

Mohawk girl paddlers end 10-year drought

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BURLINGTON — Mohawk

Canoe Club made Saturday a day of happy firsts. The sun shone on the first regatta held from the new clubhouse. The host club scored 100 points for the first time in the Southern Ontario division of the Canadian Canoe Association. Head coach Mike Moir's war canoe girls crossed the finish line a winner after 10 years of trying.

Mississauga Club disregarded the frills and in a business-like manner dominated the point totals with a winning 213 aggregate. West Rouge was second with 142, Mohawk third with 114 and Balmy Beach last with 73.

Racing conditions were excellent at the start of the program but a wind that gained momentum as the afternoon wore on caused a large number of boats to swamp and the paddles, knee buns and floor boards floating in the areas of the swampings made them look like disaster regions. Apart from the Saturday baths coming early, no harm was done in the 48 degree water. Alert patrol boat pickups quickly had the paddlers out of the water.

The junior C 4 race that was 22nd on the 32-race card, had nine starters and at the finish with one man paddling and the other three bailing, the Balmy Beach crew of Larry Hayes, Juris Ratneiks, Jim Farintosh and Karl Tinier crossed the line alone.

A feature of the regatta was the erosion of the iron grip Mississauga has held on war canoe events. Missie prevailed in only the 1,500 metre open. Jim Mossman piloted Balmy Beach juvenile war boat home winner by six inches. Mohawks won the ladies' big boat race and West Rouge triumphed in the junior and bantam tests.

Mac Hickox was a winner in the C 1 senior singles and indicated this premier event will be unpredictable this season. Karl Korinek of Balmy Beach won at Mississauga. With Bill Pitt, Jim Reardon and Dean Oldershaw of Missie rounding into shape, the race should be a see-saw test of strength through the division.

As the program progressed, West Rouge was nibbling at the big Mississauga lead and when the Port Credit club announced it would not enter K4 boats in the late stages of the regatta, there was a chance Missie would be pushed out of points leadership. A late change in plans sent the Ladies' K 4 and the juvenile K 4 to the water and both crews won. These points, added to the Mississauga win in the 1,500 metre war canoe that closed the card, clinched the decision.