MRA, while at the same time being an excellent opportunity for both current and new young rowers in the province. [www.rowingmanitoba.ca](http://www.rowingmanitoba.ca)

-- 30 --

*CONTACT FOR MEDIA:*  
*RoseAnna Schick, RAS Creative*  
*204-783-7600 / [rascreative@yahoo.ca](mailto:rascreative@yahoo.ca)*