

Aviron Knowlton Rowing athletes heading west for National Championships and Canada Cup

By Ann Davidson

Just because most people have stored their watercraft away until next spring doesn't hold back athletes from Aviron Knowlton Rowing Club (AKR) whatsoever. They are readying to head to Vancouver for a national event that is a double header. The National Rowing Championships and the Canada Cup, hosted by Rowing BC will take place between November 9 and 12 at Burnaby Lake.

Open to competitors from across Canada who are representing their provinces, the event serves to identify and assess the fastest rowers in the country. The Canada Cup portion that follows the National Championships provides the opportunity for Canada's developing rowers to compete against other provinces within larger crews that include National Team athletes. All the athletes go through time trials to get to quarterfinals and then semifinals. On the fourth day they get to go in team boats, most like in quattras (four-man sculls).

According to Rowing BC, for some athletes, their performance at the NRC will be the pinnacle of their rowing careers, but for others it is a development opportunity on their paths to eventually representing Canada on the world stage.

In total there are 10 athletes who will be representing Quebec with 50 per cent of the delegation from Aviron Knowlton Rowing. Anna Burnotte will be in the U19 category. Marilou Duvernay Tardiff will be competing in the U23, while Gabrielle Smith, Shannon Kennedy, and Martin Robitaille will row in the seniors' category.

The Brome Lake-based club at the end of its second season brought home gold, silver, and bronze medals in this summer's Canada Games, including a gold win in the Women's Double Sculls event by Burnotte and Duvernay-Tardiff. Then Duvernay-Tardiff landed the James A. McMullen Trophy at the prestigious

North America event, the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, in the intermediate women's single (Under 23) category.

While two of the younger rowers from AKR, Charles-Antoine Charest and Maylie Valiquette, were invited to participate in the Burnaby Lake events in November, McKay says they are strong candidates for future races but are very young for this upcoming regatta.

McKay admits that there is a lot of work to transport the equipment across the country and that the trip is costly. "It's a long haul across the country with ten hulls on the trailer." He will be taking them on the first leg of the trek between Knowlton and St. Catherine's, Ontario. Some of the athletes have funding from the provincial coffers because of the level at which they are, others are doing what they can and do get some help from the Quebec Rowing Federation. Some of them have jobs, but they have to work it all around their schooling too.

The ever-enthusiastic coach is delighted with the training time during the summer and autumn period. "With the weather so warm it has been easy and the wind has not been a factor. It doesn't scare us anyway," he joked. "Brome Lake is a really outstanding lake for this sport. We can always find good water." When asked if water time would be over after the BC events, McKay says that, "As long as the lake is liquid, we will keep rowing. It will be a challenge for the lower legs to launch the boats because we have to step into the water. We will see how it plays out."

While the club is looking for storage space within close proximity to Knowlton for some of the boats over the winter period, McKay is quick to mention how amazing the community has been to lend a hand. Adding to that, he knows that the club is a good thing for the community to have these young people around. They are taking jobs in stores and are also contributing to the kids in the area.



ANN DAVIDSON

Coach Gavin McKay of the Aviron Knowlton Rowing at left is ready to take the trailer load of rowing sculls on the first leg of their journey to Burnaby Lake, BC. Gabrielle Smith on the right is one of the five athletes from AKR competing in the National Championships and the Canada Cup hosted by Rowing BC in November.

Community outrage

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She also uses it as a platform to keep the community up to date with the numerous projects and activities related to the school's Greenhouse and Garden Project. On October 23 Ruggins-Muir posted her shock over finding that when she had gone to the school in the late afternoon that day to check on the perennials that had been donated for the "fairy garden," that they needed watering. "So I walked up the hill to turn on the hose and discovered one of our two water tanks had gone and the hose sliced in half! It takes a special kind of piece of (expletive) to steal from a children's garden." She went on to surmise that this could not have been the act of simply vandals because the tank holds a thousand litres of water and is huge. "It would have had to be drained then loaded by at least 2 people onto a pickup truck." Her deduction was that the theft had to be calculated and needed at

least a half hour to make it happen.

"It is bad enough to wreck or ruin an adult endeavour. This student garden is a teaching and learning tool. Not fair to pick on children," bleated Carol Murray. "What is wrong with the people seriously! Why would anyone do this to the kids and all the volunteers who have worked so hard to make it happen?" questioned Melissa Elston.

After posting Monday about the school garden water tank being stolen Ruggins-Muir was contacted by Cassandra Julien Charby and her husband Christopher, who delivered a new one today. "And Tasha-Marie Chubby and her partner Justin Jacques who have one for us as well. So one tank was stolen but two new ones were given to us. The second tank needed picking up and it was Jessica Fleury who jumped in to say that the pick up had been taken care of.

"Meet The Candidates" - Foster

Salle Ovide Dagenais Hall, 25 Taylor, Foster
on November 2 at 7 p.m.

The meeting is very important given that:

- The three candidates are novice
- There is a proposed development of serious proportions involving the land of the former golf club in Foster and residents must be confident that whoever may become the new councilor will act in ways that reflect their interests in any changes which may result from this project

Significant development projects are a great challenge for the councilor to handle while protecting existing residents, thus **the more the residents know about whom they might decide to elect the better.**

Info: Richard Price 450-530-1123 • Chuck Christie 450-539-4455

Secteur Foster District

L'élection municipale du 5 novembre, dans le secteur Foster pour membre du conseil. SVP votez pour

DAVID TAVEROFF

requests to have your vote for Council member in the Foster district for the municipal election of November 5th.

Pour une forte communauté For a strong community

- Résident de Foster à Baie Robinson depuis 17 ans
- Un individu d'expérience d'administration municipale près de 40 ans
- Bénévole actuel du Loisir et Services Communautaires de Lac-Brome
- Prêt à contribuer à la communauté et à être un bon représentant pour les citoyens et citoyennes de Foster

- Resident of Foster in Robinson Bay for 17 years
- An individual of experience in municipal government operations approaching 40 years
- Currently a volunteer with Recreation and Community Services of Brome Lake
- Ready to give back to his community and to be the representative for the residents of Foster

Contact info: dtaveroff.election@bell.net

