

# Surf was up at Balmy Beach regatta as Burlington Mohawks won aggregate

By RALPH ADAMS

Mohawk paddlers inought Balmy Beach Canoe Club put on a swell regatta Saturday.

Like the Beachers, the Mohawks train on Lake Ontario at Burlington under the same open-water conditions the Beachers do at the east end of Toronto.

Saturday, the persistent pressure of an east wind put a swell on Lake Ontario that was read capably by Mohawk and Beach, much to the distress of river clubs Mississauga, West Rouge and Carleton Place.

The result was Mohawks finished first in aggregate points with 200; Mississauga was second with 175; the Beachers were dancing on the shore with 116; West Rouge was fourth with 79 and Carleton Place, with a token representation, was last with 44.

Shortly after the racing started at 10.30 a.m., the swell had the crews shouting, "Surf's up" and throughout the program the shoreline was plagued with problems of launching and retrieving boats after races.

Coaches prudently refused to launch their 30-foot delicate Kayak boats for fear they would spit in the rolling water. As a result the K events were raced in C craft.

The Balmy regatta was the last club event prior to the southern Ontario division, Canadian Canoe Association, trials at Long Pond, Centre Island. The first three finishers next weekend will qualify for the CCA championships.

West Rouge, though finishing fourth in points, moved back into respectability when its war canoe won the junior and senior events and lost the open race to Mohawks by three feet. These three events provided the best war-canoe racing of the season.

The day provided many highlights. Paul Wickens, possibly the smallest paddler in the regatta at 100 pounds and 5 feet 2 inches, beat his Mississauga bantam-class nemesis, Steve Wilson, in the C-1 race, coming home a winner by several lengths.

Rod Bennett and John Speirs of the Beach finally cracked their also-ran classification by taking the juvenile C-2 contest. This inspired Bill White, Chicago Black Hawks' defenceman, to take over coaching the pair, prior to the division trials.

Bennett is son of the former distinguished lineman with Argonauts, Pete Bennett. After their win, White volunteered to coach them and White comes with good qualifications. White was a C boat paddler and was a cinch to make the Olympics but disqualified himself buy signing to play professional hockey. White also brought about a

rule in CCA books barring juveniles from paddling in 10,000-meter C-boat championships. White, as a juvenile, won the Canadian title at Ottawa on Mooney's Bay in 1956 and from then on allowing such young fry to go these championship distances was frowned on by the paddling fathers. The Southern division will await with suspense to evaluate White's persuasion as a coach. White, who is divorced from summer hockey school activities, volunteered

for the paddling coaching job. Brothers John and Brian Bliss became first winners of the Curly Thorne Memorial Trophy. The Burlington pair received the trophy that will be for annual competition at the Beach regatta from Thorne's widow Ruth. Thorne was a coxwain of Beach war canoes when they were winning Canadian titles in the 1930-40 era.

Mohawks enjoyed a lot of mileage from the skills of Jim Farintosh and Jock Stewart.

These former Balmy Beachers turned in excellent performances.

As a C-2 tandem, they won the senior event. Stewart won second in the junior C-1. They joined Adian Taylor and Brad McEwen to win the senior C-4. This quarter was also in the senior and open war canoes in which Mohawks were second to West Rouge in the senior race and prevailed in the open event. Bill Dinsmore was in the coxwain's seat for both tests.