

Rowing has a long and colorful tradition in Duluth. The Duluth Rowing Club, now also to be known as the Duluth Rowing Center, was established in 1886 and has had a very strong tradition right up to present day. From the "Invincible Four" of the early 1900's era, to Walter Hoover winning the Diamond Sculls in England, to the training and development of Duluth's only Olympic Summer medal winner, Dave Krmpotich in 1988, the DRC's stated mission is "to provide instruction, training, and encouragement of amateur competitive rowing and sculling in Minnesota and elsewhere."

New facilities are needed for these three reasons: condition of the current boathouse (100+ year old structure on wooden posts and pilings), lack of space for rowing shells, and a growing interest in rowing, whether recreationally or competitively.

The new Duluth Rowing Center will have two buildings: a boathouse (known as the Joseph M. Krmpotich Boathouse) and a clubhouse. The new boathouse will be cold storage only. By DNR state regulations and because it will again be over the water, it can be no larger than the boathouse it is replacing. The clubhouse, to be built on shore, will house locker rooms, toilets, showers, classrooms, and some space for rowing shell storage and repair. The ultimate goal of the combination of buildings is that all equipment will be stored safely indoors. The new project time line is as follows:

Phase I - Spring 2016: Construction of the Joseph M. Krmpotich Boathouse

Phase II - Fall 2016: Demolition of the old boathouse

Phase III - 2017 Construction of the Clubhouse and landscaping

Estimated project cost is \$1,000,000. A legacy gift from former rower Joseph M. Krmpotich, who passed away in 2011, provided funding for nearly half of the project. Fund raising efforts are underway to cover remaining costs. There are ample ways to give and have naming rights for various parts of the project, including the Clubhouse.

The Duluth Rowing Club has approximately 150 members. In 2015 There were 102 junior rowers (ages 12 - 18) and 50 adults over the age of 27. Many of the juniors, upon graduation of high school, go on to row at a collegiate level and are then designated as "open" class rowers. Some will return during the summer months to continue their training with the DRC. Others will row in the city clubs of the town where their colleges are located. Many DRC rowers, especially women, have earned scholarships to row in their respective colleges.

The Duluth Rowing Club, soon to be also named the Duluth Rowing Center, would like to thank the Park Point Community for their continuing support and encouragement to all facets of this fantastic "silent sport". Whether actively rowing, either as a recreational or competitive participant, or encouraging a junior rower, be they children or grandchildren, or enjoying the spirit of the annual Duluth International Regatta races, the entire Park Point community has been an integral part of the DRC's continuing success.