



# THE CATCH

South Niagara Canoe Club Newsletter, Volume 13 Issue 9

October 2023

## National Coaches Week

Recognized in Canada September 16-24, it is an opportunity to thank our many coaches for all that they do for us! Their time, generosity, and effort do not go unnoticed!

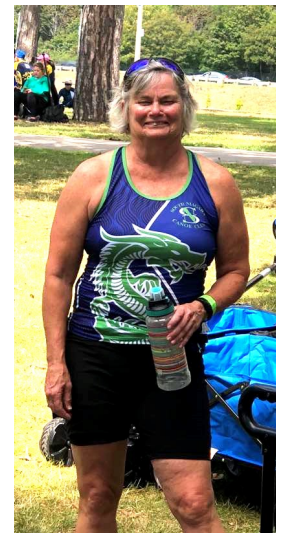
### #ThanksCoach



*Aiden and Evan at WODs in Welland with Marilyn and Lindsay.*



*Brenda at Hamilton Waterfest.*

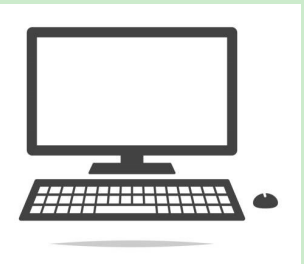


*Jan at GWN.*

## Looking for a new editor for the Catch



After being the editor of the Catch for the last seven years, it's time for a fresh perspective. I am looking to step down after the December 2023 edition of the Catch. I have learned a lot about this Club and paddling sports by highlighting both sides and their accomplishments. The new editor or editorial team can start in 2024. I'm happy to answer any questions about the responsibilities involved.



*The Catch* shares news about SNCC and its members  
So you can stay connected with SNCC and its members.

# A Message from the Commodore, Alan Wright

## Competition and Community

As the leaves turn colour and the light wanes, paddlers across Canada look to October to provide 2023's last full month of on-water practice of the sport they love. At South Niagara Canoe Club, a large contingent of Dragon Boat paddlers will don warmer clothing and take to the Waterway as the sun sets a little earlier every evening. A small yet committed group of Masters and Para athletes will ply the course for the seventh consecutive month. And the youth of SNCC, some of whom began the year training in sunnier climes, will pursue their quest six days a week. Paddlers—Club members born in eight different decades—all enjoying the challenge and the benefits of our great Canadian sport in the season of Thanksgiving.



Today, October 1, I am proud to take on the role of SNCC Commodore at a time when our Club can count many assets just as it faces several challenges. On October 19 we expect an excellent turnout for our Awards Night and 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. This will be a moment to recognize our many accomplishments, to congratulate those who built our Club, and to look towards the future. We have improved our facilities and expanded our equipment pool, added many adult members, provided a paddling experience for over 200 children at the 2023 Canoe Kids Camp and founded a Youth Racing Camp, hosted successful regattas and festivals, won many medals, and contributed unselfishly to the broader Niagara region. At the same time, the SNCC must strive for financial sustainability to flourish as we look forward to our next 15 years.

*Alan at the Coast to Coast to Coast Paddle Challenge in 2020 at SNCC.*

Last year when I was conducting research and reflecting on my own involvement in sports growing up in Lachine, Quebec, I thought of the vital connection between the notions of *competition and community*: those ideas inspired the title of my family memoir. I believe those two words connect us as members of the SNCC and can inspire our thinking, our actions, and our commitment to the Club. Many of our top paddlers look to achievement as racers, and recreational paddlers are also determined in the pursuit of personal fitness and self-improvement. Board Members, many of them new, aim to provide determined leadership for future



*Photo by Alan Wright.*

betterment of the Club. An increasing number of members are motivated by that idea of *asking not what the Club can do for them, but what they can do for the Club*. In the end, it will be the deep-felt sense of community that will make the SNCC a Club central to a worthy investment of our leisure time, a commitment to health and fitness, a refreshing place of well-being where you know you have friends, and truly *Niagara's destination for paddling sports. "Paddles Up!"*

Alan Wright  
Commodore, SNCC

**#PaddlesUp!**

# Nationals/CANMAS

Day 4 and Day 5 of Nationals took place on September 1 and 2, with CANMAS on September 3. Lindsay Davis and Marilyn Abbs represented South Niagara Canoe Club well on the national stage, despite being a para team of only two athletes, they placed 2nd overall in points.

