

## The Ottawa Canoe Club in the Nineteenth Century

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Organized sport, including water sports, flourished in the last half of the nineteenth century. John MacGregor's book, *A Thousand Miles in the Rob Roy Canoe on the Rivers and Lakes of Europe*, published in 1866 helped to promote canoe touring. In the 1850s settlers in the Peterborough area engaged in informal races using increasingly sophisticated dugout canoes and then went on to develop planked canoes over bent ribs – these evolved into the cedar strip canoe. By 1880 racing sailing and paddling canoes had become popular and emerged as organized sports. The formation of the American Canoe Association (ACA) in New York in 1880 was a key point in the development of canoe racing as an independent sport.<sup>1</sup>

Canoeists from Ottawa participated in the ACA's first regatta at Lake George in 1880 and in 1883 seven young Ottawa paddlers organized an "Association to Exercise and Promote the Noble Art of Paddling"; the association soon emerged as the Ottawa Canoe Club, the ancestor of the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club. In the beginning the club had 20 or 30 members; by 1887 it had 53 members. Members had a mix of Rice Lake, birch bark, Peterborough and decked canoes. There was little interest in its first regatta, the second drew larger crowds and the club began to grow.<sup>2</sup> In 1885, "...realizing that tangible and visible assets might help them by creating an impression of wealth, stability and permanency..." the members raised \$200 and built a floating boathouse on the Ottawa River at the foot of St. Patrick Street.<sup>3</sup>

For the next 50 years the club was one of the important sporting and social centres in Ottawa. In 1888 its annual ball at Ottawa's finest hotel, the Russell House, attracted over 200 couples including Lady Macdonald and the wives of numerous cabinet ministers. The ballroom was decorated with two sailing canoes with "white lateen and Mohican sails".<sup>4</sup> The Marquis of Lorne, the Governor General, was the club's first honorary patron; its first commodore was Lieutenant Colonel G.J. Maunsell, who was the commanding officer of the Ottawa Military District. Sir Charles Tupper, Prime Minister in 1896, was the commodore in 1895. D'Arcy Scott, mayor of Ottawa, 1907-1908, was an active paddler in the 1890s as was A.A. Pinard, a senior civil servant in the Department of the Interior.<sup>5</sup> In 1901 the club hosted the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall (the future King George V and Queen Mary) on their visit to Ottawa.

The site at the foot of St. Patrick Street did not provide a good paddling course and the masses of sawdust dumped into the river by the mills at the Chaudiere Falls made it unattractive for swimming. In later years Francis Gisborne recalled "the stories we had about the sawdust, the explosions from the gas it generated, the people drowned by imagining they were stepping on solid ground, the narrow escapes..."<sup>6</sup> As well, the growth of the membership required a larger club house. In April of 1894 the Ottawa Canoe Club was incorporated and in May it leased a new site from Thomas and Annie Keefer. The site was two miles downstream from Nepean Point, opposite Pointe Gatineau, and below the mouth of the Gatineau River. A plan dated 1915 shows it just

downstream from the Seguin ferry landing on the eastern portion of the land now occupied by the Rockcliffe Marina. It was reached easily by street car on the Rockcliffe line. Within the year the club had assigned its lease to the Ottawa Club House Company, Ltd.<sup>7</sup>

The Ottawa Canoe Club House Company was incorporated in May of 1894 by David Maclaren, lumber merchant, George Burn, banker, George Patrick Brophy, civil engineer, James Devin Fraser, secretary of the Ottawa Electric Street Railway Company, Henri Roy, civil servant, John Alexander Drysdale Holebrook, merchant, and Richard Henry Haycroft, insurance agent, all of Ottawa. The purpose of the company was to build and maintain a boat house or aquatic club building to lease or sell. The boat house company had an authorized capital of \$3000 divided into three hundred shares; Maclaren was the largest single shareholder.<sup>8</sup>



**1. The Ottawa Canoe Club, about 1894. Source: LAC, PA-027419, Topley Collection**

The club raised about \$3,500 to build a new clubhouse on the leased lot and the building was completed late in July 1894.<sup>9</sup> Designed by the local firm of Arnoldi and Calderon, it was a long, narrow, two story building with storage for 85 canoes, a ballroom and a veranda; its most commented on feature was a seven horse power electric hoist used to raise and lower canoes to the water.<sup>10</sup> Initially the building was set on piles but after it was damaged by high water in the spring of 1899 the club built a concrete wall under the

front of the building to protect it from ice damage. In 1896 the original clubhouse was floated down the river and used as a storage shed for two war canoes and for a number of personal canoes. A diving tower was built on top of the floating shed.<sup>11</sup>

The canoe club gradually acquired privately held shares in the clubhouse company; by 1908 it owned 145 of the 190 outstanding shares.<sup>12</sup>

The club house burned on 3 December 1922.<sup>13</sup>



**2. Ottawa Canoe Club, about 1909. The crowd is around the "swimming tank."  
Source: LAC, R9921, Vol.1, BC2001109291, J.R. O'Connell album.**

### The 1897 Constitution

By 1884 the club had adopted a constitution but no copy of this has been found<sup>14</sup> and very little is known about its early organization. The 1897 constitution began by setting out:

The object of the Club shall be to unite the amateur canoeists of Ottawa by means of meetings for business or pleasure; by camping-, cruising, paddling, sailing and racing; by keeping logs of voyages, records of waterways and routes, details and drawings of canoes, collections of maps, charts and books, and by the acquirement and maintenance of club houses and camping grounds.<sup>15</sup>

The club's membership was divided into four categories - honorary, active, life, and junior. Honorary members were elected annually by a unanimous vote of the executive and did not pay fees. Active members required a proposer and seconder before being elected to the club; objections to a proposed member could only be overruled by the unanimous vote of the executive. Active members could become life members by paying

\$50 or by transferring 5 shares in the Ottawa Canoe Club House Company to the OCC. Junior members were boys between 12 and 16; they could not vote, hold office, or bring guests to the club. Membership for active members was \$3.50 per year; for junior members the fee was \$1.00. The constitution made no provision for female members but each honorary, active or life member could obtain season admission cards for two ladies.

The executive consisted of a commodore, vice-commodore, captain, secretary-treasurer and seven committeemen. A revision of the constitution made about 1900 divided the Secretary-Treasurer position into two. From 1883 to 1903 the Governor-General was the patron of the club. The captain was responsible for the management of the club; he presided at all general meetings and was ex-officio, a member of all committees. The executive committee consisted of the captain, secretary-treasurer and the seven committeemen; the commodore and vice-commodore were honorary officers. The 1900 revision reduced the number of committeemen to five but added the treasurer and the secretary of the racing committee to the executive committee.

The constitution provided for the organization of a racing committee to arrange for regattas, races and aquatic sports and for the organization of other, unspecified, committees. The chairmen of all committees were members of the executive committee. The 1900 revision provided more detail on the composition of the racing committee; it was to consist of the captain, the secretary of the racing committee, the two official measurers, and eight committee members, two to be elected from each branch – paddling, canoe sailing, skiff sailing, and swimming and water sports.



Article XIX provided that no spirituous liquors or beer were to be sold at the club. Article XX described the club pennant as “...an Oxford Blue Pointed Burgee, eighteen inches long and twelve inches wide, with a white beaver in the centre, and the letters O.C.C. also in white, one below the other next the staff.” The club’s full dress uniform was a “White Flannel Suit and Cap similar to that worn by officers of the Royal Navy.” Club colours were oxford blue and white.

The club house was to be open from 7:00 AM to 10:30 PM, It was in charge of a caretaker under the direction of the house committee. Each member of the executive committee, except for the Secretary Treasurer, served as the house committee for a week on a rotational basis.

Swimming was “...allowed at all times provided the bather be clothed from neck to knee in proper and decent costume. In going to and from the water bathers must use the door and staircase specially provided for that purpose at the eastern end of the Club House. Persons in bathing costume shall not go into any part of the Club House other than the dressing rooms. No one in bathing costume shall be allowed on the wharf.”<sup>16</sup>

The constitution provided for the use of private boats as well as for the rental of skiffs and canoes. The rental of canoes may have been a recent innovation; an article in the

Ottawa *Citizen* on 9 May 1899 noted that the club had decided to purchase canoes to be rented by members who did not own one. The club also purchased the larger four man canoes and the still larger war canoes for club use.

In 1898 the club began to produce a year book. The books, which were produced until about 1907 are a good source of information on the club's activities. In 1897-98 the club had about 200 active members as well as a half dozen junior members and about 100 lady

CAMPERS OPENED.

