

Masters Survey Results 2009

The RCA Masters Committee is pleased to share the results of the survey posted on RCA website in March 2009.

1- Where do you live?

Of the 323 people who completed the survey the majority were from Ontario (54%) followed by the Prairies (17%) and BC (14%). The Maritimes and Quebec contributed 8% and 7% respectively.

Percentage wise, masters in BC did not answer proportionally to their large representation in the master's community due to problems accessing the survey during the posted period.

	Masters	Total rowers	% of masters		
			per province	in Canada	in survey
BC	355	2255	16%	40%	14%
AB	34	50	68%		
SK	16	264	6%	9%	17%
MB	26	271	10%		
ON	376	6994	5%	42%	54%
QC	30	512	6%	3%	7%
NB	9	140	6%		
NS	44	369	12%	6%	8%
NL	0	26	0%		
TOTALS	890	10881			

Note that 323 survey entries represent 36% of the registered masters, which is an excellent participation.

2- What age category are you in?

Almost half (48%) of the respondents were between the ages of 43 and 54. The median ages were between 50 and 54 with the oldest respondents in the 75 plus age range.

3- In 2008 how many regattas did you compete in last year?

Approximately 1 in 5 (18.9%) did not compete in any regattas in 2008. Sixteen percent participated in 1, 29% in 2 or 3 regattas; fully 1/3 of the respondents (36%) participated in 4 or more regattas.

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4- How far are you willing to travel to attend a regatta?

People are prepared to travel to regattas with close to 1/3 (30.3%) saying they would travel 500 km and a further 1/3 (33.2%) indicated that they would be willing to travel more than 1000 km.

5- What is the best period for you to attend an RCA Canadian Masters Championships (CMCs)?

Sixty percent said that August was the best period for people to attend the RCA CMC. September and July were less popular at 36% and 33% respectively. Twenty percent said that any time between May and September was fine.

6- Would you be more interested to participate in a CMC if it was part of the Canadian Championship?

There was no clear preference (52% yes, 48% no) when asked if they would be interested in participating in a CMC if it was part of the RCA National Rowing Championships.

7- Why do you compete?

It is very important for masters rowers to be able to compete and have fun at regattas. As a reason for competing 'fun' was rated at 3.62 out of 4 while 'winning' was rated at 2.75 out of 4.

8- Did you register to row at the RCA Canadian Masters Championships (CMC's) in Guelph Ontario this past August?

Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ (23.4%) of the respondents to this survey had registered to compete at CMC in Guelph in 2008. Their reasons for wanting to participate were: a competitive field (81%), have fun (71%) and that it was local (63%). Other reasons included a chance to row with friends, there was a lightweight category and that they wanted to support a local regatta and a Canadian championship.

9 & 10-

If yes-why?

If no-why not?

Two hundred and forty three people responded that they had not registered for the CMC in Guelph. Their reasons were that it was too far (24%), the cost of travel (21%) and the fee was too high (20%). One hundred and sixty five of the 243 took the time to write comments. Their reasons included

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other commitments of a personal (vacations, family, weddings etc) or rowing (umpiring, other regattas) nature, health and/or injury, or that they had recently started to row and were not ready for competition. As well, a number of people noted that because of the schedule it was difficult to race in a number of races and it was considered to be too expensive if one was only able to row in one or two races. Some people also noted that the Guelph location was unknown and were concerned about conditions on the lake.

11- Would you give us your comments about the (cancelled) CMC's for Guelph of this year?

One hundred and seventy eight people took the time to share their comments on the cancellation of the CMC's in 2008.

Comments indicated that they were disappointed, mad, upset and insulted. Phrases like shameful, unfortunate, bad precedent and lack of trust in CMC were common themes in the comments.

The timing was an issue with the US Masters and CMC on the same weekend and the CMC following within a week of Henley. People noted the schedule did not allow them to race in multiple events which made the cost per race too high for them to feel that they were getting good value for their money. People questioned the choice of location as Guelph was not felt to be a holiday destination and the lake and rowing venue were relatively unknown. Some people felt that RCA should be more supportive of masters rowers.

12 & 13-

Have you participated at any CMCs in the past?

If yes, which year(s) did you compete in the CMC?

63 % of the masters never participated in a CMC and among the 1/3 who did, 40% participated in only 1 CMC, but 30% competed in more than 5.

14- Would you like us to pursue a North American Masters regatta with our U.S. counterparts?

In this concept, the regatta would be held in each country every other year.

$\frac{3}{4}$ are in favor of a North American Masters regatta.

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15- Would you like masters rowing removed from the Canadian Henley and have it replaced by the CMC's?

(The 2009 Henley Masters will be held on the Sunday prior to Henley on Martindale Pond.)

2/3 do not want the Henley events to be replaced by a CMC. Must be the prestige, and this is quite legitimate.

16- How can the CMC's be improved?

Among the improvements people would like to see at a CMC, here is an interesting table showing that the CMC calendar date and the types of events is what could be improved, but unfortunately, there is no consensus on the date. The "PR" column the comments were to improve the public relations with RCA to have them consider Masters more and promote more the CMC. In the "other" column, there are improvements like green, more bathrooms, not canceling CMC, and make the Henley the CMC.

2000m	PR	cost	same place(s) (1 east and 1 west)	scheduling date & events	more destinations	other
2	7	8	5	15	5	21

17- Would you be interested in a Masters camp in P.E.I. with the culmination of the camp with a test regatta on June 27th, 2009?

87 rowers said they were interested in Masters camp in P.E.I. with the culmination of the camp with a test regatta on June 27th. Unfortunately, this camp was cancelled because the rowing site was not ready.

18- How much are you willing to pay for a 2-day camp or Masters regatta

80% were willing to pay 100\$ for a training camp

19- What can RCA or the Masters Committee do for you?

On the 142 valuable answers, 32% were favoring the promotion of the growing popularity of this category of rowers at all levels: general population, in regattas and RCA. 13% indicated that a better communication within the masters community and with RCA was required. Another 13% wanted more coaching, training and athletic advice. Finally, 8% thought that the committee was just doing fine while 2% thought the opposite.

The rest of the comments were ranging from more regattas to less, adding lwt categories, reducing the cost, incorporating masters in "big" regattas

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and even for masters to row 2000m (helping the introduction to other regattas).