



CLUB NEWS

WWW.MASKWA.CA

Summer 2026

COMMODORE'S MESSAGE



Peter Giles,
Commodore

Once again, we have come to that time of year where we launch another summer season of paddling. Even though Maskwa has been doing this for more than 50 years, it takes a lot of hard work to get the club ready for this moment. In this issue of the newsletter, you'll be able to read more about our great summer staff who will be teaming up with our year-round staff to lead the summer programs. Maskwa strives to be the best canoe club in Canada, and it all starts with this amazing group of people!

Of course, even Maskwa's great staff can't do everything, and our very hard-working volunteers have also been busy. You will be seeing some of the results at the club, in this newsletter, and in your email. In particular I wanted to mention the preparation of the docks and decks and grounds, a successful club and grounds clean-up day, and a very well-attended Open House. We are always looking for volunteers, so please keep an eye open for those communications! Maskwa can't be successful without your help.

The start of a new season is always exciting, and 2026 promises to be a big one! I look forward to seeing you around the club this summer.

COACH NEWS

To all our members, new and returning, welcome to another summer of paddling at Maskwa! I am excited to get to know everyone and to see our younger groups out on the water.

Our High Performance group has finished a successful offseason and competed this June at National Team Trials in Montreal. 30 Maskwa paddlers competed, and we are excited to see lots of Maskwa representation on Canadian national teams for 2026, including right here at home, where Brianna Smith, Emilee Vaters, Matt Brown, Sofia Marteli, and Victoria Tran will compete at the U23/Junior World Championships on Lake Banook from July 1-5.

I encourage members to get out and see these paddlers (and summer coaches) compete to be the best in the world and see what this sport has to offer at the highest level!



Christian Hall,
Head Coach

PROGRAM NEWS

DEVELOPMENT & ACADEMY



Lily Baert,
Athlete Dev. Lead

The Academy group is excited to have officially kicked off their racing season at the Summer Kickoff Regatta on Lake Banook! Earlier this spring they also competed at the long distance regatta at Maskwa. As the spring season wraps up and the summer program approaches, the group is excited to keep building momentum and focus their training on U12/U14 Championships.

The Development group has had a great start to the racing season, competing in both the Long Distance Regatta at Maskwa and the Summer Kickoff Regatta on Lake Banook! Throughout the spring, athletes have been training hard six days a week, building their skills and confidence on the water. With the summer program just around the corner, the group is excited to keep the momentum going and see what they can accomplish this summer.

MASTERS

After a cold and windy start to our on water season, the Masters are finally back on the water full time! To kick off our racing season, we have 12 athletes competing at the 2026 ICF Masters World Championships from June 25-27! As we move forward into the racing season this summer we have upped the intensity of our practices, focusing on improving both our technique and endurance. We look forward to a great summer ahead!



Morgan Pugh-Toole.
Masters Lead



Above: Emilee Vaters
(Gold, U18 Women K1 500, National Team Trials)



Right: Matt Brown
(Gold, U18 Men C1 1000, National Team Trials)

MEET YOUR MASKWA SUMMER TEAM!

SENIOR COACHES



Name: Alex MacNeil

Position: Sr. Coach

Fun Fact: C4 is my favourite race.



Name: Brianna Smith

Position: Sr. Coach

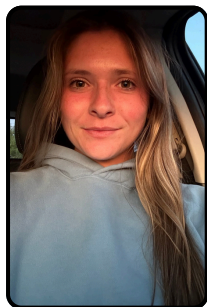
Fun Fact: I'm a mechanical engineering student.



Name: Jayden Kendziora

Position: Sr. Coach

Fun Fact: My favourite animal is a sea turtle!



Name: Jenna Wile

Position: Sr. Coach

Fun Fact: My favourite colour is purple.



Name: Maura Macumber

Position: Sr. Coach

Fun Fact: Some may say my best skill is trailer loading.



Name: Myah Cacao Ewing

Position: Sr. Coach

Fun Fact: Doug says I'm his best friend.

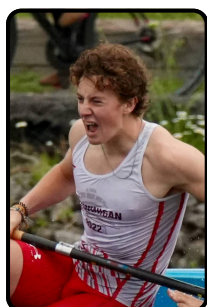


Name: Will Jennings

Position: Sr. Coach

Fun Fact: I recently learned how to juggle.

JUNIOR COACHES



Name: Alec MacAulay

Position: Jr. Coach

Fun Fact: I have been a paddler for 10 years!



Name: Anika du Plooy

Position: Jr. Coach

Fun Fact: My boat looks like it has Portuguese tiles on it.



Name: Ben Walker

Position: Jr. Coach

Fun Fact:



Name: Cambden Pratt

Position: Jr. Coach

Fun Fact: I can do a backflip.



Name: Emily MacKenzie

Position: Jr. Coach

Fun Fact: My favourite animal is a turtle.



Name: Emilee Vaters

Position: Jr. Coach

Fun Fact: I am a 5x Canada Summer Games medalist!

JUNIOR COACHES *(continued)*



Name: Ethan Johnson
Position: Jr. Coach
Fun Fact: I like football.



Name: Gabe Argante
Position: Jr. Coach
Fun Fact: I'm also a lifeguard.



