

Jack Chambers

Birth Name: John Roy
Community: Fort William
Induction Sport: Rowing
Induction Year: 1988



During the 1930s and 40s Jack Chambers demonstrated the superior athletic qualities which marked his rowing career as one of northwestern Ontario's finest.

Jack started rowing with the Fort William Rowing Club during the early 1930s. During his close-to 15 years with the club, Jack competed successfully in Doubles, 4's, Workboat, 8's and the ever-challenging Single Sculls events. Jack contributed his talents to the Fort William Club's 8 Lipton Cup titles in the Northwestern International Rowing Association's Annual Regattas in 1935, 1937-39 and 1946-49.

Jack was a two-time competitor in the prestigious Royal Canadian Henley Regatta with Fort William's Junior 150 lb. eights in 1935, and then on his own in 1938 in the Junior 140 lb. Single Sculls.

It was in the Junior 140 lb. Singles event that Jack earned the distinction of becoming the first rower from a northwestern Ontario club to win an individual Canadian Henley Regatta title. The course for the 56th Henley Regatta was set on the Welland Canal in Port Dalhousie and in the final

heat of his event Jack was matched against entries from Regina and Detroit. Jack finished the race in a time of 8 minutes and 40 seconds, and was an impressive eight boat lengths ahead of the second-place finisher.

Back in Fort William, Jack continued to demonstrate his outstanding rowing abilities while serving as a member of numerous gold-medal winning crews at NWIRA Regattas.

Following his retirement from competitive rowing in the late 1940s Jack contributed his expertise to the building side of the sport, serving for a while as a coach and Skipper of the Fort William Rowing Club.

Inducted into the Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame, September 17, 1988