

# Mississauga paddlers capture own regatta, Czech newcomers inspire Burlington entry

By RALPH ADAMS

Racing canoe experts from Europe plunged into the Southern Ontario division at Mississauga Club's regatta and made themselves felt as serious point winners for their adopted Canadian Canoe Association clubs.

As the racing season opened Saturday the numerically overpowering Mississauga entries splashed to first place with 231 points. But this was a far cry from the 1968 opener when Mississauga won every race on the card.

West Rouge broke 100 in

point gathering for the first time in the club's history, taking second with 112. Mohawk was a rising third with 72, Balmly Beach was next with 60 and a sparse Sudbury entry wet their paddles for two points.

A group of Czechs, Peter Patasi, Hubert Bednarik, Peter Ilavacka, Dusan Plontek, Milena Handl and Hubert's wife Toni joined the Mohawk Club this spring and helped lift the Burlington club's spirits with point-winning ways.

Mohawks' coach Mike Moir

was delighted with the Czech arrivals. Two are working in St. Catharines and two in Hamilton.

"They dropped in to our club one weekend and asked if we had racing canoes in the boathouse. I was doing some painting and when I said yes they wanted to get on the water right away," Mike said.

"Milena is the prize, though," he noted. "She comes all the way from Sarnia to compete in regattas and right after her events today, she had to get back home."

Another Czech, Karl Korinek, is with Balmly Beach. Les Reithauser, an impressive Hungarian, is wearing Mississauga colors.

Korinek was a winner in the senior singles. Reithauser took a first place in the senior kayak singles and carried a paddle in the winning open kayak four.

Bednarik and Plontek were second in the junior C2, second in the senior C2, second in the junior C4. Milena Handl and Toni Bednarik were second in the Women's K2. Patasi was third in the junior K1 and third in the junior K4. Toni also picked up a third in the K1.

West Rouge Club officials point to the coaching of Fred Heese as a major factor in their success. Heese for many seasons was associated with Mississauga, but switched to the East Enders this year. It was a sunny day, too, when white-water paddlers Herman Kerckhoff and Hans Poenne joined the Rouge flat-water forces. This pair give the club considerable double-blade power. They were in the winning junior K boat and in the senior craft that finished second.