

The Saga Continues: Rowathon XI

On March 26th and 27th the Nanaimo Rowing Club will hold our eleventh annual Rowathon at Woodgrove Centre. This is our major fundraiser for the year and, according to several unconfirmed rumours, it is actually fun. For those unfamiliar with the insanity that is the rowathon, we keep two rowing machines (ergs) going constantly for 24 hours—everyone does twenty minute shifts on the ergs to keep them from stopping, and we collect pledges from people in the community to support us. As you may have guessed, some people will have to stay in the mall overnight to keep the ergs going.

Obviously the most important part of this fundraiser is the actual fundraising. Every club member is expected to get **at least \$100 of pledges**. This seems like a lot of money, but once you actually get out on the street it comes a lot faster than you expect. Additionally, in order to fill all the time slots, everyone will have to erg at the very least three times. Parents/siblings are also welcome to do a shift on the erg if they think they can hack it!

Time & Location:

The Rowathon will be held in Woodgrove Centre, near SportChek, from 5pm on Friday March 26th to 5pm on Saturday March 27th.

Signup:

There will be a signup sheet posted in the boathouse which you can put your name on to signup for your erging times. Remember, **everyone must do at least three shifts to make this work**. Additionally, if you signup for a time, make sure you're at the rowathon at least twenty minutes before your shift starts. If you don't show up, someone else will have to do your shift for you, and that person will surely be unimpressed.

Fundraising:

- Everyone** must raise at least \$100. Those who don't raise the required amount won't be allowed to spend the night in the mall.
- The best way to get pledges for the rowathon is to **go door to door**. Other ways are:
 - Asking friends and family (**not** your parents, we ask them for money all the time)
 - Asking your parents (nicely!) to ask their coworkers
 - pledging yourself
- People can pledge you for completion of the rowathon (which is most common), by time rowed, by distance rowed, or whatever other formula you can figure out with them while standing at their door. If you get ten pledges for \$1 per kilometre, and then do three shifts at 2:30 splits, you've raised \$120!
- All of the money raised will go directly into purchasing & maintain equipment**; last year, for example, the money was put towards new oars and a new double/pair.
- Also remember you are asking people to sponsor you based on the completion of a 24 hour, non-stop row, which is actually quite an accomplishment.
- If you have an NRC sweater, t-shirt, or anything else rowing to wear while fundraising (and at the rowathon), wear it!

Fundraising Prizes:

Prizes? Oh yes, there will be prizes. There will be a prize for those who raise over \$150 and another, more spectacular prize for those who eclipse the \$200 mark. We are going to create a prize-determination-committee (PDC) to figure out what those prizes will be. If you have any suggestions for the prizes, please forward them to Sophie Wendling or Devin O’Keeffe as they are heading up the PDC. They won’t know that until they read this, but I’m sure they will be ok with it.

Spending the night in the mall:

Everyone is invited to spend the night in the mall, **provided they raise the requisite \$100**. There will be a security guard at one entrance so we can go in and out throughout the night, with adult supervision. We will also have access to a washroom. We will not, however, be allowed to run amok through the mall all night long—we have to stay in our area or we may not be invited back next year! This also means no one is allowed to sleep on the couches or chairs that the mall has set out, so bring a foamie to sleep on. Be sure to bring a sleeping bag, teddy bear, water bottle, pillow, foamie, snacks, and whatever other bedtime attire you may need.

What to do with all that money:

People can give it to you either when you approach them, or after the rowathon, whichever they prefer. At any rate, make sure you personally put the money you have in Don’s hand at the rowathon, otherwise it will more than likely disappear off the face of the earth.

This year at the rowathon we want to:

- Make \$5000
- Row 500,000 metres

These are very lofty, but achievable, goals. If everyone makes an honest effort, both in the fundraising and on the erg, we will be able to reach them. \$5000 would be our best rowathon ever; to do it means we will have to have everyone fundraise, as opposed to asking their mummys and daddys for \$100. We need to go above and beyond and we CAN. I have faith in you! Don’t let me down! What’s important to remember is that **for the rowathon to be a success, absolutely everyone has to get involved with raising money and erging**. I really don’t feel that this is too much to ask, so hopefully we get a great response again this year. THANKS IN ADVANCE!

Go Raise Some MONEY!!