The Ottawa Canoe Club house is a busy place at present as several of the summer camps, whose occupants keep their canoes at the club house, have started up for the summer. Among the camps are "Klomo," "The Chateau" and "Minewawa" on the Gattineau and "Pingo" on Kettle Island.

members. The club's budget was about \$1300.00; about \$600.00 came from membership with another \$200 to \$300 coming from rentals of racks and lockers. Regattas brought in perhaps \$100 and subscriptions to purchase a war canoe accounted for \$168.00. Major expenses were a caretaker's salary, about \$225.00, the rental of the boathouse, about \$500.00 and purchase of new canoes, about \$200.00.<sup>17</sup>

### 3. Ottawa Journal, 5 July 1897

The reports outline the club season; annual meetings were generally held in March, a caretaker was hired for mid-April, and preparations for the season began. In 1898 the club was formally opened with a "bonnet hop" on 29 May and dances continued, usually on a fortnightly schedule, through the summer. Excursions down river by steamer were popular and the war canoes were often used for mixed excursions and picnics. In 1897 the first race, a Trial Fours race with four club boats competing was held on 10 July; it was followed by a tub tournament. (Tub tournaments used wash tubs as boats and the paddlers tried to sink the opposition.) On 23 July the club hosted the swimming championships of Canada with participation from Chicago, New York, and Toronto. A handicap tandem race with five crews participating, was held on 31 July. Several OCC members went to the American Canoe Regatta at Grindstone Island in August. Club members also participated in the Britannia Boating Club regatta on 21 August, the Aylmer Boating Club regatta on 13 September, and the Toronto International Paddling Trophy race. The club's own open regatta was held on 4 September with participation from the Britannia Boating Club and the Primrose Canoe Club. The regatta included sixteen events – single blade and double blade singles, two tandem single blade races, two fours races, a war canoe race, two sailing canoe races, two swimming events, long distance diving, a tilting match and a duck hunt.<sup>18</sup> The club did not entirely close down during the winter; for a time its members supported a snowshoe club.

### Racing.

The club's objectives included camping, cruising, paddling, sailing, as well as racing, but racing captured the most public attention and was reported in the newspapers. Consequently much of this history is weighted towards racing events.

In the early years sailing was as popular as paddling. Francis Gisborne, the captain of the club in 1889 and commodore in 1892 and 1893 reminisced "In those days we were

almost all of us sailing men; and though one or two of us have little souvenirs bearing allusions to paddling feats, paddling was very properly considered to be merely exercise. The true test of a real canoeist came when he was gracefully hiking to the windward with the mainsheet in one hand and the tiller in the other;..”<sup>19</sup>



**4. Canoes, Sailing Canoes, and Sawdust below Parliament Hill, 1889.**  
Source: LAC, Topley Collection, No.57916

Sailors have a lofty view of other water sports but Gisborne was also a racing and tripping paddler. In 1888 he and C.G. Rogers won the annual seven mile paddling race from Nepean Point to the Templeton wharf in 54 minutes. In 1889 he published an article in *Outing* describing a camping trip he and three companions had made from Lake Nipissing to Ottawa.<sup>20</sup> In the decades before and after the First World War his sons, Francis, Frederick, and Reg were among the top paddlers in the club.

The challenge cups owned by the club in the nineteenth century suggest that sailing and paddling were both important. The Lansdowne Sailing Challenge Cup, presented by the Marquis of Lansdowne in 1888, was sailed for at Ottawa annually between 1888 and 1897. The challenge was open to all members of Canadian clubs using canoes of Canadian build. The David Maclaren War Canoe Challenge Cup was presented to the club by David Maclaren in 1896. It was to be raced for at the annual OCC regatta and was open to all amateur canoe clubs. The Club Fours Challenge Cup, presented by H. Gerald Bate in 1894 was awarded at the annual regatta. In 1897 the members of the

“Chateau Vista” presented an Open Canoe Sailing Challenge Cup to be raced for annually at the club regatta.<sup>21</sup> The Morris Cup was for double blade, solo paddling.



5. Challenge Cups in 1904. Source: Ottawa Canoe Club yearbook, 1904.

The club produced a number of highly successful paddlers in the 1880s and 1890s. Robert W. Baldwin was one of the club’s early paddling stars. He, G.B. Edwards, and J. Gardiner were identified as participants from Ottawa in three of the races at the 1881 ACA meet; all of the races used a combination of sail and paddle. Baldwin attended subsequent ACA regattas and in 1886 he won the one mile race at the ACA meet for canoes not over 15 feet in a time of 11 minutes and 18 seconds. In 1887 he placed fourth in a hurry-scurry race which involved a 100 yard run, a 20 yard swim and a 200 yard paddle. Baldwin, a civil servant in the Privy Council office, succeeded G.J. Maunsell as the commodore in 1884.<sup>22</sup>

In the 1890s D’Arcy Scott, the son of a Liberal cabinet minister and senator, was a frequent participant in the ACA meets. In 1892 he won the Morris Cup, the OCC trophy for paddling. In 1893 he won the ACA paddling championship; in 1894 he placed second to an American, Clarence Euson; and in 1895 he placed second to R.O. King of Toronto.<sup>23</sup> In 1895 Scott was elected vice commodore of the Northern Division, ACA. He retired from active paddling in 1897 when he won both the ACA paddling championship and the Toronto Canoe Club International Paddling Trophy.<sup>24</sup> Subsequently he became a competitive rower with the Ottawa Rowing Club.<sup>25</sup>

W. T. Lawless was a successful paddler, swimmer, and rower in the 1890s. At the Brockville regatta in 1896 he won the swimming race and came second in a double bladed half mile race against D'Arcy Scott. Lawless won a hurry-scurry race and, paddling with Russell, won a quarter mile with turn, tandem, single blade canoe race.<sup>26</sup> In 1898 he was described as the Canadian swimming champion when he lost to Dr. Paul Newman, one of the best American swimmers, in a meet held at the OCC.<sup>27</sup> At the ACA meet in 1896 he came second to J. Smith of Toronto in the trophy paddling, and won the upset race and the 100 yard swim.<sup>28</sup> He was also a rower and won the Ottawa Rowing Club double scull championship for three years in a row from 1893 to 1896.<sup>29</sup>

Lawless was a militia officer who served in the Northwest Rebellion in 1885 as a medical orderly and in the South African War with the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry. He was daring “very near to the point of foolhardiness” and had wounds to show it; his enlistment papers in the RCRI record that he had a long scar on his chest, one on his chin, one between his eyes, one on his temple and one on both shins.<sup>30</sup> He moved in the Rideau Hall social circle and organized a descent in a row boat of the timber slides at the Chaudiere Falls for Governor General, Lord Minto, which provided more than the expected amount of excitement. Many years later Lady Minto described the descent:

A broad boat, twelve feet long, was chartered, which easily held our party of six. We sat on planks behind each other, two Mintos, two Grenfells, two Lawrence Drummonds. An old boatman, well used to the river, held the rudder and our pilot [Lawless] sat in front. The first two chutes were quite enjoyable but the boat was gaining a tremendous impetus as we raced on towards the final waterchute. Over we went, a drop of twenty feet into the turbulent waters. The bow of the boat was submerged, but righted itself, only to be tossed like a cork, helpless and sideways, out of control amongst the seething rapids. It was a miracle that we reached calm water in safety, and Willy Grenfell, with all his experience, told us he had never before lived through such an agonizing moment in any boat.<sup>31</sup>

1887 is the first year in which we have a modest idea of the OCC's regular activities. The club opened the season with an organizational meeting which passed a resolution favouring the organization of a Northern Division of the ACA, provided enough American clubs joined to keep it from being a purely Canadian club. The club planned a series of weekly sailing races, alternating paddling and sailing canoes, for a silver challenge cup. There would also be a series of club cruises.<sup>32</sup> One of the first cruises was a paddle with an overnight camp to Wendover and a return by the steamer “Empress”; even in 1887 sensible canoeists avoided paddling upstream.<sup>33</sup> The weekly races began in mid-June and culminated with the club regatta at the end of July. The *Ottawa Journal* carried an account of the regatta –

### **The Canoe Club Regatta.**

On Saturday the Ottawa Canoe Club sailing race came off, distance three miles, being twice round a triangular course with half mile sides. The entries were the Iolanthe, W. McL. Maingy; the Irene, R. W. Baldwin; the Aline, Henri Roy, and the Dolphin, P. A. Maingy. The wind was rather uncertain and squally, but towards the end it slackened. On the first round the Aline led by nearly a quarter of a mile, but unfortunately capsized at the second buoy, leaving the lead to the Irene. The Irene increased her lead but unfortunately was unable to complete the three miles in the time allotted for the race, an hour and-a-half, and the race was declared off by the umpire and will have to be raced again.

