



CLUB NEWS

WWW.MASKWA.CA

Spring 2026

COMMODORE'S MESSAGE



Peter Giles,
Commodore

As always, this is an exciting time of year! Many of our year-round paddlers are back from a successful spring training camp in Portugal, most of our summer programs have opened for registration, and our High Performance athletes are gearing up for some key competitions. Our annual Open House will take place on June 13th (details to follow), and our Maskwa Spring Clean-Up is also coming up soon (date to be announced soon).

I wanted to highlight a few areas where the Board has been active, and also ask for your help: First, you will hopefully notice some increased activity around dragon boat. The Board has been trying to expand this program for some time, and there is extra energy around this now, thanks to Mimi Cote and J-F Bousquet. We believe dragon boating is an area where

Maskwa can grow, serving as both an important source of extra revenue and a strong way to integrate into the community. I'd especially like to highlight this program to parents who haven't tried paddling before. Dragon boat is an excellent entry point to the sport, with very little boating experience required, and we'd love for you to try it. We'll be holding a 'try dragon boat' day one weekend soon, so stay tuned for details.

Second, there is a lot of energy around fundraising and exploring strategies to improve Maskwa's financial situation while helping reduce the financial burden on members. Kattie Calleja has gathered a group of volunteers interested in supporting this effort, and you should see some activity ramp up through the summer.

Finally, I want to highlight that our Social Committee chair position is still vacant. I am afraid that this vacancy will be very obvious as we head into the summer. The Social Committee is important to building a sense of community at Maskwa, especially in the summer, when so many new faces come through the doors. A successful canoe club is more than just its coaches and athletes! If anyone thinks they could help us by leading the Social Committee volunteers, please reach out.

COACH NEWS

After a month in Portugal it has been a big change hitting the water on Kearney Lake where it has been both windy and cold – but warmer times are ahead! May sees our Masters, our Development group, our Para team, and our Paddle All program all hit the water as we start to get ready for the summer season! For our High Performance athletes, all of their hard work has built towards ADCKC Trials in late-May and National Team Trials in mid-June. It is also less than two months until our Summer Program kicks off, and myself and the rest of the coaching team are looking forward to meeting lots of new Maskwa paddlers in July and August. It's shaping up to be a great season of fun and competition – go Maskwa go!



Christian Hall,
Head Coach

PROGRAM NEWS

DEVELOPMENT & ACADEMY



Lily Baert,
Athlete Dev. Lead

The Development group has had a busy and active winter, with plenty of time in the gym, on the ergs, running, and playing games. As spring arrives, excitement is building as they get ready to be back on the water!

The Academy group is excited to be back on the water after a great winter of training! We kept busy swimming, running, rowing, and gym workouts. The group is looking forward to their first regatta in May.



(Above) Development & Academy
Back on the Water!

MASTERS

After a successful winter in the gym, the Masters group hit the water on May 2nd! The group has worked really hard through the winter doing weekly gym workouts in addition to occasional polar dips and coffee hang outs. It's been fantastic to see the group grow with a mix of new and familiar faces and to watch everyone getting stronger over the past few months. We are looking forward to another successful on-water season this summer and especially excited for those participating in the 2026 Masters World Championships being held in Dartmouth this summer!



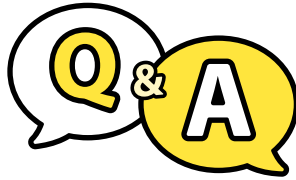
Morgan Pugh-Toole.
Masters Lead



Portugal Paddlers!

Pictures from Spring Training Camp in Cinfaes, Portugal





Is your child coming to Maskwa this summer and you have questions? Wondering what a typical day of programming is like? What to pack each day? What kind of life jacket? Where to go when you arrive? Drop off & pick up times?



WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

Visit the Parent FAQ section of the website [here](#) for the answers to all these questions and more! In addition, we will be having our annual Open House on **Saturday, June 13th from 2-4PM**, and our Parent Info Zoom Call on **Wednesday, June 17th at 7:30PM**.

A photograph of a large, two-story wooden building with a balcony, situated on a body of water. The text 'Open House' is written in a large, white, cursive font over the image.

Open House

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2-4PM
Maskwa Aquatic Club

Join us for our Open House! Summer 2026 staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have, and pre-ordered singlets & buns will be available for pickup.

A graphic with a teal background. It features a laptop screen showing a Zoom meeting with six participants. Above the screen are icons for a phone, a speech bubble, an envelope, and a heart. To the right is the Maskwa Aquatic Club logo. Below the screen, the text 'PARENT INFO ZOOM CALL' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. To the right of this text, 'JUNE 17' is written in large, bold, yellow letters, with '7:30PM' below it. At the bottom, there is a paragraph of text starting with an envelope icon.

PARENT INFO ZOOM CALL

JUNE 17
7:30PM

Join Coach Christian Hall as he fills you in on what to expect this summer at Maskwa, and answers all your questions!

✉ Zoom link to be emailed on June 17th, 2026 to all registered summer program and day camp participants. Contact info@maskwa.ca if not received.

CHECK THIS OUT



**Adult
DRAGON
BOAT**

**MONDAY OR WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
6:30-7:30PM - STARTS JUNE 1ST!**
(REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 15TH)

WWW.MASKWA.CA FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER

Looking for something unique to do this summer? Join us on the water for **Adult Dragon Boat - no experience needed!** With up to 40 paddlers each night and two boats on the water at once, you'll get a great mix of activity, teamwork, and time outside. Bonus - this year we're planning to send a Maskwa crew to a Maritime dragon boat festival!

Wondering what exactly dragon boat IS?! It's a team paddling sport with 20 people in a long, stable boat, plus a cox guiding you from the back. The boats are wide, very secure, and designed for all levels. If it's been on your radar, this is a great year to try it! **Registration opens May 15th at 9AM!**

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



**YOUR REFUNDABLE RECYCLABLES
CAN SUPPORT MASKWA!**

Just drop them off at **BLUEWATER RECYCLING**
(23 Bluewater Road) and ask to donate the funds to our
account. Money earned goes directly to Maskwa's
fundraising efforts!