



## Eastern Ontario Division Flag Officer's Report for Sprint Racing Council - 2020

### COVID-19 Defines 2020

- 2020 has been a challenging year due to COVID-19. Starting in March, public health guidelines constantly changed as we learned more about the pandemic. The season was delayed with most programs not starting until June. Delays, lower than usual registrations, and smaller training/camp group sizes led to decreased revenues; increased costs resulted from the need for additional staff to coach and clean. EOD clubs got creative and implemented paddling programs and camps that met Ontario and local public health requirements. Multiple government programs were available to provide funding.
- The division's focus was on the implementation of public health protocols, the financial health of clubs, athlete retention and mental health, and maintaining a community of sport.
- CKC, CKO and CKO Sprint monitored and worked with public health and provincial sport authorities to get approval for sprint paddling to proceed and offer support to clubs, such as:
  - CKC and CKO Sprint offered guidelines for clubs on return to sport and safe paddling protocols.
  - On May 12, CKC hosted an online EOD town hall to provide a pandemic and competition update, and discuss how CKC and government programs can help clubs and coaches.
  - "Connect with CKC" webinars for coaches were held on Wednesday afternoons.
  - CKO held a webinar to discuss the insurance implications of COVID-19.
  - CKO Sprint held round table discussions about summer camps, Special Olympic and Para to discuss and share resources on how best to run these programs this summer.
  - To encourage athletes, CKO Sprint did a fantastic job running online workouts, webinars, and virtual challenges and events (more below).

### Proactive Communications & Organizational Effectiveness

- The board/division intends to hold a meeting to discuss lessons learned from this unusual season. Many say that not having events scheduled every weekend was a relief, and could inspire changes to the 2021 regatta schedule.
- A fees committee considered models to ensure fees are commensurate with participation, and ultimately recommended to stick with our current fee structure.
- All board members and clubs learned about the new immediaC registration system; all clubs used PadTrac for the last time this year and then batch uploaded their athlete data into the new system.
- We plan to implement the Safe Sport policy once we receive further information from CKC.
- We were already using Zoom for all our board meetings, which served us well during the pandemic.
- In the future, we intend to continue to use Ivolve (fourth year) and keep our website current with event-specific pages. The website will need to be migrated to a new platform.

### Enhanced Grassroots and Club Development

- Some but not all clubs had concerns about covering their fixed costs, such as rent and insurance. Rideau eliminated their Executive Director position.
- All but one club ran summer camps and programs; most had success due to limitations on other sports.
- Dragon boat training/festivals were not run in 2020 and these programs will need rebuilding.

### Development Opportunities

- Athletes: U16+ athletes participated in spring training camps run by CKO-Sprint and RCC, but

unfortunately had to return home early due to pandemic travel restrictions in March. ORCC's Masters spring training camp was cancelled.

- Officials: CKC held a successful online training program that will serve as a model for future training.

### **Sprint Regattas**

- While an EOD regatta schedule was posted in Feb., ultimately no regattas were held this season. CKO withdrew from OSG, which then was cancelled.
- No crew boats were allowed, even in training.
- The National Championships were to be hosted by RCC in August, now been postponed to 2021. The HOC continues its work and has succeeded in maintaining the original sponsors.
- Upcoming Nationals rotation will be EOD (RCC) in 2021, WOD (Welland) in 2022 and Atlantic Division (Dartmouth) in 2023, and then resuming the normal five-year divisional rotation.
- To encourage athletes, CKO Sprint ran the Power Ranking (four weeks of time trials) in August, and CKC (in cooperation with CKO Sprint and all clubs across Canada) ran the Coast-to-Coast-to-Coast Paddle Challenge on Aug 29 as a virtual championship (time trials at each club) to reduce group sizes and travel.

### **Achieving Success / Enhanced Performance**

- Special Olympics suspended all programs until Sept 1; as a partner, we were required to follow their directive.
- Most clubs trained throughout the season and kept an upbeat attitude.
- Winter 2020/2021 training will be a challenge due to regulations closing gyms.

### **Effective Leadership**

- In fall 2021, EOD intends to update its bylaws to instate board member terms, among other things.
- A notice to audit (financial review) will be performed in fall 2020.
- As of the AGM, four board members are stepping down: me as Flag, Michelle Bishop as Vice Flag, Rowan Abraham as Treasurer and Alison Lunn as Secretary. In 2021, DOC is transitioning from Sherry Goodyear to Don Leverette. *We expect all open positions to be filled by the Nov board meeting.* Thank you to all 2020 board members for your time and talents.
- I was hoping to end 2020 with a successful Nationals in our division, but that was not meant to be in the unusual year that is 2020. I'd like to thank board members for their on-going support during my six years on the board (two as Secretary and four as Flag Officer). I'd also like to thank the many volunteers, officials, coaches and athletes that are essential to making EOD successful.

#### **2020 → 2021 Executive Committee**

Flag Officer - Heather MacIntosh → Ed Hong  
Vice Flag Officer/Divisional Volunteer Coordinator – M. Bishop  
→ Sue Creighton  
Past Flag Officer - Bevin Schmidt → Heather MacIntosh  
Secretary - Alison Lunn → Liz Elton  
Treasurer - Rowan Abraham → Gary Quartermaine  
Divisional Officials - Sherry Goodyear/Don Leverette  
Registrar - Liz Elton  
Divisional Coach - Pat Lester → Aiden Stead  
CKO-Sprint Reps - Charles Slade, Kerri-Ann  
Redwood, Michelle Bishop, Edward Hong/Sue Creighton  
  
Athletes Rep - Aidan Dumont

#### **2020 EOD Commodores**

Carleton Place - Kim Anderson  
Cobourg - Susan Cameron  
Gananoque - Joanne Carswell (Club Rep)  
North Bay - Bernie Vierich  
Ottawa River - Joel Hazzan (Exec Director)  
Peterborough - Jim Stewart  
Petrie Island - Sarah Kennedy  
Rideau - James Price  
  
Sydenham Lake - Helen Parfitt  
Arnprior (assoc. club) - Susan Burns-McIntyre  
(President)

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather MacIntosh, Flag Officer  
Eastern Ontario Division, Canoe Kayak Canada