The next race was a mile tandem paddling race. The entries were: Clarabell, A. O. Wheeler and Gordon Rogers; Anonymous, W. C. E. Stewart and Basil Bell, and the Greta, W. H. Cronk and F. H. Gisborne. Wheeler and Rogers won easily, Cronk and Gisborne second. Stewart and Bell had single blade paddles, the others double blade.

The single blade single paddling race was postponed. To-day was the tandem paddling race to Templeton, seven miles. Among the crews entered were A. O. Wheeler and Gordon Rogers, J. S. Brough and W. C. Badgley, Norman Lett and — Lett and W. C. E. Stewart and Basil Bell.

6. *Ottawa Journal*, 1 August 1887. "The Canoe Club Regatta."

The regatta did not mark the end of the season. At the end of August the last of six paddling races was held to determine the club paddling champion: Gordon Rogers had won 1 race, R.W. R.W. Baldwin, 1, W.H. Cronk, 2, and A.O. Wheeler, 2. By virtue of two seconds, one third, and one fourth place finish, Wheeler won the challenge cup. This particular cup had been won three times by C.A. Thompson in the Mirabel and twice by R.W. Baldwin in the Irene.<sup>34</sup>

In 1888 the club planned fortnightly races with a weekly cruise beginning Saturday afternoon and ending on Monday morning. It opened the season with a paddle up the canal from the Ottawa River to Hartwell's locks, then down the Rideau to the Ottawa and back up the Ottawa to the club. The first cruise, at the end of May, was from Ottawa to

Thurso with a return on the steamer Empress. The club closed the season with canoe races on the Rideau Canal opposite Lansdowne Park during the Ottawa fair. Races included a one mile single blade, an upset race, a hurry scurry race, a gunwale race, a mile race with three or more in a boat, and a tug of war with four men in each boat. The

tug of war turned into a marathon with <sup>35</sup>

The *Ottawa Journal* carried a detailed report on the 1889 regatta.

1. *Ottawa Journal*, 16 September 1889, "Ottawa Canoe Club Regatta."

On 2 October 1889 the OCC held its final race for sailing canoes. Henri Roy in the Musette won the race and the challenge trophy. It was his second win.<sup>36</sup> Roy would go on to serve as Captain of the club from 1894 to 1896. Roy's two sons, Eric and Ivan would be two of ONECC's best paddlers in the 1920s.

During the 1890s several other paddling clubs were organized in Ottawa and keen rivalries developed which would last for half a century. The Primrose Club began with seven members; by 1894 it had 60 members and had built a clubhouse at Bank Street and the canal. The Primrose Club organized its own regatta and participated in the OCC's regattas until 1900 when a fire destroyed its clubhouse. Although it was re-organized it operated mostly as a social club. One of the Primrose Club's paddlers was J. Hurcomb who would later become a member of the OCC, serve on its executive, and serve as the commodore of the Canadian Canoe Association in 1903. His grand-children and great-grandchildren were members of ONECC in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.<sup>37</sup>

**OTTAWA CANOE CLUB REGATTA.**  
 The 7th annual regatta of the Ottawa Canoe club took place Saturday, opposite Nepean Point, and brought together a pretty display of small crafts of many descriptions. The annual events always excite interest amongst the lovers of canoeing and with fine weather are sure to attract a goodly number of spectators.  
 On Saturday the club was exceptionally fortunate in having a beautiful afternoon and the result was a most successful regatta.  
 In general the different events were well contested, the keenest competition occurring in the single paddling (for the Morris cup) and the gunwale race. Much amusement was caused by the upset race for the tugs-of-war. The officers in charge of the regatta, to whom its success is largely due, were as follows: Judges—Messrs. E. King, W. Pitman Lett, P. B. Symes, Wm. M. Maingy, F. Colson. Time-keepers—Messrs. J. S. Brough, R. W. Baldwin. Starter—Mr. Henri Roy. F. H. Gisborne, captain.  
 The following is a summary of the races and their results:  
 Single paddling, one mile, with turn, Mr. W. J. Johnson. Time 12 minutes.  
 Tandem paddling, one mile, with turn, Mr. Victor Roger and W. Dey. Time, 11 minutes.  
 Single paddling, for the Morris Cup, one mile with turn, Mr. F. H. Gisborne; 10 minutes.  
 Gunwale race, 100 yards with turn, Mr. Henri Roy.  
 Upset race, 200 feet, won by Mr. Henri Roy.  
 Tug-of-war, won by the Ottawa Canoe Club.  
 During the regatta the spectators were much interested in the explosions of sawdust which took place. There were no fewer than eight during the afternoon in the immediate vicinity of judges' boats.

The Aylmer Boating Club was organized in 1890; about 1901 it was replaced by the Victoria Yacht Club. The club included paddling in its activities but its focus appears to have been on sailing. In 1921 Victoria Yacht Club's clubhouse at Aylmer (Queen's) Park burned and was not rebuilt. The Britannia Aquatic Club began as an association of summer residents at Britannia Beach in 1887 and in 1895 the group incorporated as the Britannia Boat House Club. It held its first regatta 29 August 1896; it was a mixed club with yachts, skiffs and canoes but as canoeing became more popular it developed a strong rivalry with the OCC.<sup>38</sup> In 1893 the Ottawa Valley Canoe Association was organized; it evolved into the Carleton Place Canoe Club.

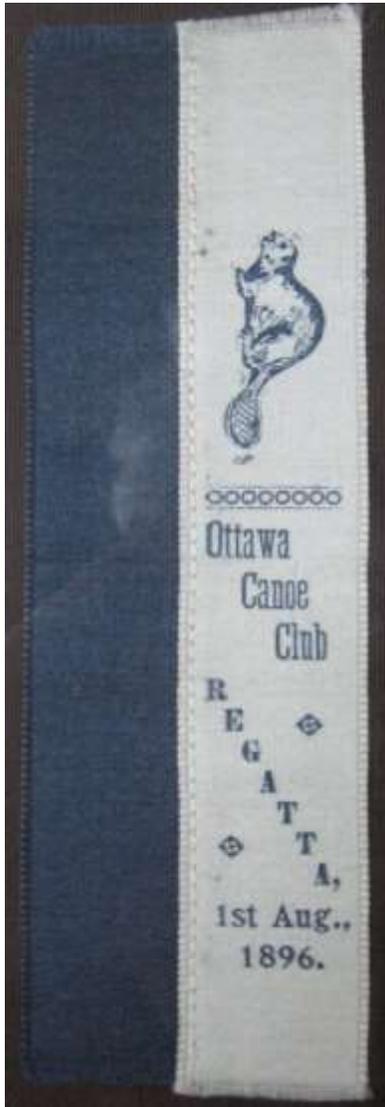
In 1890 the Northern Division of ACA held its meet at the Lake of Two Mountains and a number of OCC members including W. Hatch, F.A. Mainguy, and F. Dey participated. The account of the program published by the Ottawa *Citizen* provides a picture of a typical large regatta:

Ile Cadieux is the first of a series of islands extending to Ile Perot, and thus offers exceptional facilities for both sailing and paddling. There will be the usual races during the last week of the meet...comprising a paddling race for decked canoes and one for open canoes, each a mile straightaway; combined sailing and paddling, half mile alternately, three miles in all and a sailing race four miles long. Then there will be the sailing race seven and a half miles for the Northern Division trophy; paddling race for tandems, club fours, and war canoe – (war canoes are enormous craft thirty feet long and are paddled by crews of fifteen); and finally what may be called serio-comic races, such as the upset races, both sailing and paddling, the obstacle race; tug-of-war; hurry-scurry race, where the contestants have to run from the starting point, swim to their canoes and paddle to the finish. The gymnastic competition, too, is a very interesting spectacle – to see men upset their canoes over and over and never get their feet wet, roll their canoes over and come up still sitting comfortably in them, caper about the decks and dodge round the masts, etc., will give a person a better idea of how perfectly at home a man can be in the frail craft than anything else will.<sup>39</sup>

The OCC held its 11<sup>th</sup> regatta on Saturday afternoon, 28 August 1893. The course was a half mile straightaway with the finish opposite the park pavilion so the large crowd of spectators had a good view. The big race of the day, the half mile, double blade, straightaway for the Morris Cup was won by W.H. Cronk with Edgar Woolsey in second place. Three crews contested the single blade fours with W. Curran (stroke), M.Klotz, J. Klotz, and K.F. Clayton winning the race. F. Bickerdike of Lachine won the single blade, half mile race; Bickerdike's appearance marked the first recorded time a non-Ottawan had raced at the club. The Ottawa Rowing Club brought its war canoe, the Red Elephant, and defeated an Ottawa crew (N. Lett, W.H. Cronk, F. McNaughton, A. Pinard, E. Woolsey, B. Baldwin, F. Bailey, J. Complin, F. Stewart, W. Stewart, R. Gemmill, B. Bell, and C.S. Clarke) in Whiskers, a war canoe which OCC had borrowed from the Aylmer Boating Club.<sup>40</sup>

