



*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

***PETER NYKOLUK ROWING SCHOLARSHIP  
PRESENTED TO WRC ATHLETE***

*Winnipeg MB (February 24, 2011)* -- The Winnipeg Rowing Club is pleased to announce that **Kaitlin Rempel** has been named recipient of the 2010/2011 Peter Nykoluk Rowing Scholarship. Kaitlin received \$5000 to assist with her final year of studies at the University of Winnipeg, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology and Applied Health.

**ABOUT PETER NYKOLUK**

**Peter Nykoluk** was a competitive rower who proudly represented the Winnipeg Rowing Club in many regattas, and supported his club and colleagues in many ways. Peter died on October 12, 1990, coming to the aid of teammates involved in an accident that occurred on the way to a regatta in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Peter was a unique individual whose enthusiasm for life was evident in everything that he undertook. He had an endless capacity for learning, and the dedication, perseverance and optimism he consistently displayed were contagious to all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

**ABOUT THE PETER NYKOLUK ROWING SCHOLARSHIP**

An award in the memory of Peter Nykoluk was established to recognize individuals whose outstanding contribution to and/or achievements in the sport of rowing closely parallel the values of determination, commitment and sportsmanship consistently displayed by Peter. The award has been administered annually since 1995, with the first recipient being **Karen Styrchak**, current Chairperson of the Peter Nykoluk Rowing Scholarship Selection Committee. The purpose of the award is to financially assist athletes to pursue their educational goals while they continue to participate in the sport of rowing.

The Peter Nykoluk Rowing Scholarship was initiated by Peter's father, **Jim Nykoluk**, to honour Peter's memory while ensuring the future of the sport that Peter loved: "The scholarship not only helps athletes pursue their post-secondary studies, but also recognizes individuals who embody the kind of leadership that will help sustain the sport of rowing in future years," says Jim, who has been a member and supporter of the Winnipeg Rowing Club for many years. He can often be found during the summer rowing his single down the Red River, or tending to the Peter Nykoluk Garden that adorns the northwest corner of the Winnipeg Rowing Club grounds.

In addition to the scholarship and garden, Peter's memory lives on through the Nykoluk Memorial Trophy. This award is presented annually to the fastest women's senior pair at the NorthWest International Rowing Association (NWIRA) Championship Regatta.

*More on page 2...*

## ABOUT KAITLIN REMPEL

Kaitlin began rowing in the fall of 2009, and what she has achieved since then is absolutely impressive. During the summer of 2010 – her very first season of competitive rowing – she went from being a novice in a boat in the spring, to capturing six wins and four second place finishes during a summer of competition. The races she won are:

- Regina Sprints – 1<sup>st</sup> single / 2<sup>nd</sup> quad
- Duluth International – 1<sup>st</sup> single
- Tops & Bottoms – 1<sup>st</sup> single / 1<sup>st</sup> double / 1<sup>st</sup> quad
- Northwest Championships – 1<sup>st</sup> quad / 2<sup>nd</sup> single / 2<sup>nd</sup> single dash / 2<sup>nd</sup> eight

Kaitlin has been involved in sport her entire life, competing on school teams and in club programs. For the past several years, her focus has been on basketball. After graduating from high school, Kaitlin moved to Edmonton to play basketball at Grant MacEwan College. She transferred back home to Winnipeg for her second year of studies, to play with the University of Winnipeg Wesmen.

Eager to learn the sport of rowing, Kaitlin's first experience in a single resulted in eight dumps in the Red River. While she may have only managed one or two decent strokes that day, she was hooked. With an incredibly successful 'rookie' rowing season behind her, her plans are to focus on rowing after graduating from the University of Winnipeg in 2011. Her dream is to one day train and compete with Canada's national rowing team.

-----

*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)