

# Mississauga paddlers capture third regatta

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BURLINGTON — Mohawk Canoe Club's regatta turned by rough water into an Operation Rescue failed to upset the order of things in the Western Division paddling scene. But it did show that clubs which train on lake water have many able mariners in their ranks.

Mississauga scored its third successive triumph with 185 points but lake-situated Balmy Beach, West Rouge and Mohawk showed gains. The Beachers were second with 93, West Rouge third with 56 and Mohawk last with 31.

With division trials for Canadian Canoe Association championship berths at Centre Island next Saturday, the Mohawk regatta clouded many races where Mississauga crews had been heavily favored off calm-water ratings.

West Rouge's senior Canadian boat four scored a handy triumph. J. Gomes, B. Hobbs, J. MacKeracher and R. Woitzik rode the swells off Spencer Park to a decisive win.

A Balmy Beach juvenile Canadian boat four manned by brothers T. Simich and M. Simich and M. Thompson and P. McCrae capped a steadily-improving performance with a victory. Beaches' George McConnachie was impressive with his win in the junior C 1.

Early indications of the havoc rough water could create came in the bantam C 4 race, first on the card where the winning West Rouge boat was the only one of six starters to finish. The rest swamped. In the bantam C 1, 10 paddlers went to the start and only Beaches' Andy Wickens crossed the finish line.

Racing canoe people are a safety-minded lot and after five races, distances were cut in half and the regatta declared a day of open racing. The east wind blew cold water to shore and built a dangerous swell. The Burlington water patrol manned two rescue boats which picked up six girls who rolled out of a war canoe at the finish line.

Mohawk victories have been hard to come by all season and one of the club's most intense losers has been Joan Crawford who reacts to loss as she would to a stab wound. Joan and her partner Diane Heim capsized immediately after they had driven their

Kayak 2 bow across the finish line in first place but they thought they had been disqualified by falling from the boat. Joan's movie namesake never put on a better display of frustration than the Mohawk did in the rescue boat, but when she learned she had won, she and her partner leaped up and down nearly falling out of the police boat for a second dunking.

Bill Collins' Port Credit club continued with a display of strength. The senior war canoe, with Collins in the cox-wain's seat, went the 1,500 metres to an impressive win over Balmy Beach. The Beachers, though, wrenched war canoe awards from Mississauga in the bantam and juvenile races.