

34th Western Canada Sprints Regatta on Wascana Lake

Regina, May 24, 2011 – Wascana Lake will see plenty of action on June 11th, as top rowers from Western Canada will compete in the 34th annual Western Canada Sprints Regatta in Regina. Regina will welcome up to 200 athletes from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. The races will begin at 9AM and will conclude at approximately 5PM, with heats starting at 6AM.

Rowers of junior, senior and master's age (14-69 years old) will race on the 1000m course, from the north side of Wascana Lake to Pine Island.

The regatta will have a variety of male and female events :

- sculling events (two oars) : 1X, 2X and 4X
- sweeping events (one oar) : 2-, 4-, 8+ (8 rowers and a coxswain)

Some Masters races will be mixed events : 2X and 4X. The regatta will also feature adaptive events where athletes with physical disabilities participate with able bodied rowers.

Boats used in the regatta are 25 feet in length or longer and, in some cases, they are only 11 inches wide.

According to Raymond Blake and Rick Barks, Co-chairs of this year's regatta "the sport of rowing in Saskatchewan is our province's best kept secret. Our athletes have what we call "prairie power" because we're used to cold temperatures and wind. We can handle any weather condition and that's a huge advantage at the finish line! "

Saskatchewan has a very proud history of producing top notch rowers and we regularly contribute athletes to the Canadian National teams that compete abroad for Canada as well as members of the Canadian Olympic team.

Western Canada Sprints Regatta is open to the public, free of charge. Races can be viewed from the Marina on Wascana Lake or at the finish line on Pine Island just south of the Broad Street Bridge. Parking will be limited in the Marina area.

The Regina Rowing Club has hosted this regatta for the past 33 years and is looking forward to another day of great racing.

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Source : Raymond Blake and Rick Barks
Co-Chairs Western Canada Sprints Committee

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