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West Rouge paddlers take an unexpected dip at the Balmy Beach Canoe Club regatta. North Bay won the 76th annual event.

# North Bay paddlers triumph again

By MICHAEL COSGROVE

North Bay Canoe Club became the first double winner in Western Ontario division regattas this season by edging perennial favorite Mississauga Canoe Club 137-135 Saturday at the 76th edition of the Balmy Beach Canoe Club regatta.

North Bay had won its own series of races a week earlier. Before that West Rouge prevailed in its regatta, Mississauga won at home and in the Dominion Day Regatta on Centre Island Oakville took top honors.

Saturday's regatta wasn't decid-

ed until the final race, the open war canoe. North Bay held a 135-129 lead over Mississauga and, with 12 points going to the winner, a win by Mississauga coupled with anything less than a third place by North Bay would have given Mississauga the burgee.

When Mississauga finished second to Oakville for six points, North Bay's fifth place earned it two points, enough to preserve the lead and give North Bay its second successive Balmy Beach title.

"We were aware of the situation going into the final race," North Bay coach Terry Evans said. "We knew it was close between ourselves Mississauga and Oakville;

we had to get some points from that race, and we did, even if it was two for a fifth-place finish."

Evans, who brought 96 paddlers and 20 canoes and kayaks from North Bay for the regatta, said some of his crews missed out on valuable points in earlier races. "Because of the waves, some of the paddlers missed their strokes. We're not really used to this type of conditions. It's probably better suited to the clubs near the lake. We do train ourselves on a lake. But it's much smaller than Lake Ontario."

Evans also said that on a few occasions his paddlers had to go

back to the start for another race shortly after finishing.

In the second-last race, the midget boys K-4, the North Bay boat hit the boat in the lane beside it and was disqualified. The race was restarted. "That crew is young and inexperienced, we weren't expecting to win that race, but we did hope to gain some points in it," Evans said. At its own regatta, the same crew suffered the embarrassment of falling out of the boat.

Oakville, with 134, took third, followed by West Rouge with 109, Balmy Beach with 99, Island with 39 and Mohawk with nine.