



—Globe and Mail, John Malola.

Maintaining their slim margin over the **Balmy Beach** Club (5) are paddlers from the Mississauga Canoe Club (4) in the Bantam men's K2 race.

## Spunky Island catching up on older clubs

After the Mississauga Canoe Club captured its fourth consecutive Western Division regatta of the season at **Balmy Beach** on Saturday, one club member remarked: "We always win. The regattas are more challenging when our top

paddlers are away at international regattas."

The real challenge was the fight for second place between Island Canoe Club and **Balmy Beach**.

At the end of more than nine hours of

competition, Island had squeezed past **Balmy Beach**, 140-120. It was a double victory for Island, which beat out its richer parent club and at its home regatta.

"The kids at **Beach** have a good establishment," said Island coach John Hollins. "Our kids have nothing and they use that for inspiration.

"We are winning because we have a good coaching program and most of our coaches paddle. We are really strong in the ladies' events and war canoe — they had been stressed at **Beach**. I'm sure that we'll catch up to Mississauga in a couple of years."

The Island crew, in boats borrowed from **Balmy Beach**, won two of its four war canoe races. The Island club also was strong in the women's kayak events, but had to scratch two races because it didn't have the kayaks it needed. Mississauga, the 1978 Canadian champion, won the club trophy with 180 points. The gap between Island and Mississauga is closing. At the first regatta of the season, Mississauga was 101 points ahead of second-place Island.

Island Canoe Club was started two years ago when Hollins made an agreement to paddle with **Balmy Beach**, but teach paddling at Wards Island. Hollins

said "the agreement was that we would recruit the **Beach** kids who lived on the island and **Beach** would have the city kids. We started with 30 kids and now we have about 120." Seventy per cent of the paddlers are from the city.

The Island crews have outclassed **Balmy Beach** at every regatta but one this season. At North Bay a week ago, Island finished fourth and **Beach** was third. However, Island entered only 25 crews because "we don't have a trailer and we have to beg parents to take boats on top of their cars." **Beach** entered 64 crews.

**Balmy Beach** was the winner in prize money yesterday. The club estimated that it would bring in \$10,000 from the spectators, who lined the shore of Lake Ontario to watch the regatta.

"We're the oldest club (74 years) and we've grown as a community. Last year we earned about \$10,000 — from the bar and dance. Only part of the money is shared with the paddlers, but it goes a long way toward paying for the boats." Most clubs — except Island — take in around \$200 at their regattas. "Have you seen our clubhouse?" said Hollins, "It's a field."

The next regatta is July 22, at the Mohawk Club of Burlington.