



Rowing Canada Aviron and North Cowichan Fact Sheet

1. What is Rowing Canada Aviron?

Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA) is a non-profit organization recognized by the Government of Canada and the Canadian Olympic Committee as the national governing body for the sport of rowing in Canada. RCA represents 15,000 registered members at all levels: novices, juniors, university students, seniors and masters, and people with disabilities, whether they row for recreation, health and fitness or competition.

2. What is a National Training Centre?

A National Training Centre is the “home base” for Rowing Canada Aviron’s senior National Team athletes, coaches, and support staff, as well as identified rowers who are considered for National Team participation. At the National Training Centre, about 40 – 60 athletes will train daily as they prepare to represent Canada at international rowing competitions, including the Olympic and Paralympic Games (held every four years) and World Rowing Championships (held each year).

To date, Rowing Canada Aviron has not had a single National Training Centre – the men’s team has trained in Victoria and the women’s team has trained in London, Ontario.

3. How did Rowing Canada Aviron select North Cowichan for a National Training Centre?

Rowing Canada Aviron launched a Request for Proposal for a National Training Centre (NTC) in May 2018. The RFP process allowed any community in Canada to submit an Expression of Interest and proposal.

North Cowichan has a long relationship with Rowing Canada Aviron, as athletes have been training on Quamichan Lake for decades. North Cowichan, together with the Cowichan Valley Regional District and other partners, submitted a proposal in September 2018, which went through a lengthy evaluation process alongside other communities. Background on North Cowichan’s proposal is available here: www.northcowichan.ca/rowingcanada.

4. What does it mean that North Cowichan will be the new home of Rowing Canada Aviron?

Over the next two years, Rowing Canada Aviron will build a boathouse at Art Mann Park and a training facility at the Cowichan Sportsplex. Athletes, coaches, and their families will begin relocating to North Cowichan for the 2021 season. Rowing Canada Aviron will continue to train at Quamichan Lake periodically over the next two years, as they have done for the last decade.

5. When will Rowing Canada Aviron relocate to North Cowichan?

Starting in 2021, athletes, coaches, and their families will begin relocating to Cowichan. A timeline for the next two years is under development and will be shared when completed. Rowing Canada Aviron will continue to train at Quamichan Lake periodically over the next two years, as they have done for the last decade.

6. Who will our new neighbours be?

Athletes are typically between 20-35 years old, and enjoy spending time outdoors and participating in their community when they aren't in a boat. Many athletes have partners and children who will be moving with them.

7. How can the community get involved and support Rowing Canada Aviron?

Community support for Rowing Canada Aviron is important! We want athletes and coaches to feel welcome in their new home, so let's show them our Cowichan hospitality! If you meet athletes, coaches, and their families around town, please be friendly and welcome them to our community! Go watch athletes training on Quamichan Lake! If you own a business and are interested in support or sponsorship for Rowing Canada Aviron, please contact North Cowichan to discuss:

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8. How will this affect the Cowichan Sportsplex?

The Cowichan Sportsplex is located on property owned by North Cowichan. The Sportsplex has a long-term lease for a large portion of the property and has agreed to amend its lease to create room for a new Rowing Canada Aviron training centre. The Sportsplex is a strong supporter of this partnership with Rowing Canada Aviron and believes that the two organizations will complement and enhance each other.

9. How will this affect Art Mann Park?

Art Mann Park will remain a public park with public parking, a boat launch and water access. The 2016 Parks and Trails Master Plan identified that updates are needed at the park. North

Cowichan will build on the playground replacement consultation completed in Summer 2018 to undertake a comprehensive park redesign to identify future upgrades and placement of Rowing Canada Aviron's boathouse facility. The community will be invited to participate in the park redesign process when it is initiated.

10. How will this affect traffic on Indian Road?

In general, 45-60 athletes may be training with Rowing Canada Aviron at any given time, with between 10-25 athletes at Quamichan Lake per training session. This means that there may be an approximate increase of up to 50 vehicles/day on Indian Road. Rowing Canada Aviron says that athletes mostly car share or bike, so actual traffic increases are expected to be lower.

Training typically occurs before and between peak traffic times, so this is not expected to create traffic congestion. There will be the occasional period where traffic volumes will be higher for special events.

11. How will this affect recreational use of Quamichan Lake?

Other recreational uses on Quamichan Lake, such as canoeing, waterskiing, and wakeboarding, can continue to occur. Quamichan Lake is approximately 3 km long and 1 km across, so there is adequate room for these uses to continue alongside a dedicated rowing area. North Cowichan will work with lake users to develop guidelines for lake use.

12. How will this affect the aerodrome on Quamichan Lake?

The entire surface of Quamichan Lake is designated by Nav Canada as the Raven Field aerodrome where float planes can land. North Cowichan, Rowing Canada Aviron, and the aerodrome operator are working together to identify the best place on the lake for the rowing course to enable continued operation of the aerodrome.

13. What is being done to manage and enhance water quality on Quamichan Lake?

North Cowichan is aware of the immense importance of water quality to the community overall and to Rowing Canada Aviron specifically. North Cowichan is committed to doing everything it can to support the health of Quamichan Lake and the people using it.

Like many shallow urban lakes, Quamichan Lake is nutrient rich and may experience periodic blue-green algae blooms. In March 2018, North Cowichan secured a former biologist for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, along with a Masters student from the Ecological Restoration Program at the BC Institute of Technology, to undertake research on the lake and develop restoration recommendations. A restoration plan is expected to be available in Spring 2019 and will provide options and recommendations for enhancing lake health.