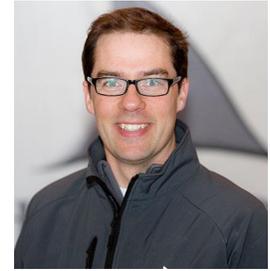


## Dan Bechard Bio

I first picked up a set of oars in 1997. Although I was new to the sport and had a lot to learn, I was hooked. Since that initial session, my rowing journey has included being a member of five different clubs spanning Canada, Australia and Germany (London RC, Western RC, UWO Boat Club, Richmond RC and E.V. Konstanz). My experience also extended beyond being an athlete as I have been a member of several organizational committees and board of governors. Most recently a core member of the London Regatta Organizing Committee, Canadian University Rowing Association Board of Directors, LOC Chair of the FISU 2022 World Rowing Championships and 2021 CanAmMex Regatta. My passion for the sport has become intertwined with my career through my professional positions as Head Coach of Western's Men's Rowing and researcher at Hudson Boat Works. As a result, I have travelled around North America observing rowing organizations in an educator and professional development role. It has become clear to me that the ability to have healthy programs and positively impact the lives of athletes, coaches and volunteers of all ages resides in good governance and planning. I have taken the lessons learned from these experiences and implemented them where possible. Building a more sustainable and resilient future for our community has become my personal ambition.



I want to be your representative because I feel we are entering a time where uncertainty is challenging the stability many clubs and programs have come to rely upon. I believe as a result the health of our sport and what we all love is at stake. Clubs across the province are faced with preserving quality programming while navigating new regulations and attempting to maintain their support structure, sources of revenue or otherwise. Membership, particularly new membership has undoubtedly suffered across Ontario causing leaders to assess their financial structures and sustainability models. All these factors have stressed clubs and organizations towards an uncertain future. I believe that we require conduits to address these areas that most greatly threaten our viability as an organized sport. I believe we as the leaders of the sport in this province should benchmark successful programs and find a conduit to share these critical paths that include and go beyond an annual conference. As a result of these beliefs I am putting my hand up to say that I want to be part of the solution of creating a sustainable way forward.