PARA BURGEE POINTS	
Club	Points
Maskwa	208
South Niagara	46
Burnaby	44
Balmy Beach	32
Rideau	32
Banook	24
Shawinigan	24
Burloak	16

*Official results from Canoe Kayak Canada, Burgee Points document for 2023.*



*Day 4, Race 313, Para Women Va'a 500m, Marilyn Abbs in lane 3.*



*Day 5, race 376, Para Women K1 200m Final. Lindsay in lane 7 and Marilyn in lane 9. Screenshots from YouTube.*



*Lindsay receiving her medal.*

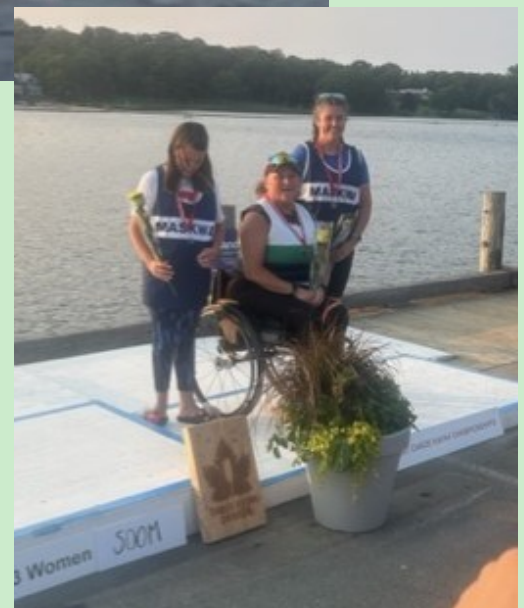


*Marilyn receiving her medal.*



*Photos by Coach Evan.*

**#goSNCCgo**



Tim Hortons



# GWN Challenge

Marking the end of the season for many, this marquee event by Great White North gives crews the chance to go out with a bang, celebrating with two days of racing in downtown Toronto. Running for over 25 years, this classic festival features teams coming from all over Canada and the US.

The Tim Hortons GWN Dragon Boat Challenge presented by BMO is held on the Western Beaches Watercourse in downtown Toronto's Marilyn Bell Park.

In 2023, SNCC entered a Women's team at GWN. The ladies made it to the Women's Division Grand A Finals where they managed their best 500m time of the weekend, finishing with 2:40.50 just shy of a bronze medal. Also in the Women's Division Grand A Final 200m, the SNCC Canal Dragons finished fourth. Well done team!



*Left, the Canal Dragons Women's Team, photo shared by Linda E, taken by Ana D. Below, a screenshot of Canal Dragons in Boat 3 in their first 500m race of the weekend. Video by Ana D.*

*Below, a picture of Ana D by Bernadette M.*



**#goSNCCgo**

# Stratford Rotary Dragon Boat Festival

Run by the Rotary Club of Stratford and held on Lake Victoria in Stratford, the one-day festival had up to 50 teams participating in the recreational Hong Kong style 500m races. There was also a 2000m race for the top 8 teams and a 100m sprint challenge for the top 4 teams in each division (Mixed, Women's, Breast Cancer Paddler). Canal Dragons finished in the C Division Championship in a very tight finish! A 2:38.52 for first place, Gene's Restaurant Juniors, a 2:38.55 for Canal Dragons, a 2:38.65 for Lambton Shores Super Oars, and a 2:39.09 for RowBust Dragon Boat Team for BCS. What an exciting way to end the day!



