Two die in rowing accident

VICTORIA (CUP) — Flags flew at-half-mast last week at the University of Victoria in memory of two UVic rowers who died in a storm during a practice on Friday, January 15.

Gareth Lineen and Daryl Smith, both 19, were among the 18 junior varsity rowers who were thrown into the four degree Celsius waters of Elk Lake when their shells were swamped during a routine rowing practice.

Coach Lorna Ferguson had ordered the boats to return to shore after seeing whitecaps at the far end of the lake. She then ensured a pair (two person craft) that was also on the lake was safely to shore, then headed back to the two eights (nine person craft) to check their

Ferguson found one of the eights overturned and loaded the nine men into her coach boat to take them to shore. But roughly 15 metres from shore her boat sank, forcing all to swim to shore

It was then she realized the other shell had been swamped. The group found shelter at a nearby group found snetter at a nearby house, and called for help from the local police and fire departments, who appeared within "fifteen to twenty minutes," according to In-spector Dennis Lush, in charge of the search.

Firefighters Ron Stubbings and Glen Goldie, found the eight men clinging to their broken craft some 45 minutes after it was overturned

"All we saw were hands reaching out of the water...they survived on pure guts and instinct...they encouraged each other, shouting at each other to keep holding on, and to keep alive," said Stubbings.

Once ashore, a roll call revealed that Gareth Lineen missing. While the other eight rowers were sent to hospital to be treated for varying degrees of hypothermia, the search degrees of hypothern for Lineen contined.

The first search and rescue team went out at 7:15 p.m., according to Rita Boemer, a search and rescue coordinator on the scene.

A helicopter was called from up island, but could not fly to the site due to high winds. A coast guard helicopter arrived later, and scan-ned the lake with bright search lights, only to be forced away 15 ninutes later by high winds.

The search was called off at 9

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Later Friday night, five of the rowers were released from the hos-pital, while two others remained until Saturday morning. Daryl Smith, from Youbou, BC, died Friday night from hypothe

The search for Lineen's body continued through the weekend but despite the aid of depth-sounding equipment, the searchers found

The search was called off for the final time, Tuesday, January 19, but daily monitoring of the lake will

Students, family, faculty, and friends of the two arts undergraduates gathered at a packed memorial service at UVic last weekend. UVic president, Howard Petch, also asked students unable to attend the service to recognize a campus-wide two minutes of silence.

Scholarships are currently being set up in memory of the two

10:00 - 3:00



Two rowers died in a storm in Victoria.

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