In August 1894 the OCC held its twelfth regatta and the first at the new clubhouse. Both the Lachine club and the Primrose club sent crews and the Ottawa Rowing Club brought its war canoe. The regatta began with a half mile race for solo canoes which was won by F.A. Bickerdike of Lachine in a time of 4.40. In the tandem paddling event the Bickerdike brothers led until near the finish when they were overtaken by Baldwin and Pinard of the OCC. The Red Elephant beat Whiskers by about a length in the war canoe event. R. Hinton won the Morris cup event with Pinard second. R.A. Baldwin, J.W. Woolsey, and A.A. Pinard won the fours against the Bickerdike Brothers, Reynolds and Howard representing Lachine. J.A. Lafortune's crew defeated the D. Seguin boat in what was called a Rivermen's race – Seguin was the owner of the Gatineau-Rockcliffe ferry. E.C. Woolsey won the upset race. H.B. Carter won the swimming race and the long dive. There was a hop in the evening. Although there were no sailing events at the regatta the Ottawa *Citizen* reported that there would be sailing events at the club the next weekend along with a water polo game against a Montréal team. Water polo was a new sport in Ottawa – a water polo club had been organized in July and over the next few years the *Citizen* reported several games at the club. Most of the participants seem to have been OCC members – W.T. Lawless was named as a team captain.<sup>41</sup>

In 1895, 300 people packed the boathouse for the club's thirteenth annual regatta and many more watched from the river bank. The Ottawa *Citizen* gave a full account of the events. The day began with a half mile race with a turn for single paddler; this was won by F.A.C. Bickerdike of the Lachine Boating Club in a time of 4:15. Boys under fifteen then raced a quarter mile tandem race with single blades; the winners finished in 1.46. A.A. Pinard and R.A. Baldwin won the men's tandem half mile with a turn in a time of 3.47. All of these races were for single bladed paddles; they were followed by a half mile race with a turn for double blades; the winner was W.T. Rogers in 4.06. Then there was a half mile race with turn for fours – winning time 4.03 – and a quarter mile race for ladies and gentlemen won by Miss Drummond and J. Woolsey. Lawless and Holbrook won a half mile race for tandem double blades. There were several novelty races – an upset race, a gunwale race in which paddlers stood on the gunwales while paddling, and a tournament in which four teams armed with bamboo poles attempted to upset their opponents. There were also swimming and diving events.<sup>42</sup>



No account of the OCC's 1896 regatta has been found but the club was active. It took its new war canoe, Youp Youp, to the Britannia regatta in July and the Aylmer regatta in August. At Britannia the war canoe hit a wharf and finished third but at Aylmer, racing against the Ottawa Rowing Club's Red Elephant, it won. W.T. Lawless, who paddled for the rowing club, dominated the senior paddling events as well as swimming races at Britannia. At Aylmer the Lawless brothers, W.T. and Jack were prominent in tandem canoes while A. Pinard, R. Baldwin, W. Woolsey and E. Woolsey won the fours for Ottawa. The sailing portion of the Aylmer regatta came on the second day; Bert Baldwin won two sailing canoe contests.<sup>43</sup> At the ACA meet at Grindstone Island F. Bickerdike of Lachine won the open paddling event and Bickerdike and D'Arcy Scott won the tandem race.<sup>44</sup> On 7 August Scott defeated Lawless in a double bladed, half mile, race at the Brockville regatta. At the Belleville regatta W.T. Lawless, OCC, won the single double bladed quarter mile race, the tandem, single bladed, quarter mile race mile with J.A. Russell of Toronto, and the hurry scurry race, "200 yards, swim 25 yards, upset twice and paddle balance of distance."<sup>45</sup> Four OCC paddlers, Woolsey, Tache, Stewart and Lambert went to the Cornwall Labour Day regatta.<sup>46</sup> In July the OCC hosted the Ottawa Rowing Club's regatta; the ORC was considering moving from its location at the foot of the locks to a spot further down the river and may have been testing the water.<sup>47</sup>

The OCC sent a strong contingent to the second annual Britannia regatta in 1897. The regatta included both sailing and paddling events. OCC paddlers did well winning the tandem race for boys under 16, the adult tandem (J. McDougall and F. Woolsey), the war canoe race, and the single, single blade (J. Lawless, a younger brother of W.T.). There were also some paddlers from the Primrose Canoe Club. Two weeks later, on 4 September 1897, both the Britannia club and the Primrose club sent contingents to the annual OCC regatta. Again, the OCC won the war canoe race one mile, the tandem boys under 16, the boys' fours, under 16, single blade, and the senior fours, single blade. C. Cooch and R. Craig won the senior tandem, single blade, for the Primrose Club. Cooch and Craig also paddled in the Britannia War canoe. There were also swimming and diving events; sailing events were cancelled due to weather. Two

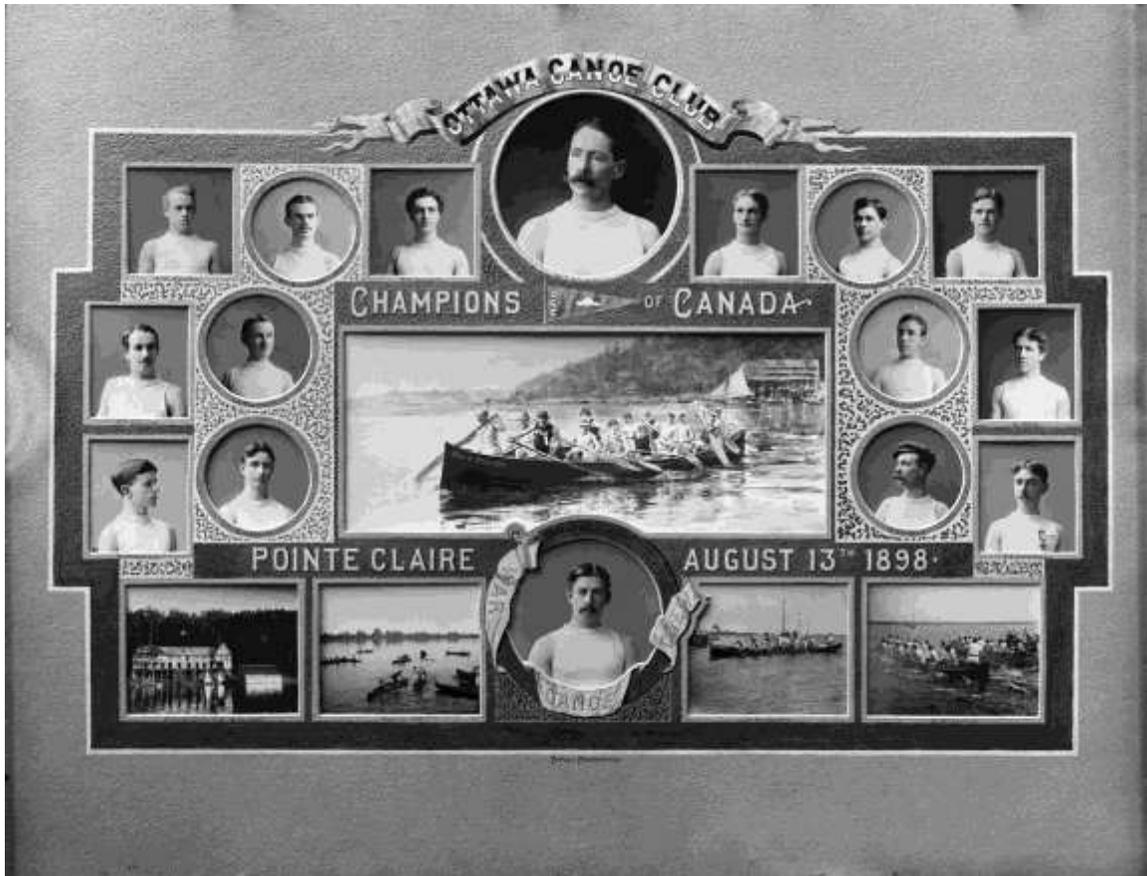
pairs of brothers, W. and E. Woolsey and J. and W.T. Lawless featured in this and other OCC regattas.<sup>48</sup>



**2 Ottawa Canoe Club War Canoe 'Fag a Bealach's' crew at Aylmer for Championship. 1898. Source CMC, Edwin Lester Brittain collection.**

