



UBC
ROWING



100
YEARS
EST. 1921



SUPPORTING A
LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE:

UBC ROWING

On the road to becoming one of the top university rowing programs in the world.





Over the past century, [UBC Rowing](#) has established itself as one of the most successful varsity programs in Canada. Our athletes are some of the best and brightest, with immense dedication to the sport and a drive to always achieve more.

HISTORY OF CHAMPIONS

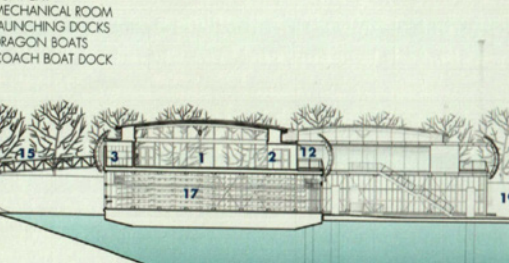
The UBC rowing legacy was launched [in 1922](#) when the newly-formed rowing team entered its first regatta. Just a decade later, Ned Pratt won UBC's first Olympic medal in the double skulls, setting the stage for a bright future. Fast forward to 1956, when UBC rowers took home the university's first Olympic gold. By 1976 a women's team had been formed and several Thunderbirds became Canadian rowing pioneers, including Tricia Smith and Kathleen Heddle.

Today, UBC rowers continue to dominate in the water, with both the men's and women's program preeminent at the Canadian University Rowing Championships. The UBC Rowing program has molded hundreds of future leaders, marked by resilience, perseverance and a deep commitment to their communities and professions. It has also long been a source of pride for the UBC athletics community—more than 50 per cent of all Olympic medals and more than 90 per cent of gold medals won by UBC athletes have been rowers.



A HISTORY OF SUCCESS

- 87 UBC rowers have competed for Canada at the Olympic Games, winning 40 medals between 1932 and 2020.
- Over 175 UBC Rowers and alumni have competed and coached internationally for Canada.
- The woman's program won the Canadian University Championships in 2018, 2019, and 2021.
- The men's program has won the Canadian University Championships five times since 2016.
- The UBC Rowing teams have one of the highest percentage of Academic All Canadians—an award recognizing student athletes who sustain a GPA of 3.67 or higher—of all UBC athletic teams.



SUPPORT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Passionate donors and alumni champions have shaped the success of this program. Without them, we wouldn't be where we are today—one of the top rowing programs in the country.

One of our most successful campaigns took shape in 2001, when over 340 generous donations totalled \$6 million, allowing for construction of the [John M.S. Lecky UBC Boathouse](#), which has officially been home to UBC Rowing since 2006. The Gold for Life Committee—a group of dedicated rowing alumni and friends of UBC Rowing – with support from St. George's School, led these efforts and have been instrumental in supporting the rowing program over the past 20 years.

To date, endowments of over \$1.3 million have been established and provide equal assistance to UBC's men's and women's rowing programs over the past 20 years. All fundraising efforts continue to support both the men's and women's rowing programs equally.



“Support from our alumni and other generous donors is what allows us as athletes to train and to compete and to be able to devote our spare time to our sport. Without you, none of this would be possible.”

—Claire Brillon, Rower, B.Mus and B.Sc '22



THE OPPORTUNITY: AN INTERNATIONAL LEGACY

UBC Rowing has achieved great success on the Canadian stage. Our vision for the next decade is bold: to be one of the top 12 university rowing programs in the world with the likes of the University of California Berkeley, the University of Washington, Oxford Brookes University, and Yale University.

But we can't achieve this alone. Our confidence in you is just as bold as our vision. That's why the Gold for Life Committee, in partnership with UBC Athletics, has launched the **UBC Rowing Centennial Campaign**. We believe generous donors will step up to support our rowing program, because you understand how important it is for our athletes to experience the next level of competition. They have the talent, but they can't get there without you.

To support our vision, **we have set a goal to increase endowments by \$5 million**. Along with this increase in our endowment funds, we are also seeking gifts to support on-going program operational costs. Both of these opportunities will allow us to enhance and sustain the UBC Rowing program so we can become one of the top rowing programs in the world. Here's how we'll get there.

High impact student-athlete experience: Enhanced financial assistance which will allow us to attract and retain the best student athletes.

International competition: Travel funds will give our teams the opportunity to go to the United States and other international destinations to compete against the top university crews in the world.

Cutting-edge equipment: In order to be successful internationally, we require resources to continually upgrade our shells, oars, and other equipment.

All donation are welcome, and can be given as a one-time gift, a gift pledged over a number of years, through ongoing monthly donations, or as a legacy gift. UBC is a registered charity which means your gift to UBC Rowing may be tax deductible, as allowed by the Canada Revenue Agency.



“This is a pivotal time in UBC Rowing history. We are poised to become one of the top university rowing programs in the world, and with generous support from donors, I know we can get there. We have already achieved so much, and over the next 10 years I’m confident we will achieve even more.”

—Mike Pearce, UBC Men’s Rowing Head Coach

“As I look back on my time as a rower at UBC, I constantly reflect on the lessons learned and personal growth I had during that period in my life. I honestly believe I learned more in the racing shell than in the classroom. Those lessons have stayed with me and my fellow teammates well beyond the time we were active in the sport and I remain so thankful for that experience.”

—Warren Beach, B.A '89



THANK YOU

The UBC Rowing program has made a huge splash in Canada, a feat that would not have been possible without generous support from donors and alumni over the past 100 years. But we need to push the bar even higher. Contributions are needed to ensure the UBC Rowing program can reach its full potential and become one of the top rowing programs globally. Thank you for considering a gift to support the program's advancement.

When you give to athletes, you are shaping their university experience and investing in the young leaders of tomorrow.

To learn more about how you can invest in the UBC Rowing program and be part of our 100-year legacy, please contact:

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