



REPORT NAME: PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: GRAHAM STICKLER

I think it is always worth beginning any review by reminding ourselves of our goals as a Club. Our primary collective aim must be to create the environment to grow the game of Rugby in the Waterloo Region and to develop our players to their full potential. Ensure enjoyment, and a love for this great game of ours then flourishes and I hope we all believe that success on the field will then naturally follow. We reiterated once again at our first Board meeting this year that as Executives we must be focussed on Rugby and on our players and their needs, and I hope everyone across the Club has again felt that emphasis this year.

Last year I categorised the previous year as being one of change where a new President and Board found its feet and we began a journey of trying to better organise and stabilise the Club. As I look back over this past year I feel we have made good progress in a number of areas and I feel strongly that the Club is in better health as a result both on and off the pitch. There is still much to do and significant challenges ahead (reflected well in the other Board Member's reports) but I believe we have good foundations in place now that will allow us to push on and grow the Club still further. Make no mistake, by many measures, we are now one of the biggest Rugby Clubs in Ontario but rather than rest on our laurels we must use this as a springboard to grow even further.

None of this is possible without the hard work of many people. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow Board members for both their patience with me and all their hard work and dedication. In particular I thank Adam Kitchen who has served the Club as a Board member for the last 5 years and Mike Hewitson who has served for the last 2. Both have decided that they can no longer give the time that the responsibility of being a Board member demands and are stepping down. I also thank Brent Shantz who has served for the last 2 years and whose term has expired who has also decided to stand down and not seek re-election. All 3 decisions reflect the honesty with which they served and clearly show how these guys put the Club first. It is this sort of attitude that continues to serve this Club so well.

There are many volunteers out there who selflessly put in hours of time for this Club. I'd like once again this year to thank them – I think we all recognise who they are. I'm sure we all recognise without their efforts we wouldn't have a Club at all, so please remember to thank them whenever you can – and please join in wherever you can.

Finally, and by no means forgotten, a big thank you to all our Sponsors and supporters. In particular I highlight the Lions Club of Kitchener, the Cities of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo and of course our hosts tonight, Chainsaw, for all their support during the year.

I'll briefly mention some of my highlights of this year:



- Having brought all dues in line we held the price once again this year. We wish to encourage players to join and play with Waterloo County and with registrations growing again this year we believe we are doing that.
- Our congratulations go to 8 players from our Club who progressed to represent Ontario Rugby this year: Elizabete Alves (Storm U20), Colten Bates (Blues U17), Matt Fish (Blues U20), Sarah Guttin (Storm), Jason Hubbell (Blues), Natalie Kwiecien (Storm U20), Richard Lebel (Blues), Ashley Snider (Storm). That is a tremendous achievement for the Club and everyone involved in the Playing side. Congratulations to those players and to their Coaches.
- Congratulations also to the players and Coaches involved with the County Men 1st XV, Pirates Men XV, and Women's B XV for all topping their leagues this year. County Men achieved promotion back to the Marshall Premiership with an unbeaten league campaign which is quite a sporting achievement of which we are all proud. It is also worth mentioning all those who played for the Renegades this year who competed well week-in and week-out with Regional 1st XV's in the NRU A Division. Once again I would have loved as your President to get around more and see more of you play and support you, but as most of you will know I double up as Senior Men's Coach which somewhat limits my time.
- I am also pleased to report that Waterloo County do not appear on the Rugby Ontario 2015 Discipline Report again this year.
- Financially, I'm pleased to report that we have continued to prudently manage our Finances again this year, reporting a small surplus for the second year in succession. A big thank you goes out to Eric Ciezar in particular for all his efforts in this area.

Finally in last year's report I talked about the need for a review of our By-Laws. This review has begun but has taken some time – mainly because of the need for legal review (which is being done as a favour at no charge). I am expecting the new Board will be able to make recommendations in this regard next year.

To close let me say that once again I have enjoyed serving you, and this Club, as your President for the last year. When I became President 2 years ago I believed there were 3 things that needed addressing: 1) better financial practice and prudence; 2) more focus and emphasis on 'rugby'; 3) ensuring we remain as one club and not allow creation of any 'factions'. I firmly believe we are now in a much stronger position especially in relation to all three of these items and I look forward to witnessing another successful season in 2016 as we try and build on the foundations we have laid over the past 2 years. We don't always get it right, I know that, but you have my commitment I will do all I can, on your behalf, for the good of every member and the Club as a whole.

If you have any ideas for improvement please do not hesitate to engage with me.

Sincerely

Graham Stickler, President