The rivalry with Britannia continued in 1898. The CPR put on a special train for the Britannia regatta on 23 July. The OCC took two war canoes, its old Youp Youp, and the new Fag-a-Bealach (one possible translation is “Get Out of the Way”), to Britannia where they placed third and first; Britannia placed second and fourth. Overall the clubs split the regatta, each winning five events. On 13 August the OCC team travelled to Point Claire to compete in what was billed as the war canoe championship of Canada. The Ottawa war canoe started badly, not being ready for the gun, but overtook boats from Dorval, Lachine, Vaudreuil, Pointe Claire, St. Lambert, and Valois, after the turn and finished the race a length ahead of their nearest rivals. The Ottawa crew (which included at least one Britannia member, E. McNeil) consisted of W.J. Johnstone, Captain, Arthur Pinard, Stroke, Walter Paterson, Gordon Stewart, Edgar Woolsey, Bert Cowan, Oskar Klotz, Rupert Nichols, Eddie Rowanlegge, Fred Steele, Bert Clayton, Philip Mainguy, Eddie McNeil, Jack Lawless, and J.B. Dufour. Arthur Sixsmith went down as a spare man. On 20 August the OCC held its sixteenth annual regatta with the Britannia club competing in some events. Of the eight events completed successfully, the OCC won five but in four of the five events Britannia either did not compete or did not place. In the war canoe race the boats collided while the OCC boat was overtaking Britannia near the finish. The judges ruled that the Britannia boat had fouled Ottawa and called for the race to be run again. Britannia refused to paddle again at that time but they did issue a challenge to the OCC to race again on Lac Deschenes. The OCC accepted the challenge and travelled to Aylmer the following Saturday where they lost to Britannia. The Britannia crew, on its return to Britannia later that night, was greeted by a crown of 300 singing Rule Britannia.<sup>49</sup>

Britannia took the view that the race had been for the war canoe championship of Canada, but the OCC argued that the race had merely been a “friendly” one and went ahead with plans to have its crew photographed as the “Champions of Canada.” The Toronto Canoe Club put in its claim to be the Canadian champions by virtue of having defeated Brockville, Peterborough and Buffalo at the American Canoe Association’s Stave Island regatta. Regardless of who was the Canadian champion, the publicity generated by the races resulted in new members joining the OCC with the goal of joining its war canoe crew.<sup>50</sup>



**3 War Canoe Champions, 1898. Source: LAC, Topley Collection, Mikan No.342156**

In 1899 Britannia gained the upper hand. On its home water, it won six of ten races; Ottawa won only two. The surprise of the regatta was the appearance of two paddlers from Carleton Place who won both the single and tandem single blade events. At the OCC’s regatta at the end of August “The Britannia paddlers carried away nearly everything that was lying around loose.” Britannia won the war canoe race by several lengths and took home the Maclaren Cup and, it was suggested, the championship of Canada. For the first time silver and bronze medals were given to the winners and runners up. The *Ottawa Journal* expressed some surprise that Britannia with a comparatively small membership could win so handily over one of the largest clubs in Canada.<sup>51</sup>

In 1899 the OCC had four war canoe crews in training. The *Ottawa Citizen* listing of the crews provides a list of the more active racing members at that time:

Captain R.W. Patterson; stroke, E.H. Clayton; O. Klotz, L. Hutchison, G. Northwood, J.D. Sutherland, J.R. Morton, B. Scott, W.S. Woods, H. Henry, A. Lightfoot, J. Hope, V. Ritchie, J. Burgess, M. Stalker, D. Currier, M. Neate, T.A. Waterson.

Captain A. de M. Bell; stroke, C.H. Clendenning; W.H. Crouch, J.R. Lawless; E. Rowan-Legg; W.W. Moore; W.R. Berford; E. Forse; F. Cuthbertson; P. Garneau; C. McGee; G. Woolsey; C. Ross, L. Burgess, A. Chamberlain; D. Jamieson; T. A. Godfrey.

Captain E.C. Woolsey; stroke, G. Stewart; R.H. Nichols; H. Clayton; M. McGuire; G. Smith; J. Johnstone; R. Ross; D. Stewart; H. Lesueur; J. McGee; F. Proctor; F. Shannon; W. Roche; W. Wall; G. Brown; C.E. Hibbert; A. Armstrong.

Captain J. Duford; stroke, George Mumford; H.B. Cowan; F. Burpee; W. Lamb; F. Bronskill; A.E. Sixsmith; C. Keyes; G. Hornidge; F. White; C. Smith; A. Keefer; C. Snelling; P. Sylvain; J. Burpee; J. McCormick; F.G. McLauren.<sup>52</sup>

Competitive paddling was a young man's sport; the average age of the members of the four war canoe crews in 1899 was about 22 or 23.<sup>53</sup>

The OCC was disappointed with its performance in 1899 and over the winter it reviewed its racing program. It found that, once the war canoe program was completed, not enough was done to encourage paddling among men who did not own their own canoes. In addition it felt that crews needed more practice together and to encourage this, it was decided that crews would be picked early in the season and would practice together through the season. Sometimes crews slept overnight at the boathouse to allow for morning practices. To provide for the considerable turnover in membership from year to year, and to attract new members, the club organized a boys' war canoe and 25 junior members were recruited compared to 13 in 1899. The active membership reached 226 compared with 193 in 1898. As an incentive to paddlers, framed photographs were given to winners of club races and winners received silver and gold medals. For the sake of variety the club also organized an eight mile relay race with three teams of 12 men each paddling four man canoes around Kettle Island.<sup>54</sup>

Ottawa opened the 1900 season with a trip to Worcester, Massachusetts in March. OCC's war canoe crew of 9 – W.J. Johnstone, R.W. Nichols, E.R. McNeil, H.B. Cowan, H.W. Crouch, R.W. Patterson, A. de M. Bell, G. Ballantyne and J.B. Duford – was defeated in the finals of a war canoe tug-of-war by the Worcester composite crew. In July the OCC and the Carleton Place clubs participated in the Britannia regatta on Lac Deschenes. In strong winds (a frequent problem on the lake) the Britannia war canoe under E. Harvey Pulford beat the OCC team. The windy weather resulted in frequent upsets which seem to have affected the OCC paddlers more than the Britannia men. A. McPhee of Carleton Place won the open single, defeating H.B. Cowan who, only a month later would win the Canadian championship.<sup>55</sup> A week later at the OCC swimming regatta the OCC team eked out a win, beating the Britannia war canoe by two feet.<sup>56</sup> The OCC held its 18<sup>th</sup> paddling regatta on 18 August, after the Canadian championships at Brockville, and

Britannia came back with a three length win in the war canoe race – reporters attributed the Britannia’s win to a more even and steadier stroke than the OCC’s boat. R.W. Patterson, paddling for Camp Koko, won the single blade open, defeating H. B. Cowan of OCC. Patterson and George Mumford, again paddling for Camp Koko, came second in the tandem race behind McPhee and McRostie of Carleton Place. Clayton and Mainguy of the OCC and the Canadian champions, came fourth. Camp Koko was a tenting camp organized by members of the OCC and its appearance as an independent club was unusual; both Patterson and Mumford paddled in the OCC’s war canoe.<sup>57</sup>

### **The Formation of the Canadian Canoeing Association**

Canadians responded enthusiastically to the formation of the ACA in 1880 and were well represented in it. In 1883 the ACA met at Stony Lake, north of Peterborough, and a Canadian, E.B. Edwards, was elected Commodore of the Association. By the mid-1880s there was sufficient interest in paddling in Canada that a number of Canadian clubs, including the Ottawa Canoe Club, were organized as the Northern Division of the ACA in 1887.<sup>58</sup> However, there were differences between American and Canadian canoeists.

In the 1880s the ACA meets were primarily focussed on sailing events. An article in the *New York Times* prior to the 1890 regatta at Jessop’s Neck in Peconic Bay listed the four major events which made up the contestants’ racing record: “the trophy sailing race for the huge silver bowl which is the association’s standard..., the unlimited sailing race, in which nearly everybody starts..., the trophy paddling race which is under the same conditions as the sailing race, and the combination race, in which the contestants must sail and paddle alternate half miles over a three mile triangular course.”

