

War canoe win helps W. Rouge end tradition

By RALPH ADAMS

West Rouge Canoe Club's big war canoe smashed tradition Saturday and won the regatta for the young club at the mouth of the Rouge River.

Larry Collins steered the Rouge boat through a heavy shower and rising wind on a string-straight 1,500-meter course to add 12 points to the host club's total and make sure of another burgee to nail to the masthead.

For many years, such a tense finish to a Western Ontario Division regatta would have seen a Mississauga crew with Larry's brother Bill in the Mississauga coxwain's seat steering to a win.

Saturday, Larry, formerly a Mississauga paddler, had his West Rouge men sharp. Their victory was doubly sweet. It left the club with 204 points, the first time in its history that it had broken 200.

Lurking in second place, with the last war canoe race on the program to come, were the Mohawks from Burlington, but Mike Moir's crew, in a spanking new boat, could take only second place, three boath-lengths behind the winners.

The Mohawks finished the day second in points with 189. Mississauga was third with 158 and Balmy Beach last with 46.

Mississauga again missed their three senior-division big guns, who are training this summer in Hungary. Dean Oldershaw in kayaks and Scott Lee and John Wood in Canadian canoes are without peers in their classes in Canada.

Successes by both West Rouge and Mohawk clubs are the results of patience in building for several seasons on a base of well-trained bantams. The result has meant the best season of competition that this Canadian Canoe Association division has seen in many years.