Name: Gaelle Bosuquet
Position: Jr. Coach
Fun Fact: I have been to 15 concerts!



Name: Jack Conrad
Position: Jr. Coach
Fun Fact: I am the 2025 sibling regatta winner.



Name: Joey Coldwell
Position: Jr. Coach
Fun Fact: Liam's friend has 12 middle names.



Name: Luke MacKenzie
Position: Jr. Coach
Fun Fact: I have four dogs!



Name: Matt Brown
Position: Jr. Coach
Fun Fact: Doug Ellery still says I'm his best friend.



Name: Najib Bitar
Position: Jr. Coach
Fun Fact: I can speak 3 languages.



Name: Sofia Marteli
Position: Jr. Coach
Fun Fact: I can speak 3 languages.



Name: Will Townsend
Position: Jr. Coach
Fun Fact: I have been paddling for almost 10 years!



Name: Winter Dent
Position: Jr. Coach
Fun Fact: I collect duck jibbitz.



Name: David Ackerman
Position: Dock Coach
Fun Fact: I love four sports... one for each season!



Name: Owen Pelton
Position: Dock Coach
Fun Fact: I lived in PEI for three years.



Name: Charlie Hazel
Position: P/T Jr. Coach
Fun Fact: My boat looks like a candy cane.



Name: Grace Hilton
Position: P/T Jr. Coach
Fun Fact: I play three sports.

DAY CAMP



Name: Anya Cozens

Position: Head
Day Camp Leader
Fun Fact: I am a student
at Dalhousie University
taking the Bioveterinary
program!



Name: Ava Cacao Ewing

Position: Assistant
Day Camp Leader
Fun Fact: I can say hello in
7 different languages.



Name: Deacon Hazel

Position: Assistant
Day Camp Leader
Fun Fact: I like
chicken.



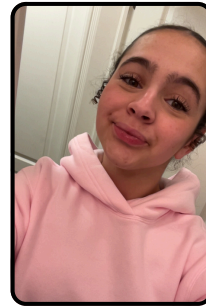
**Name: Konstantine
Armstrong**

Position: Assistant
Day Camp Leader
Fun Fact: My first name
has more letters than
Kejimikujik.



Name: Yael Ginovker

Position: Assistant
Day Camp Leader
Fun Fact: I'm a professional
pianist.



**Name: Gabby
Cartwright**

Position: Assistant
Day Camp Leader
Fun Fact: I started at
Maskwa in swimming
lessons a decade ago!



Name: Raquel Waycott

Position: Assistant
Day Camp Leader
Fun Fact: I am a
competitive dancer and
have been dancing for
11 years.

See you Soon!

LIFEGUARDS



Name: Hannah Mills

Position: Head Lifeguard
Fun Fact: My name is
the same forwards and
backwards.



Name: Abby Fraser

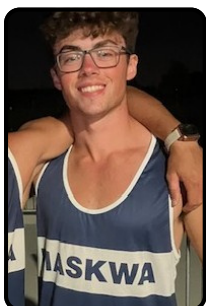
Position: Lifeguard
Fun Fact: I play indoor and
beach volleyball.



**Name: James
Swarbrigg**

Position: Lifeguard
Fun Fact: I have two
middle names.

SPC & OTHER



Name: Aidan Martell

Position: Summer
Program Coordinator
Fun Fact: Alex MacNeil
is considered my son
by many.



Name: Jessica Wood

Position: Canteen
Fun Fact: I enjoy baking,
crocheting and making
origami in my free time.



**Name: Liam
MacPhail**

Position: Custodian
Fun Fact: I've broken
5 bones.

CHECK THIS OUT

Floating Treatment Wetlands

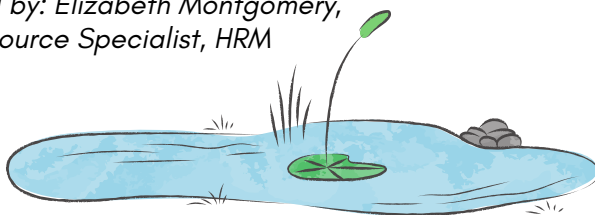
Starting June 2026, you may notice some new features on Kearney Lake!

HRM and the Centre for Water Resources at Dalhousie University are testing floating treatment wetlands. These are 1m x 2m floating pods lined with coconut coir. Water-loving species will be planted into a shallow mix of soil and mulch. As they grow, their roots will extend into the lake using excess nutrients (like phosphorus) as food, removing it from the water in the process. Once the plants have grown to the point of filling the pods, they will be harvested. When they are removed, all the nutrients they used will be removed from the lake system along with them.

Floating treatment wetlands are not new technology. They have been used successfully for decades in wastewater treatment ponds. We are testing how they perform in a lake where nutrient concentrations are too high for a healthy freshwater ecosystem (albeit lower than in a wastewater treatment facility). We are also testing their longevity in a colder climate that experiences frequent freeze/thaw cycles.

In addition to nutrient removal, we expect these floating wetlands will provide shady habitat for fish and other aquatic species and encourage sediment settlement thereby increasing water clarity.

*Submitted by: Elizabeth Montgomery,
Water Resource Specialist, HRM*



SUMMER CAMP QUESTIONS?



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 Info section of the website** [here](#) for the answers to all these questions and more!