The Americans in the ACA tended to favour sailing canoes or partially decked touring canoes of the “Rob Roy” type; Canadians favoured open or “Rice Lake Canoes” which came to be identified as Canadian canoes. Canadians were also more likely kneel while paddling with a single-bladed paddle; many Americans used a double-bladed paddle while sitting. At the first ACA meet in 1880 Robert Baldwin from Ottawa had paddled a Rob Roy canoe; the other Canadian at the meet, Thomas H. Wallace, a hunting and fishing guide from Rice Lake, paddled an open or Canadian canoe. Wallace’s canoe was considered a bit of an oddity at the meet. He was allowed to race in two categories – a race for paddling canoes only, and an open class race for both sailing and paddling canoes. Paddling with a single blade, Wallace won both races.<sup>59</sup>

In 1881 the *New York Times* commented on the differences”

The Canadians use open canoes, of the Indian pattern, wholly different from ours and carry no sail. They are propelled entirely by paddles and the paddle has only a single blade, instead of a double one as the Americans have. Even the oldest canoeists were astonished to see the loads the Canadians brought along... Their boats are the perfection of strength in canoe building; but our American canoeists want a boat to sail and one they can live in when on a long cruise...<sup>60</sup>

Canadians did well at the ACA and often dominated the paddling events. At the 1884 regatta held at Grindstone Island with about 200 paddlers participating, J.N. Weller of Peterborough won the overall title with M.F. Johnston of Toronto placing second.<sup>61</sup> The second oldest trophy awarded by the ACA was the Paddling Trophy; in effect it was awarded for the paddling championship of the United States and Canada. It was first awarded in 1888 to Dr. B.E. Rice of Springfield, Massachusetts. From 1889 to 1916 Canadians won the trophy 18 times; in 1893 and 1897 it was won by D'Arcy Scott of the OCC.<sup>62</sup>

Canadians also participated in sailing races – Francis Gisborne reminisced that in the 1880s and early 90s “we were almost all of us sailing men.” A record of trophies held by the OCC which was compiled in 1905 showed that the Lansdowne Challenge Cup for Sailing Canoes was sailed for annually at the OCC from 1888 to 1897; in 1888 and 1889 it was won by R.W. Baldwin and in 1894 and 1895 by F.H. Gisborne. A Challenge cup for open sailing canoes was awarded in 1894, 1895, and 1897. Neither cup was awarded after 1897 and reports of sailing events at the OCC regattas became increasingly rare.<sup>63</sup>

Canadians took to the war canoe with more enthusiasm than the Americans. When the Northern Division hosted the ACA meet at Stave Island on the St. Lawrence River in 1889 the Toronto Canoe Club brought a war canoe as a novelty and Canadians adopted them over the next decade.<sup>64</sup> War canoe races became the marquee event of Canadian regattas. The races were dramatic and the boats were very fast; in a race in 1900 the OCC canoe completed the half mile course in 2 minutes and 47 seconds.<sup>65</sup> The big canoes also made canoe racing a team sport and allowed club members who did not own a canoe an opportunity to paddle.

The magazine, *Outing*, published an account of the 1899 ACA regatta at Hay Island on the St. Lawrence River. The regatta, which lasted from 4 to 18 August, included 31 scheduled events: 13 sailing events, two races which combined paddling and sailing, nine paddling races, two war canoe races, two races for ladies, three novelty paddling events, and one swimming race. In sailing and paddling races for decked canoes J.W. Sparrow of Toronto won a “record” paddling event and placed third in the “record” sailing and combined sailing/paddling events. C.E. Archibald of the St. Lawrence Yacht Club won the “trophy” sailing event for decked canoes; he also won the combined sailing/paddling and the sailing races for open canoes in his canoe *Mab*; this was his fourth victory in this event.<sup>66</sup>

There were seven paddling races for open canoes. The trophy race for solo open canoes was won by J. Smith of Toronto with W.T. Lawless, OCC, second. The tandem paddling was won by Frank Taylor and J. Smith of Toronto with C. Cooch and R. Craig (probably of Britannia) second. Paddling with a single blade was won by J. Smith. The four man canoe race was won by Britannia with the OCC crew coming third. W.T. Lawless won the upset paddling as well as the 100 yard swimming race.



**10. The Brockville Bohemian War Canoe, 1899.**

Source: <http://dmgrant.wordpress.com/2008/12/17/bohemian-athletic-club/>

Seven war canoes, all of them from Canada, participated in the 1899 ACA regatta. The Brockville Bohemian club won both the ACA championship (a mile straightaway) and the ACA Northern Division championship (a half mile with turn); Britannia came second in both races and the OCC came 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The Brockville Rowing Club had a special war canoe (referred to as a “racing machine” and “the freak” canoe) built for the race. It was described as “a torpedo-boat destroyer, being long and low, with no sheer and a hood-shaped deck on the bow to throw off the water.” It proved difficult to steer and finished 5<sup>th</sup> and last. At the end of the day the crew “came through the camp with their freak failure on their shoulder, marching with slow measured steps, each man solemnly whistling the ‘Dead March in Saul’.”<sup>67</sup> Five years later OCC would win the Canadian championship in a canoe which looked much like the “freak” paddled by Brockville.<sup>68</sup>

The 1899 ACA meet was marred by disagreements over race committee rulings and complaints about the management of the war canoe race.<sup>69</sup> Even before the meet the Britannia Boating Club had floated the idea of establishing a war canoe association in Canada; in part this was intended to avoid the cost of travelling to distant regattas sponsored by the ACA. Early in 1900 the Britannia club proposed the formation of a war canoe association in Canada and later in the year representatives of clubs from Ottawa, Brockville, Carleton Place, and Montreal met in Brockville to discuss the proposal. They expanded the idea beyond war canoes and formed the Canadian Canoe Association (CCA). E.A. Black of the OCC was elected the first commodore of the Association and the OCC provided three other commodores – J.M. Hurcomb (1903), W.F. Boardman (1904), and Dr. O.K. Gibson (1907-08). The Ottawa-New Edinburgh Canoe Club would provide three CCA commodores – L. Reg Gisborne (1932), Eric A. Roy (1941), and Cecil W. Powers (1944).<sup>70</sup>

The founding clubs of the CAA were the Bohemian Amateur Athletic Association (Brockville), the Britannia Boat House Club, the Brockville Rowing Club, the Carleton Place Canoe Club, the Grand Trunk Boating Club (Montreal), the Kingston Yacht club, the Lachine Boat and Canoe Club, the Ottawa Canoe Club, and the Brockville Y.M.C.A.

Canoe Club. Of these clubs, only the Carleton Place Canoe Club is still an active canoe club.

The Brockville Bohemians had won the ACA war canoe race in 1899 and the club was awarded the honour of holding the first Canadian canoe championships. Nine clubs from Brockville, Kingston, Carleton Place, Ottawa and Montreal attended. The program was dominated by single bladed, open or “Canadian” canoeing events with the war canoe races as the marquee event. There were no sailing events and only one race for double bladed paddlers. The Bohemian Club of Brockville won the initial war canoe championship, narrowly defeating a canoe from Britannia.<sup>71</sup> H.B. Cowan of the OCC won the singles, single blade, canoe championship of Canada at this regatta while E.H. Clayton and P.N. Mainguy (also OCC) won the Men’s Single Blade Tandem, half mile.<sup>72</sup> Although the CCA does not recognize a club champion prior to the 1904 meet, if points had been awarded on the usual, three for a first, two for a second and one for a third, the OCC with 10 points would have taken the club championship with Britannia in second place.



**4. Ottawa Canoe Club Canoe landing at the Bohemian Club after the race, 4 August 1900.  
CMC/MCC, E.L. Brittain, PR2004-002.26.5.393**



7. Interior, OCC.

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10. H.B. Cowan, singles champion of Canada, 1900, and H.C. Clayton and Philip Mainguy, tandem champions of Canada, 1900.

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Softly as a cloud we go,  
 Sky above and sky below,  
 Down the river; and the dip  
 Of the paddles scarcely breaks,  
 With the little silvery drip  
 Of the water as it shakes  
 From the blades, the crystal deep  
 Of the silence of the morn,  
 Of the forest yet asleep;  
 And the river reaches borne  
 In a mirror, purple gray,  
 Sheer away  
 To the misty line of light,  
 Where the forest and the stream  
 In the shadow meet and plight,  
 Like a dream.

From *Morning on the Lievre*  
 by Archibald Lampman, a member  
 of the OCC when he died in 1899.

