

# A'sculling we will go

**T**WICE NOW I have watched racing sculls prepare for the Royal Henley Regatta. The first time was from the deck of a floating hotel barge on the Thames River in England, a week before the famous international rowing event began.

The second time was last week on a river in Ontario that was once known as Twelve Mile Creek where I watched the sculls getting ready for the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, being held this weekend near St. Catharines, Ontario.

Henley-on-Thames is a market town in Oxfordshire, England, on the banks of the Thames River west of London, "35 miles by road and 57 1/2 miles by river," according to the Encyclopedia Britannica. The town has been part of British history since Saxon and Norman times, and is listed in the Domesday Book, but its claim to fame for the past 144 years has been the annual rowing regatta that draws amateur oarsmen from around the world.

**ST. CATHARINES** is a city on Lake Ontario, within a few minutes drive of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Shaw Festival. Twelve Mile Creek, literally 12 miles from where the Niagara River flows into Lake Ontario, was the site of the first Welland Canal. (We are now using the fourth Welland Canal).

The first Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, named after its English cousin, began in Toronto in 1880; it was designed to separate amateur from professional rowers. The event was moved around the province until it came to St. Catharines in 1903, but the site was so perfect that it has been here ever since.

Montreal made a valiant attempt to lure the Regatta away from Ontario in 1982, but failed.

In case you think this is some minor athletic event, let me give you the statistics. Two rowing clubs, a university and 14 secondary schools put more than a thousand participants, boys and girls as well as men and women, on the river each year. Henley won International Class A ranking in 1986, and hosted the 1970 World Rowing Championships in which 30 nations participated.

This year's Regatta began with final heats Aug. 17. Eighty events will be held on the 2,000-meter course today through Sunday, Aug. 21.

What we saw last week while scouting the course



1-of-a-kind traveler  
**Iris Jones**  
contributing travel editor



was a sturdy grey-haired man in a T-shirt that read "Canadian Junior Women's Rowing Team." He was carrying a pair of wooden oars from the Shell House, the shed-like buildings where the narrow boats and the long oars are stored.

**ROD BARR** turned out to be a Judge of the Supreme Court of Ontario, as well as a lifelong competitor in the rowing regatta business.

We also saw the members of the real junior women's rowing team carrying their long wooden boat over their heads to the water.

Competitors are divided into age groups, with anyone over 30 competing in the master's class. The Regatta will include single, double and quadruple sculls with names like "pair car" and "four with coxswain." If you've ever seen nine men in a boat, the coxswain is the small one at the far end who calls out the strokes. He has to weigh 105 pounds or less.

You will not be able to park at this dock during the Regatta, but you can go another mile to the clubhouse and grandstand area where a couple of dollars will give you a parking spot and early arrival will get you a spot by the river, even if you don't want the grandstand.

To reach St. Catharines from Detroit follow Highway 401 to Highway 6, which will take you to the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW). Turn north off the QEW at the Martindale Road interchange, follow Martindale north to Lakeshore Road then right to Henley Island and the shell house area. The grandstand, which overlooks the finish line, is a mile further along Lakeshore Road, which becomes Main Street.

**WHILE YOU** are in the area, you will be fascinated by the remains of the four-year-old Welland Canal site. The Regatta is marked across Martindale Pond on the Twelve-Mile Creek bed that was the site of the first Welland Canal; you can see the remains of an old lock nearby.

A few hundred yards down Lakeshore Road will take you to the historic village of Port Dalhousie, once the main port for this Niagara area. It was the port for the first three canals. Locals crowd these few blocks at night to visit Murphy's Tavern and Restaurant (for food), Port Mansion (to join the young crowd) and either Lakeside or Lions pubs for the older crowd.

There's a sand beach around the curve of road and a huge parking lot on what was once the biggest picnic ground in Ontario. The picnickers were delivered by water steamers, but the only modern reminder is a huge carousel, one of the largest in North America, on a strip of grassy park beside the lake. It's the same place now it was in 1870 — five cents a ride.

For more information, contact the Canadian Government Office of Tourism at 963-8686.



photos by MICKY JONES

The Canadian Junior Women's Rowing Team will be among 1,000 participants this weekend at St. Catharines.

