

Hello club members, welcome to the Presidents Report for December 2025

As you may or may not know, I was away for most of November with some family time along with an extended work trip taking me into the depths of snow in southwestern Ontario. It is nice to be back here, in the grey and rain. I love this place.

Given my time away last month, I feel like I was not a big part of the club responsibilities. A very special thank you goes out to the other board members, with access to the club email, that kept things going so I could disconnect from the club duties while away. I appreciate it.

Last weekend the Comp team travelled over to the mainland to Surrey for our first Training Meet off the season. The girls do not perform their group routine at these TM events, they are able to perform their figures and get judges feedback so they can continue to progress at them during the season.

They were able to participate in group activities with other clubs, build new bonds and friendships and strengthen existing ones. The girls did lose a team member this past weekend, and they will carry on as a team of four with a slightly altered team routine. Business as usual, really. Way to go girls! Congrats on a fun weekend, great start to the season.

Also, after being at the event, us parents need some club merch, let's make it happen as we have 3 events in the new year and I am sure the LComp 'rents want in, too.

I happened to be with the co-treasurers this past weekend for the meet in Surrey. And I just need to pass on a special thank you to them. They are amazing. The amount of work that they put in is unreal. Sending and accepting Interac e-transfers at the rate that you both do, is nothing short of amazing. Parents, please remember to put the swimmer name and what the payment is for (ie November dues, fundraising, registration, etc)

Next week we are hosting a small event at Ravensong, I am sure Carol has shared the details in her head coach report. Thanks to those people making it happen and organizing things while I was away this past month, you're all amazing humans.

Lastly, last spring I mentioned that this would be my last year in the role of President of this wonderful little club. I would like to reiterate the news and officially put it into writing that I intend to resign from this position at the completion of this season, June 2026, ETA.

I joined the board of this club in spring of 2023 without any knowledge of being a board member of a non-profit club, governance in general, and most of all: I had zero clue about synchro and had no idea what a 'straight leg ballet' was, I can tell you that. But I realized that we had something special with this club, a small town with a small club (with an even smaller pool, ha!), but with really big hearts.

One of my goals when I put up my hand and accepted this position was to grow the club. I think it is fair to say that that is happening and the club is growing. The numbers in AquaGo! And LComp are all that we can handle from a pool size, pool time and coaching perspective at the moment. To experience new growth, it would require some outside the box thinking.

Along with that goal, another personal goal is to leave the club in a better place than when I found it. Now, that is no easy feat when the club was passed on from the likes of Jessica Nemlander and Becky Baldwin, who ran the club with conviction, passion and a true love of the sport. But, I will do my best to ensure things are passed on with grace and honour. I intend to support the next person.

We have options as to how to move forward, the most logical move is to have a new volunteer board member (or a parent who is yet to be a board member but wants to help) take over the position. Alternatively, we would have to hire a part-time paid manager, much like the Nanaimo Diamonds have been searching for (not sure if they have ever found that person). We all know what the part time paid manager would do to the fees, they would skyrocket, of course.

My intention is to stay on board as a Director at Large, (as required) and I would love to be a part of the marketing website team where I could spend more time to help optimize some processes for the club with some neat website tools.

Again, thank you to the coaches, board members, parents and swimmers for your dedication to the sport this season.

Mark Beuerman  
President, Ravensong Waterdancers