Officers of the Ottawa Canoe Club, 1883-1900

	Commodore	Vice Commodore	Captain	Secretary	Treasurer
1883	GJ Maunsell	RW Baldwin		PB Symes	....
1884	Robert W. Baldwin	....	E King	P Henderson	....
1885	Robert W. Baldwin	....	E King	FH Gisborne	....
1886	William Whitcher	....	JS Brough	FH Gisborne	....
1887	William Whitcher	....	W Mcl Mainguy	FH Gisborne	....
1888	William Whitcher	....	E King	FH Gisborne	....
1889	E King	....	FH Gisborne	H Roy	WH Cronk
1890	E King	....	PB Symes	FH Gisborne	WH Cronk
1891	W Mcl. Mainguy	....	PB Symes	FH Gisborne	WH Cronk
1892	FH Gisborne	....	WH Cronk	HC Ross	...
1893	FH Gisborne	....	WH Cronk	AA Pinard	...
1894	Sir Charles Tupper	HG Bate	Henri Roy	D Scott	AA Pinard
1895	Sir Charles Tupper	HG Bate	Henri Roy	WCE Stewart	AA Dion
1896	David MacLaren	WY Soper	Henri Roy	RE Watts	EB Holt
1897	David MacLaren	WY Soper	WJ Johnstone	RE Watts	EB Holt
1898	David MacLaren	WY Soper	EA Black	KF Clayton	EB Holt
1899	David MacLaren	WY Soper	EA Black	WW Moore	GR Stewart
1900	David MacLaren	WY Soper	EA Black	WW Moore	....

## Racing Records in the Nineteenth Century<sup>74</sup>

### Lansdowne Challenge Cup for Sailing Canoes

1888 R.W. Baldwin  
1889 R.W. Baldwin  
1890 C.E. Archibald  
1891 F. Merrett  
1892 F. Merrett  
1893 E.T.B. Gilmour  
1894 F.H. Gisborne  
1895 F.H. Gisborne  
1897 F. Merrett

### Challenge Cup for Open Canoe Sailing Races

1894 E.A.D. Jones  
1895 E.A.D. Jones  
1897 A.A. Pinard

### H.G. Bate Challenge Cup for Club Fours

1894	1895	1896	1897
R.A. Baldwin	R.A. Baldwin	C.H. Clenndenning	E.H. Clayton
J. Klotz	G.W. Woolsey	I.W. Hutcheson	G.W. Woolsey
G.W. Woolsey	E.C. Woolsey	B. Bell	E.C. Woolsey
A.A. Pinard	A.A. Pinard	A. deM. Bell	A.A. Pinard

### David MacLaren Challenge Cup for War Canoe Championships

1897 Ottawa Canoe Club  
1898 Ottawa Canoe Club  
1899 Britannia Boating Club  
1900 Britannia Boating Club  
1901 Ottawa Canoe Club  
1902 Britannia Boating Club  
1903 Britannia Boating Club  
1904 Ottawa Canoe Club

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<sup>1</sup> *Chronology of the Canadian Canoe Association, 1900-200*, p.5; C. Fred Johnston, "Fast Paddles and Fast Boats: The Origins of Canoe Racing," in John Jennings, *The Canoe: a Living Tradition*. (Toronto: Firefly Books, 2002), p.219.

<sup>2</sup> Ottawa *Citizen (OC)*, 3 July 1907, "History of Ottawa's Pioneer Canoe Club;" *OJ*, 31 March 1887. "Canoe Interests;" Jamie Benedickson. *Reflections on Paddling for Pleasure* (Toronto: University of

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Toronto Press, 1997) p.118. The founders included G.J. Maunsell, R.W. Baldwin, F.H. Gisborne, P.B. Symes, H. Roy, and W. McLeod Mainguy.

<sup>3</sup> C.E. Mortureux, "The Ottawa-New Edinburgh Canoe Club" (1941). The club leased a lot from the Department of Railways and Canals in 1885. Because of sawdust accumulations this site was unsuitable and in 1888 the club secured a lease to a new site on the north side of Sterling's wharf. LAC, RG2, series A-1-a, Vo. 526, Order in Council, 1888-1771.

<sup>4</sup> *OC*, 5 Jan. 1888, p.4. "Canoe Club Ball".

<sup>5</sup> *OC*, 3 July 1907, "History of Ottawa's Pioneer Canoe Club"

<sup>6</sup> Ottawa Canoe Club. *Year book of the Ottawa Canoe Club*. ([Ottawa]: The Club, 1904), pp.39-40.

<sup>7</sup> The distances are from the 1898 OCC Yearbook, p.33. C.E. Mortureux, "A History of the Ottawa-New Edinburgh Canoe Club," (1941). A lease signed 4 March 1899 with the City of Ottawa describes the lot as being 883 feet North 57 degrees East of the point where the line between Lot A and Lot 1 of the Junction Gore of Gloucester "...intersects the brow of precipitous descent to River and about 25 feet from high water line of same." City of Ottawa Archives (OA), Obsolete Leases, L01-OTT1-AG 1890, accession 11 D 04, box 1998-3028. LAC, MG29, I29, Indenture between OCC and Ottawa Canoe Club Boat House Company, Inc., 1894. LAC, RG11, Vol. 4289, file 8791-1, Part 3, Blueprint Plan dated 23 December 1915.

<sup>8</sup> LAC, MG29, I29, Ottawa Canoe Club Boathouse Company, Limited. Articles of Incorporation.

<sup>9</sup> C.E. Mortureux, "The Ottawa-New Edinburgh Canoe Club" (1941); *OC*, 23 July 1894, "Water Polo Practice".

<sup>10</sup> *Ottawa Journal (OJ)*, 14 April 1894. "The Canoe Club's Home; C.E. Mortureux, "The Ottawa-New Edinburgh Canoe Club" (1941); LAC, MG28, I29, Ottawa Canoe Club; Ottawa Canoe Club. Constitution. Adopted 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1897. CIHM/ICMH microfiche series -- no. 11584.

<sup>11</sup> "Ottawa Canoe Club Year Book, 1899," p.14.

<sup>12</sup> *OJ*, 26 March 1908. "Ottawa Canoe Club Annual."

<sup>13</sup> *OC*, 13 May 1931, p.25, "Come to the May Fair of the Ottawa-New Edinburgh Canoe Club – Rockcliffe".

<sup>14</sup> *Outing: An Illustrated Monthly Magazine of Recreation*, July 1884, Vol.4, pp.310-319. "Our Monthly Record".

<sup>15</sup> Ottawa Canoe Club. Constitution. Adopted 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1897. CIHM/ICMH microfiche series -- no. 11584; 1900 revision is CIHM/ICMH microfiche series -- no. 11585.

<sup>16</sup> Ottawa Canoe Club. Constitution. Adopted 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1897. CIHM/ICMH microfiche series -- no. 11584.

<sup>17</sup> Ottawa Canoe Club. *Year book of the Ottawa Canoe Club, 1898*; Ottawa Canoe Club. *Year book of the Ottawa Canoe Club, 1899*.

<sup>18</sup> Ottawa Canoe Club. *Year book of the Ottawa Canoe Club*. ([Ottawa]: The Club, 1904), p.39.

<sup>19</sup> Ottawa Canoe Club. *Year book of the Ottawa Canoe Club*. ([Ottawa]: The Club, 1904), p.39.

<sup>20</sup> *OC*, 24 Sept. 1888, p.9, "The Double Paddling Race"; *OC*, "Local Paddlers Made Fast Time in Seven Mile Race;" Francis H. Gisborne, "From Lake Nipissing to Ottawa," *Outing Magazine*, Vol. 15, 1889, pp.375-78.

<sup>21</sup> Ottawa Canoe Club. *Year book of the Ottawa Canoe Club*. ([Ottawa]: The Club, 1904), p.44.

<sup>22</sup> *New York Times*, 26 Aug. 1886, p.3, "Won by America"; *New York Times*, 26 August 1887, "Sport for Canoeists".

<sup>23</sup> *OJ*, 10 September 1892. "Canoe Club Regatta;" *New York Times*, 22 July 1894, p.17. "Pleasures of the Canoe Camp"; *New York Times*, 23 August 1894. p.6, "For International Canoe Cup"; *New York Times*, 22 August 1895, p. 6, "Paddling Race at Camp".

<sup>24</sup> *New York Times*, 10 Nov. 1894. "Meeting of the American Canoe Association".

<sup>25</sup> *OJ*, 25 April 1900. "Lynch May Be Coach;" *OJ*, 3 August 1901. "Ottawa Oarsmen in the Big Regatta;" *OJ*, 6 August 1901. "Two Days Regatta Furnished Good sport."

<sup>26</sup> *OJ*, 10 August 1896. "Brockville Regatta;" *OC*, 12 August 1896. "Belleville's Turn."

<sup>27</sup> *Outing*, September 1898, pp.637-38; *OC*, 15 July 1898. "Canoeing. The Youp-Youp Won." Paul Newman (or Neuman) had won an Olympic gold for swimming in 1896.

<sup>28</sup> *Outing*, 1899 October Vol. XXXV No. 1 p. 87-89, "The ACA – the meet of 99."

<sup>29</sup> *OJ*, 17 August 1896. "Hold the Doubles Yet."

