



CLUB NEWS

WWW.MASKWA.CA

Winter 2026

COMMODORE'S MESSAGE



Peter Giles,
Commodore

At our recent AGM we welcomed three new Board members. **Mike Kerrivan** joins us as Paddling Chair, bringing with him many valuable years of paddling and coaching experience. **Kattie Calleja** will assume the role of Fundraising Chair, bringing fresh energy and new ideas to a position that has been vacant for the past year (our Treasurer, Stephanie Bousquet, has been very active in this area, but the two roles are too demanding for one person alone). Finally, we have added **Alex Chapman** to the Board to lead our facility rejuvenation efforts. Many of you know that we have been bursting at the seams for some time, and we have been talking about a club expansion for years. Alex is charged with turning this talk into a real project. None of these jobs can really be filled by one person, so we will be looking for more volunteer input and support when the time is right.

As we begin the new Board term, several valued Board members are departing or changing roles. **Leah MacDonald** has worked many miracles as chair of the Social Committee during her time on the Board, and we will miss her. We are still looking for somebody to take on this important job! **Mimi Cote** is moving on from her role as Paddling Chair, although I am happy that she will continue to bring her enthusiasm and joy to the Board. **Anna Negulic**, long-serving Athlete Rep, is also leaving the Board. I am confident that Anna will return to help Maskwa when her other commitments allow it. Finally, I will note that **Brian Smith** (Past Commodore) is stepping down, after many years of dedication to the Club. Brian assures me that he will always be available for advice, and to lend a helping hand with repairs. That's the Maskwa spirit!

COACH NEWS

Winter is almost over for our High Performance paddlers, as we are less than a month away from our spring training camp in Cinfaes, Portugal! Everyone is looking forward to being back on the water and the new experience of a European training camp. While we will miss our Florida home in Homosassa, the training center in Portugal looks great and it is nice to avoid the hassle of getting boats across the border into the US!

Soon Kearney Lake will open, and those not going to training camps will hope to get back on the water before long. Spring also means registration for summer programs and a new crop of Maskwa paddlers signing up to take their first strokes - we will again offer a Spring Development program for those looking for a head start on their summer paddling. For newcomers to Maskwa, please reach out if you have any questions about our programs or the sport in general- we know it's a lot to take in, for those getting started!



Christian Hall,
Head Coach

PROGRAM NEWS

DEVELOPMENT & ACADEMY



Lily Baert,
Athlete Dev. Lead

The Development group has been training six times per week with a mix of running, rowing, erging, swimming, and strength work. They have made great progress this winter, improving their fitness and skills, all while having lots of fun. The group is excited to get back on the water and continue building towards a strong season.

The Academy group has been busy and consistent throughout the winter, training eight times per week. Our workouts have been focused on a mix of running, strength work, swimming, and soccer! The group competed at the ADCKC swim meet in January and delivered strong performances. We are now looking forward to getting back on the water soon, with our focus turning toward the U12/U14 Atlantic Championships this summer!

MASTERS

After a successful end to the on-water season, the Masters group has been crushing their offseason training! They have been working hard in the gym lifting heavy, and tackling challenging circuits. With our largest Masters winter group yet, it has been fantastic to see the group continue to grow with a mix of new and familiar faces and to watch everyone getting stronger over the past few months. Everyone is looking forward to training hard for another couple months and are looking forward to hitting the water again this spring!



Morgan Pugh-Toole.
Masters Lead



Masters 2025 Winners (L-R):

Rookie of the Year: Luke Woodhead

Sportsmanship & Team Spirit: Meaghan Woodhead

Paddler of the Year: Barry MacPhail / Hillary Hall

Best Swimmer: Beth Swarbrigg



Registration Update

Summer program registration
opens online on

Tuesday, Feb 17 at 9:00AM!

Spaces fill up quickly, so mark
your calendars and don't miss
out on our Adventure Day Camps
or full Summer Paddling
Programs!

We have some exciting additions
to our full Summer Paddling
Program: limited before/after
care spots, as well as the option
to pay the registration cost in
installments. Visit the Summer
Paddling section of the website
([here](#)) for full details!

We are also using a **new
registration system** for everyone
this year - be sure to visit the
Registration tab on our website
([here](#)) to learn more!

A graphic with a blue sky background and a bright sun in the top right corner. In the top left is the Maskwa Aquatic Club logo, which features a stylized swimmer and the text 'MASKWA AQUATIC CLUB'. The main text is 'SUMMER REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 17!' in large, bold, yellow and white letters with blue outlines. Below this is the website 'WWW.MASKWA.CA' in bold black letters. At the bottom, it says '*REGISTRATION DONE ONLINE*' in italics, followed by 'OPENS @ 9:00AM' and 'TUESDAY, FEB.17th, 2026' in bold black letters.

**MASKWA
AQUATIC
CLUB**

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CHECK **THIS OUT**



SILENT AUCTION



in support of Maskwa Athletes attending Spring Training Camp in Portugal

BIDDING STARTS: Sunday, February 15th

AUCTION CLOSES: Sunday, February 22nd at 8PM



Coming Soon! Online Silent Auction in support of Maskwa athletes going to Spring Training in Portugal. Auction website will be announced on our socials on February 15th - stay tuned!



SOCIAL COMMITTEE CHAIR NEEDED!

Do you love planning and coordinating events and activities? A Social Committee Chair (or two Co-Chairs) is needed to spearhead the committee and organize events for our members. This role comes with lots of support, with a great group of volunteers already in place to help run events!



Email info@maskwa.ca if interested!



Did you know that your refundable recyclables can support Maskwa? Just drop them off at the Bedford Enviro Depot (**Bluewater Recycling - 23 Bluewater Road**), and ask that the money earned be put on our account. Funds go directly towards Maskwa's fundraising efforts!



www.maskwa.ca



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