**CARS**

There's a lot going on in Observer & Eccentric classified ads

**LOSE UP TO 15 LBS. IN 11 DAYS**

The Harbor Island Spa is the ONLY SPA-HOTEL Now Open in the Miami Area! America's #1 Spa - Entire Magazine

**\$48.36** per day (plus tax)

DELUXE ROOM RATE INCLUDES: 3 meals daily • unlimited • free massages • room for men & women • towels • dinner dancing • night social events • every resort facility • An Special Dietetic Program

**HARBOR ISLAND SPA**

CALL FOR FREE BROCHURE CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-327-7510

**GREAT GOLF IN SCOTLAND**

The 6-Day Tour Includes: air fare, hotel accommodations, transfers, deluxe motor coach transportation for sightseeing, green fees, most meals, all taxes and services throughout.

**Price:** \$1,299 (person based on double occupancy)

**Dates:** October 14-21, 1983

Five days of golf on the Courses of: St. Andrews, Carnoustie, Turnberry

**CAMELOT TRAVEL**  
29477 Five Mile Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48154  
(313) 261-2010

**CLEVELAND HILTON SOUTH**

**TAKE A SEA WORLD VACATION.**

Have a whale \$54.95 plus tax of a time for (per couple).

Kids stay free in same room.

All aboard for this great vacation package:

- 2 days, 1 night in a super-size guest room
- Breakfast at 9 a.m., check out at 11 p.m.
- 2 Sea World admissions
- Free HBO movies
- Indoor outdoor pool, whirlpool and sauna, towels only, air from same room
- Rockin' Submarine & Dolphin's Restaurant (special children's menu)

Sea World is open thru September 11th. Call (216) 337-1300 for reservations.

**Sea World** **HBO**

Send to: Cleveland Hilton South, 6200 Quamy Lane, Independence, Ohio 44131, Attn: Reservations

☐ Yes, I'm interested. Please send me more information on your Sea World Weekend Package.

☐ I'm not interested. Make a reservation in my name for:

Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

All reservations will be confirmed by phone.

**"LAST CHANCE BEFORE LABOUR DAY"**

**DINE & CRUISE**

**IN THE ELEGANCE OF YESTERYEAR**

1000 ISLANDS—ON THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER—SEAWAY ABOARD THE 32 STATEROOM REPLICA STEAMSHIP

Private Facilities  
Air Conditioned  
All Staterooms  
onboard facing

Short Tours  
Quality Chefs  
Over 150 miles  
of exciting river

**CANADIAN EMPRESS**

AUG. 28-30, SUN. TO TUES. SPANNING 3 DAYS, \$268.\* U.S.  
SEPT. 2-4, FRI. TO SUN. SPANNING 3 DAYS \$240.\* U.S.  
(\*per person double occupancy... excludes bar expenditures and souvenirs)

Boarding: 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Kingston, Ontario  
(165 miles east of Toronto on 401 Hwy, or travel by "VIA RAIL" and book through AMTRAK)

Visit your Travel Agent or call collect 613-549-8091  
ASK FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE FOR OTHER CRUISE DATES

**BEAUTIFUL FALL FOLIAGE CRUISES**  
SEPT. 25 to OCT. 27—4, 5 & 6 DAY PROGRAMS

**YOUR NEW ADVENTURE INTO AN OLD TRADITION**

**TRAVERSE CITY CONDOMINIUMS**

**SHERWOOD HILLS CONDOMINIUMS**

- "THE AFFORDABLE CONDOMINIUM"
- ROLLING HILLS
- WOODED SETTING
- PRIVATE ENTRYS

**JUNIPER HILLS CONDOMINIUMS**

- OVERLOOKING THE BAY
- LUXURIOUS FEATURES
- SPACIOUS FLOOR PLAN
- SECURITY SYSTEMS

Both of these attractive areas, offering superb views, are minutes away from the beach. In addition, both have top quality landscaping, swimming pools, tennis courts, and a high standard of quality with desirable price and financing available.

**MULTIHOUSE**

MARKETING BY: MULTIHUSE PROPERTIES INC.

CALL OR WRITE TODAY: JAMES CHRISTIAN REALTORS P.O. BOX 125, KALAMAZOO, MI 49001 (616) 938-1715 or 938-9322

**Far Enough To Get Away—Close Enough To Get There Often**

**Good things come in small packages.**

For example, Bay Valley's Super Mini Vacation Packages. Deluxe weekend for two includes: many extras. Welcome gift of champagne, fruit, dinner, lunch and brunch. Use of Bay Valley's recreational facilities.

Golf and tennis packages also available.

**Two Nights for Two, \$230.00.**

For reservations or more information Call: Toll free in Michigan 1-800-292-5028 In Detroit call 313-963-3242

**Bay Valley**

24700 Old Bridge Road • Bay City, MI 49626 • (517) 696-2600