<sup>30</sup> NAC, RG9, IIA5, Vol. 11, p.111; NA, RG33, A-1-a, Vol. 58, reel T-2076, "Service Files"

<sup>31</sup> Quoted in Sandra Gwyn, *The Private Capital: Ambition and Love in the Age of Macdonald and Laurier*. (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1984), p.321.

<sup>32</sup> *OJ*, 19 March 1887. "Canoe Interests."

- <sup>33</sup> *OJ*, 23 May 1887. "On the Ottawa. The Pleasures of the Opening Canoe Club Cruise."
- <sup>34</sup> *OJ*, 1 September 1887. "A fourth Place wins a cup."
- <sup>35</sup> *OJ*, 10 April 1888. "The Canoe Club"; *OJ*, 2 May 1888. "Notes of Sport"; *OJ*, 25 May 1888. "The Canoeists"; *OC*, 24 Sept. 1888, "Canoe Races at the Fair."
- <sup>36</sup> *OJ*, 3 October 1889. "Won by the Musette"; *OJ*, 19 March 1959. "Ivan Roy Dies at Pembroke."
- <sup>37</sup> *OJ*, 2 August 1894. "Muscles Will Swell"; *ibid.*, 28 August 1893. "T'was Keen Sport" *ibid.*, 14 August 1900, "Snowshoeing Will Be Dropped."
- <sup>38</sup> *OC*, 3 September 1894. "Britannia Regatta;" Wikipedia, "Aylmer, Quebec;" Wikipedia, "Britannia Yacht Club;" *OJ*, 11 June 1892. "The Primrose Canoe Club."
- <sup>39</sup> *OC*, 28 July 1890. "Sporting Notes;" *OC*, 24 July 1890, "Sporting Record."
- <sup>40</sup> *OJ*, 28 August 1893. "T'was Keen Sport;" *OJ*, 23 August 1893. "Canoe Club Races."
- <sup>41</sup> *OJ*, 17 August 1894. "Canoe Club Entries;" *OC*, 20 August 1894. "The Canoe Club's Regatta;" *OC*, 23 July 1894. "Water Polo Practice."
- <sup>42</sup> *OC*, 26 August 1895. "The Canoe Club Races;" *OJ*, 26 August 1895. "Muscle and Skill Won."
- <sup>43</sup> *OC*, 22 July 1896. "Aquatic;" *OJ*, 21 August 1896. "The Aylmer Regatta;" *OJ*, 24 August 1896. "Britannia Bay;" *OC*, 24 August 1896, p.2. "Aylmer Races."
- <sup>44</sup> *Outing* 1896 Vol. 29 "Back to Grindstone: The Canoe Camp."
- <sup>45</sup> *OJ*, 10 August 1896. "Brockville Regatta;" *OC*, 12 August 1896. "Belleville's Turn."
- <sup>46</sup> *OJ*, 5 September 1896. "Ottawa Men Will Go."
- <sup>47</sup> *OJ* 4 July 1896. "Specially Contributed to the Journal"; *OJ* 17 July 1896. "Want a New Clubhouse".
- <sup>48</sup> *OJ*, 23 August 1897. "A Regatta in a Breeze"; *ibid.*, September 1897. "Good Entries Close Contests"; *ibid.*, 17 August 1896. "Hold the doubles yet."
- <sup>49</sup> *OJ*, 25 July 1898, "On Lake Deschene;" *ibid.*, 15 August 1898. "Champions of Canada"; *ibid.*, 22 August 1898. "War Canoe Race Unsatisfactory;" *ibid.*, 29 August 1898. "Britannia Celebrated."
- <sup>50</sup> *OJ*, 8 March 1899. "Canoeists are Stirring;" *ibid.*, 9 March 1899. "A Little Stirred Up;" *ibid.*, 10 March 1899. "Canoeing. That War Canoe Race;" *ibid.*, 11 March 1899. "That Canoe Race;" *ibid.*, 11 March 1899. "War Canoe Championship;" *ibid.*, 24 April 1899. "Canoeists Busy."
- <sup>51</sup> *OJ*, 31 July 1899. "Fine Contests at Britannia;" *ibid.*, 28 August 1899. "Britannias Still Rule."
- <sup>52</sup> *OC*, 13 June 1899. "Canoeing. War Canoe Crews".
- <sup>53</sup> Thirty two of the war canoe crew have been identified in the 1901 census and their average age calculated.
- <sup>54</sup> City of Ottawa Archives, MG109, 21-D-81, "Ottawa Canoe Club Year Book, 1901," pp.27, 33.
- <sup>55</sup> *Toronto Star*, 14 March 1900, "Ottawa Beaten in the Final;" *OC*, 23 July 1900. "Canoeing".
- <sup>56</sup> *OC*, 30 July 1900. "Aquatics".
- <sup>57</sup> *OC*, 20 August 1900. "Britannias Again"; *OJ*, 20 August 1900. "A Good Day's Sport".
- <sup>58</sup> Johnston, "The Origins of Canoe Racing," pp.220-21.
- <sup>59</sup> C. Fred Johnston, "The Canoe Sport in Canada: Anglo-American Hybrid?" in James Raffan and Bert Horwood, *Canexus: The Canoe in Canadian Culture*. (Toronto: Betelgeuse Books, 1988), p.66.
- <sup>60</sup> *New York Times*, 13 Aug. 1881. p.1, "The Canoe Island Camp" and "The Second Day of the Regatta".
- <sup>61</sup> *Outing*, 1884 October Vol. V No. 1 p. 68-77.
- <sup>62</sup> ACA History, 1880-1960, Appendix F: Racing and Trophy Information.  
[http://www.americancanoe.org/site/c.lvIZIkNZJuE/b.4863399/k.14B2/ACA\\_History\\_1880\\_\\_1960.htm](http://www.americancanoe.org/site/c.lvIZIkNZJuE/b.4863399/k.14B2/ACA_History_1880__1960.htm)
- <sup>63</sup> Ottawa Canoe Club. *Year Book of the Ottawa Canoe Club, 1905*, p.47.
- <sup>64</sup> C. Fred Johnston, "Fast Paddles and Fast Boats: the Origins of Canoe Racing," in John Jennings, *The Canoe: a Living Tradition* (Toronto: Firefly Books, 2002), p.225.
- <sup>65</sup> *OC*, 30 July 1900. "Aquatic". This time was recorded on the Ottawa River at the club and may have been with the current.
- <sup>66</sup> *Outing*, 1899 October Vol. XXXV No. 1 p. 87-89 V35, "The ACA – the meet of 99." Archibald's victory was somewhat tainted by the fact that many, perhaps all, of the potential contestants had refused to race because of a dispute with the race committee. Jessica Dunkin, "Canoes and Canvas; the social and spatial politics of sport/leisure in late nineteenth-century North America." Carleton University Phd. Thesis, 2012), p.326.
- <sup>67</sup> *Outing*, 1899 October Vol. XXXV No. 1 p. 87-89 V35, "The ACA – the meet of 99;" *OC*, 15 August 1899. "Canoeing. Britannia Takes Second Place."
- <sup>68</sup> See the group photo "Ottawa Canoe Club. Champions of Canada. 1904" LAC, Mikan No. 3412208, Topley Studios.

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<sup>69</sup> *OJ*, 18 August 1899. “ACA May Be Broken Up”

<sup>70</sup> *OJ*, 4 July 1899. “War Canoe League”; *ibid.*, 18 August 1899. “ACA May be Broken Up;” *Montreal Gazette*, 18 Jan. 1900. “Aquatics. An Association Proposed”; C. Fred Johnston, “Fast Paddles and Fast Boats: the Origins of Canoe Racing,” in John Jennings, *The Canoe: a Living Tradition* (Toronto: Firefly Books, 2002), pp.232-33; *Chronology of the Canadian Canoe Association, 1900-200*, pp.19-21.

<sup>71</sup> C. Fred Johnston, “Fast Paddles and Fast Boats: the Origins of Canoe Racing,” in John Jennings, *The Canoe: a Living Tradition* (Toronto: Firefly Books, 2002), pp.232-33.

<sup>72</sup> C. Fred. Johnston. *100 Years of Champions - The Canadian Canoe Association 1900-2000*. (Queens University, Kingston. 2003)

<sup>73</sup> Ottawa Canoe Club. *Year Book of the Ottawa Canoe Club, 1905*.

<sup>74</sup> Ottawa Canoe Club. *Year Book of the Ottawa Canoe Club, 1905*, p.47; AO, A2010-0014, Box 1, MG29-4-1, Ottawa Canoe Club. *Constitution Adopted 3 June 1897. Revised 23 March 1910*.