



Spencer Dunn of Port Credit sends his Mercury-powered Molinari around a buoy on his way to second place finish.

## Mohawk captures Burlington paddling after knocking on doors for recruits

By RALPH ADAMS  
Globe and Mail Reporter

BURLINGTON — Mohawk Canoe Club wrote a tidy entry in Burlington's Centennial Celebration book on Saturday when the green-and-white-clad paddlers won their home regatta in the Southern Ontario division of the Canadian Canoe Association.

The Hawks, as they are called by club members, wiped out the stain of losing the season opener at Mississauga Club by running up a 239-point first-place total. Mississauga struggled to score a second-place 179. Trailing this pair were Balmy Beach 92, West Rouge 70 and North Bay 17.

In winning 16 events on the 32-race card, the Hawks' upper-grade crews supplied the power, but the bantam war canoe came through with a first-ever victory for this event in 15 years of club history.

To juvenile Brent Steele must go most of the credit for this excellent breakthrough. He went through Burlington

knocking on doors recruiting bantams. His list finally grew to 40 and from these he picked 14 to be the competing boatload. Steele was in the cox-wain's seat as he steered the boat down the wind-ruffled course off the shore of Confederation Park.

The Oldershaw family, which first formed a successful club within the Mississauga Club when they raced out of Port Credit and then moved to Quebec to produce further successes, had another big day in Mohawk colors Saturday. Reed Oldershaw won the senior K-1, paired with his brother Scott to win the senior K-2 and joined brothers Dean and Scott to be three of the winning K-4 crew. Sister Lee was also in two winning K boats.

Paddlers went through a variety of weather. Lake Ontario at Burlington was as smooth as a millpond when the regatta started at 10:30 a.m. By noon, as the non-stop program continued, an east wind built up a modest swell that produced a backlash from the park's seawall, mak-

ing the inside course perilous. By the time the final mile war canoe race was to start, a strong west wind riding along the edge of a thunderstorm put a two-foot chop at the gunline. So many crews capsized or swamped during the day that some called it the upside-down regatta.

Five boats started in the war canoe finale, but only a crew of rough-water-experienced Balmy Beachers crossed the finish line. A Mohawk and a Mississauga crew swamped soon after the race put to shore, leaving crews of Dean Oldershaw of Mohawk and Bill Lee of Balmy Beach the only contestants. The Beach boys built a 50-yard lead, but the Mohawks closed that to two lengths as the crews neared the finish line. At that point, the Mohawks went under.

In the Mississauga inaugural, the Mohawks took nearly every kayak race on the card. At Burlington they were blocked from picking up trophies in several races. Robert Lagodi of the Beach won the

junior K-1 event, Mississauga's Ian Ramsay won the juvenile K-1, Steve Szirak and Paul McArthur of the Beach won the junior K-2, Don Slayter and Ian Ramsay of Mississauga were first in the Juvenile K-2.

Continuing bright spots in the division were Mississauga's Steven Wilson, who made his six-miles-a-day training routine pay off with four bantam firsts and West Rouge's sturdy junior war canoe, which piled up its second successive victory impressively.

North Bay, which seems misplaced in the Southern Ontario division, but paddles there until enough clubs are formed in the north to create a division, was at Burlington with a 10-man entry and the junior C-4 scored as popular a win as any. Doug Charters, Clemmie Ducharme, Peter Bullock and Chris Lecour made up the boatload of kneelers and they appeared to be division-top material in beating Mississauga and two Mohawk crews.