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## **Carleton Place Canoe Club – 2019 Annual General Meeting** **Head Coach Report**

The Carleton Place Canoe Club enjoyed another successful season in 2019, with highlights in competitive performance, strong registration numbers, and in closing out the year with a stable financial status. I would like to thank all of our coaches, our 2019 board of directors, our volunteers, and the town of Carleton Place for their tireless support of our exceptional club. Without this continued support and dedication, we would not be able to offer some of the best canoe/kayak and summer camp programs in the country. I would also like to thank and congratulate the athletes and parents for their hard work, time commitment, and countless successes this past season.

### **Performance Review**

In 2019, the CPCC established itself as the strongest U12/U14 Canoe Club in Ontario, winning the overall U14 Provincial Championships for the first time in over 20 years. Competing against large city clubs such as Rideau (Ottawa), Mississauga, Burloak, and Balmy Beach, the Carleton Place Canoe Club also took home the provincial burgees for U12 girls and U12 overall. On the road to these burgees and trophies, the CPCC U14 provincials crew hit the podium a total of 24 times, with 19 different U14 athletes performing at a provincial medalist level in a singles, doubles, or fours. To top it all off, coach Thomas Paquette's war canoe crews in U12 mixed, U14 girls, and U14 mixed all placed in the top three to land on the podium.

This past season also saw the CPCC have success at the divisional level, winning the U10, U12 and U14 Eastern Ontario Divisional Championships. Included in this championship event were bargee wins in the U10 overall, U12 girls, and U12 overall categories.

Carleton Place athletes also had success at the U16 and older age groups, sending 14 athletes to compete at the Canoe Kayak Canada National Championships in Regina, Saskatchewan in late August. Proudly representing our small town, athletes performed very well, earning a total of 5 medals at the championships, including 4 singles event medals and 1 crew boat medal.

The 2019 competition season continued into September for one Carleton Place athlete, as Evie McDonald travelled with Team Canada to Bratislava, Slovakia in mid-September. Evie represented our club and country well, earning 2 medals at the well attended international junior regatta. Evie placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> in the 4 events she competed in, indicating that she is one of the best up and coming junior women's canoers on the international scene.

**Looking forward to 2020**, we will be focusing on our athlete development model to further support retention into the U14 and U16 competitive programs, looking to improve on our competitive performances across all age categories. We will be looking to maintain our level of performance at the U14 divisional and provincial levels.

The CKC National Championships will be held in Ottawa in 2020, making this upcoming season a great opportunity to get more athletes involved at the National level. Focusing on a war canoe and crews program, we will be targeting past CPCC athletes, and athletes who wish to compete in crews only to get involved in a Nationals push next summer. With CANMAS (Masters National Championships) being so close to home as well, we will aim to engage in our Adult Canoe Kayak members and our alumni to participate in the late August event in Ottawa.

### **Staff Review**

In 2019, the CPCC hired a total of 26 staff, varying in part-time and full-time seasonal positions. In the spring, 6 of these staff gained National Coach Certification Program (NCCP) Entry Level Competitive Coach (ELCC) 'trained' status, while another 6 gained their NCCP Canoe Kids Community Coach Certification. We were also fortunate enough to have volunteers contribute to our staff training this season, delivering workshops on behaviour management and motorboat use. With a knowledgeable staff, our competitive programs are thriving with strong athlete development, which is reflected in our 2019 results. Often challenged with equipment and space shortages, our group of young staff did well to manage daily operations and deliver a safe, fun, and learning based program.

**Looking forward to 2020**, our staffing focus will be on expanding our staff training to be more specific to group management and technical skills development in relation to our athlete development pathway. We are also aiming to have our returning staff gain their full ELCC certified status for full-time competitive program coaches.

### **Equipment**

Canoe Kayak is a very equipment reliant sporting activity, and without the ability to maintain, replace, and upgrade equipment, canoe clubs would not be able to progress and grow. In 2019, the CPCC was able to purchase over \$40,000 in equipment. This equipment was used to benefit all programs and members. Within this purchased equipment, the CPCC addressed equipment deficiencies in our youth development canoes, our U14 and adult intermediate kayaks, our growing high performance crews, and our recreational and introductory inventory.

**Looking forward to 2020**, our targeted equipment purchases will address needs across all levels of programming. Priorities will include updating our introductory level kayak singles, increasing the quantity of our development canoes, and improving the quality and quantity of our intermediate and high-performance crew boat inventory. We will also be looking to increase our inventory of recreational equipment to support the growth of our basic membership program and our equipment rental program.

Another important area to note with regards to equipment is maintenance and repair. With the volume of members and the amount of usage our equipment sees, constant repair and maintenance is required. We are always looking for skilled individuals to help perform minor repairs to equipment, ranging from small epoxy touch-ups to seat and footboard replacements.

Below is a list of equipment identified as needed within the next 4 years in order to support program growth, both in quantity and in quality. This list is constantly being updated and adjusted based on the growing and changing needs of the club.



Equipment Requirements 2020-2024						
Equipment	Notes/Programs Benefited	Cost	QTY	Total \$	Total After	
Docks	Increase Dock Space and Ramp Access to water	\$3,500.00	1	\$3,500.00	\$3,955.00	
Hody Mini C2	U10, U12, U14 - Development Canoe Crews	\$2,260.00	2	\$4,520.00	\$5,107.60	
Vajda Apex 46/51	U12, U14, & ACK - Intro and Intermediate	\$2,350.00	4	\$9,400.00	\$10,622.00	
Kape Joker C1	U12+ - Intermediate transition canoe	\$2,350.00	1	\$2,350.00	\$2,655.50	
Nelo C2 F Construction - Size M	U14 Intermediate Development Canoe Crew	\$4,000.00	2	\$8,000.00	\$9,040.00	
Stand-Up Paddle Boards	Rec rentals, Basic Member, Coaching	\$399.00	4	\$1,596.00	\$1,803.48	
Vintage K2	U12+ - Intermediate Development Kayak Crew	\$4,510.00	2	\$9,020.00	\$10,192.60	
				<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$43,376.18</b>	

**Policies and Procedures**

As with any organization, policies and procedures are a major component of our day-to-day operations. Over the past couple of years, we have seen a significant improvement in some of our policies and club documents. This past year had the club streamline the process for signing waivers and forms by making them available through an online application. Volunteers also worked together to create a new employee manual, providing our staff with a comprehensive document outlining expectations and guidelines for their employment with the club.

**Looking forward to 2020**, our focus in this area will be on adopting Canoe Kayak Canada’s new safe sport policies and processes. This will include implementing a number of new policies, such as Rowan’s Law on concussion management protocols. We will also be working closely with CKC as they look to roll out a replacement software for our national paddler registration program (currently called PadTrac). With goals to improve the quality of our staff training, we will also be expanding on our new employee manual to include specific and applicable technical information sheets, to be used in the daily coaching environment.

Finally, as we look forward to building on the momentum generated in 2019, I want to reiterate how happy I am with the progress of this Canoe Club over the past 6 years. With a strong membership base, committed volunteers, and hard-working athletes, we can continue to grow and improve the quality of programs this club has been providing our communities for the last 126 years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Lester  
 Head Coach  
 Carleton Place Canoe Club