

1977 Thunder Bay Rowing Club Senior Heavy Fours

Achievement: Henley Regatta Champions

Induction Year: 1997

Team members(L-R):

Jeff Reitberger

Bill Scollie

Rob Karle

Terry Hamilton



Biography

The 1970s saw a rebuilding process with the Thunder Bay Rowing Club. Jeff Reitberger, Bill Scollie, Rob Karle and Terry Hamilton trained hard in singles events, competing against each other on a daily basis. In 1976 they began training and competing together and it was not long before they advanced to the senior level. Claiming the Ontario title in the Senior Quad Sculls in 1977, their next challenge was the prestigious Royal Canadian Henley Regatta.

It was here that this crew from the Thunder Bay Rowing Club made history with their outstanding performance in the Senior Men's Heavy Fours event. Although racing in the outside slow lane, the crew came from the back of the pack, moving through the field at the mid-point of the race, and holding on to win the event by half a length in a time 6:54. This victory marked the first time that a crew from northwestern Ontario won a senior event at the Henley, the largest regatta held in North America.

Inducted into the Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame, September 27, 1997