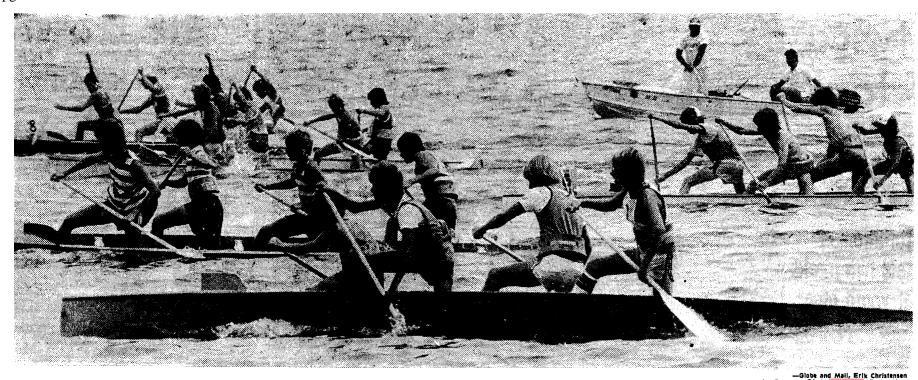
## Despite Sleeths, Mississauga takes regatta

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Referee keeps a close eye on the action as canoes begin to bunch together approaching finish line of the bantam C-4 race at the 72nd annual Balmy Beach Canoe Club regattar Saturday.

## Despite Sleeths, Mississauga takes regat

By ANDREW KING

Brother acts are nothing new to sport, but rarely has any sport received such a total family commitment as canoe-ing has received from the Sleeths of the Balmy Beach Canoe Club.

Bob Sleeth has strengthened the club through his coaching and leadership and his sons Rob, Jim and Ron are three

Rob. Jim and Ron are three of its top competitors. Various combinations of Sleeth leadership and Sleeth paddling accounted for much of Baimy Beach's success Saturday, although the club finished second to Michigans in the competition of the second to the second t Mississauga in its own

Jim, with four firsts, Rob with two and Ron with one, not to mention a smattering of seconds for all three in the 43-race regatta helped Balmy Beach to a 215-point finish. The strong Mississauga Canoe Club had 360.

Mohawk Canoe Club of Burlington was third with 95 points, Oakville fourth with 59 and West Rouge fifth with 36

points. It was the best placing ever for Oakville. which began competitive paddling only two

years ago.

Bob Sleeth said he was Bob Sleeth said he was pleased with Balmy Beach's showing in the day-long regatta, noting that Mississauga, with its greater numbers, better training facilities and international class coaching, was expected to dominate.

"I'm fairly pleased with the way everything turned out," he said. "We had excellent lake conditions for the regatta, some of the smoothest ever. The whole thing her good really wall. thing has gone really well.

"I thought maybe we could be a bit closer (to Mississauga), but the club didn't do too badly today."

Bob, who started competitive canoeing in 1943 and has been involved in Canada's international and Olympic canoeing effort since 1958, likely received some enjoyment from watching his sons win almost every race they

entered. either by themselves or in partnership with other top club canoeists.

Jim, 20, teamed with Scott Williamson to win the junior men's C-2, narrowly defeating older brother Rob, 23, and McIquilham. Mississauga's Mike Hurley and Kevin Stott were third in and Kevin Stott were third in the event. Jim and Scott repeated in the senior men's C-2, again just beating Rob and Gord, and Jim teamed with Bill Phillips, Mark Scanlon, and younger brother Rop. 19 to win the junior C-4 Ron, 19, to win the junior C-4. Rob had his revenge with a victory in the senior C-4, paddling with Gora, Scott and John Hollins. Jim had his poorest finish of the day when his team placed fourth in the event.

The three brothers also competed in the longest race of the day, the open mile war competition. Balmy finished a length canoe Beach behind Mississauga in the event.

The brothers began canoeing in 1969 when the family joined the Balmy Beach Canoe Club, one year after Bob had been team manager for the Canadian canoeing entry in the Mexico Olympics. His sons became immediate devotees of the sport, sacrific-ing hours to the training routines of weightlifting, run-

ning and daily paddling.
"We're training at Long
Pond on Centre Island now,

and we're making better progress than ever before," said Rob, a physical educa-tion graduate from York University, now working to-wards a masters degree at the University of Western

Ontario. "The, training is a lot better there. It's sheltered, so the water's smooth, and we don't have to miss any practices for bad conditions. We train from about five in the evening till

eight at night, and have supper when we get home. It's great, we all love it." Canceing is everything to the Sleeths. Jim took a camp-ing trip this summer, "just to get away from the grind, to get away from the daily trip out to Centre Island," but when he and several friends left for the north country in their rented van, four racing canoes went along.

"I wouldn't do anything that would interfere with my paddling," he said. "I would never take a job where I wouldn't be able to paddle.

wouldn't be able to paddle. Once you've done this for a summer, you can't leave it."
"I've been in canoeing for 30 years," said his father, "and you've got to love it to stay that long. As far as I'm concerned there's nothing like it. The people you meet are great. Here is where you always find the best soortsman.

ways find the best sportsman-ship, the best friends." Rob explained that the brothers set goals for the year when the season begins, "and

usually we make them. This year our goal is to qualify for the Canadian championships, and it looks like we might do

While his father thinks the

While his father thinks the three all stand a chance of qualifying for the North American championships, Rob said "we'll try for it, of course, but we're not holding our breath."
"It'd be great to be on the national team," agreed Jim, an undergraduate in physical education at York. And the Olympics? "Sure, we all dream about the Olympics but that's about as far as But that's about as far as we'll get for a while.
"We just want to do well at

the nationals. I think we will. We're going great so far."