*Photo during the BCS Ceremony by Linda Kuska, shared on the Stratford Rotary Dragon Boat Festival FaceBook page.*

#goSNCCgo



*Photos by Luisa. Shared on the Dragon Boat with SNCC FaceBook page. Above, Canal Dragons in action. Left, Canal Dragons with their Silver medals!*

# Christie Lake



Photo from Alkame's FaceBook page.

Held on September 23 at the Christie Lake Conservation Area near Dundas, Ontario. SNCC fielded a mixed crew and a women's crew. This festival featured 200m races, a 200m back it down race, a 100m upside down paddle race for the Women's crew and a *different?* 100m mystery race for the Mixed crew. The day ended with the 2000m races where the Women's crew had a time of 11:33.05 and the Mixed crew had a time of 10:37.92. Well done, crews!



#goSNCCgo



Photos by Linda Emslie.

# Schools come to SNCC!



SNCC was the Niagara destination for paddle sports for Brock University students as well as Niagara West High School students in September when Kinesiology Professor Nathan Hall and Physical Education teacher Karen Heeringa booked time on the water, and some Brock students also enjoyed unscheduled swims as they attempted to find balance in tippy racing canoes and kayaks. These outings provided a great introduction to our Club and paddling. Thanks to Evan Landry, Brenda Arndt, Ashley Battista and Alan Wright for supporting our visiting paddlers.



*Story and pictures by Alan Wright.*

# October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Looking back at more photos from Hope Floats Challenge by Anthony Gallaccio, friend of SNCC. See more of his great work on Facebook.





# Updates from the Board

## Changes at the Board of Directors!

At the September 21 Board Meeting, there were a number of changes.

**Outgoing members:** Tracey Pigeon as Commodore and co-Treasurer, as of September 21, Shawn Wilson, a director at large as of September 21, Brenda Arndt as ex-Officio/non-voting member as of October 31, Annie Eckhardt as co-Treasurer as of November 16, and Bernadette Morrissey as Secretary as of November 16. Thank you all for your service!

**New:** Alan Wright as Commodore, Michelle Lowry as Vice-Commodore Canoe/Kayak, Kathleen Reardon as Treasurer, and new directors at large Anne-Marie Ciancio, Barb Perry, and Jo Feekery. Congratulations and welcome! See our website, [SNCC.CA](http://SNCC.CA), for a complete list of Board Members.



## Bingo Volunteers: October 1 at Delta City Bingo, Welland



Additional volunteers are welcome to join the fundraising fun in support of SNCC. It's one 2-hour shift on the first Sunday of the month for people 19 years or older. Contact Marilyn at [626sledger@gmail.com](mailto:626sledger@gmail.com) for the online training and for more information. To date, SNCC has raised over \$6000 from five Bingo shifts! We await approval from the City of Welland for our purchases of boats and equipment for the club with the Bingo money.

## SNCC's 15th Anniversary: October 19, 2023, Casa Dante Lodge in Welland

The Annual Awards night will be combined with our Anniversary party for an evening of celebration and food. Tickets are on sale on our website, [SNCC.CA](http://SNCC.CA), until October 12 priced at \$25 for adults and \$15 for children ages 18 and under. Tickets will be available at the door at a cost of \$35 for adults and \$25 for children ages 18 and under. Contact Kathleen via email at [kat\\_reardon@hotmail.com](mailto:kat_reardon@hotmail.com) if you can help out.



## Winter Training: to be determined

The Coaches will be working out the details of off-water training schedule, dates, and locations while the Board of Directors will be determining fees. We hope to have information for the membership soon.

## Budget for 2024 Paddling Season: to be determined

Much like the price of groceries and gas, membership fees and program fees at SNCC will be going up. The Board will work hard to determine a fair and reasonable increase. Fundraising and volunteering will help keep costs down at SNCC. More information to come.



## Next issue: November 2023

Pictures and story ideas for **The Catch** can be emailed to Kathleen: [kat\\_reardon@hotmail.com](mailto:kat_reardon@hotmail.com)



[SNCC.CA](http://SNCC.CA)