

Strong showing for Rouge at Dominion Day Regatta

Club wins six gold medals at competition

DURHAM -- The West Rouge Canoe Club had its strongest showing in years, winning six gold medals at the Dominion Day Regatta held annually on Centre Island.

Leading the way for the Rouge contingent was Taylor Potts, who won the women's canoe singles (C-1) and who also stroked the mixed war canoe to victory in the final race of the day.

The triumphs capped an impressive week for Potts, who recently returned home from a second-place showing at the Ontario team trials in Ottawa in late June. These results bode well for her as she prepares for the Pan American trials which will

be held on the weekend of July 17 in Montreal.

"I'm pleased with the way I raced today, and I learned some things that I can improve for next time," Potts said after her race.

Potts was one of several victorious Rouge racers at the Dominion Day event. Brian Williamson surged ahead in the last 100m to claim the men's canoe singles and Erin Skitch led wire to wire to win the women's kayak singles. Richard Freeland brought the crowd to its feet with his win in the paddleall kayak division, and Scott Barclay, who, like Potts, posted several personal bests at the Ontario trials, teamed with Mark Dalgarno, Mike Krem and Darren Mossman in the four-men kayak and prevailed over a fast-charging crew from Mississauga.

Coach Mike Krem was pleased with the results.

"I'm really thrilled that the hard work these athletes have put in all year is beginning to pay off," Krem said. "It should give them confidence going forward to our divisional trials."

Krem also saw good things ahead for the club.

"What I'm most excited about is that Taylor, Erin, Scott and Mark are now part of our coaching staff," Krem remarked. "Our bantam members (athletes aged 9-14) have the chance to learn from and be mentored by athletes who know firsthand what it takes to be a champion and who truly love all aspects of the sport. It bodes well for the future of our club."

It's not too late to join the Rouge for their successful 2010 campaign. Go to www.westrougecc.org for information about programs for all ages and abilities.