

Coach Evan

This month, Coach Evan of recreational dragon boat and a High Performance kayaker answers a few questions for the Catch. Thank you for taking the time for the club newsletter, Evan.

Where are you from (hometown, home club)?

I'm from Welland, Ontario. Home club is South Niagara Canoe Club.

How did you get your start in paddling sports?

I got my start back in 2010 when my grandmother and I met Brian (Brian Roy, former SNCC Commodore and occasional SNCC coach) and Doug (Doug Jones, Warlocks Coach) recruiting with a display for the club at the Seaway Mall.

How did you get your start with Coaching?

I started coaching as a volunteer for the Canoe Kids Camp.

Can you share a memorable paddling experience and what you learned from that experience?

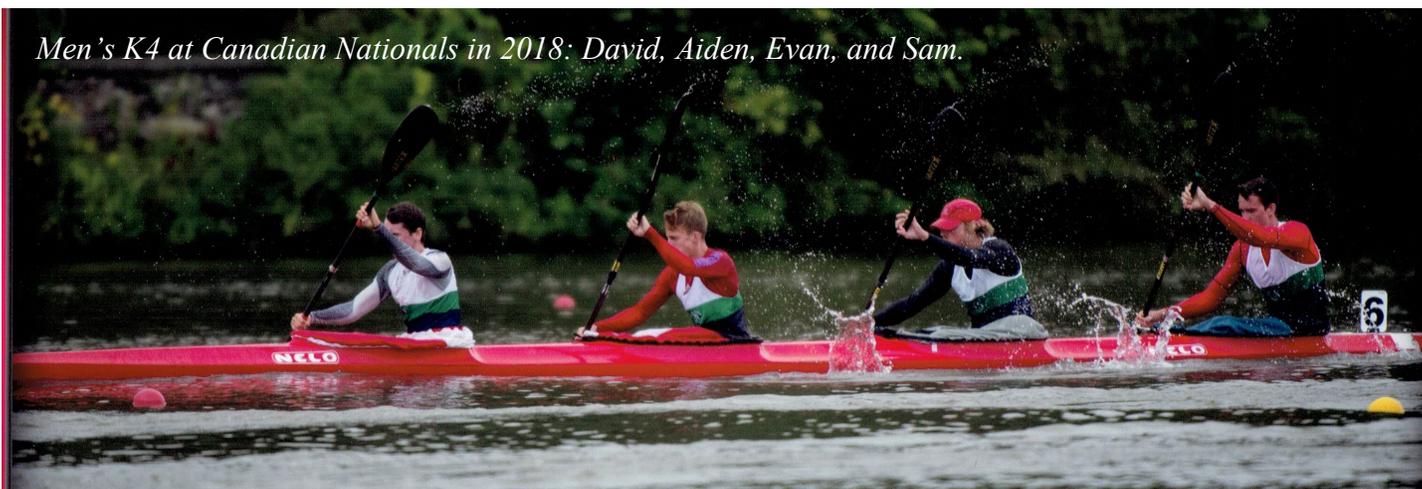
One of my favourite moments of paddling was competing in Sherbrooke, Québec for SNCC at the Canadian National Championships in 2018 K4 with Sam (Abbott-Tate), David (Coyne), and Aiden (Davis). We qualified for A final for the first time and finished 7th. The whole week of competition, despite falling in during a K1 race, is still a favourite experience.

Can you share a memorable coaching experience and what you learned from that experience?

Last year, in Stratford, the Dragon Boat competition with SNCC was memorable because of the great results. All of the paddlers are very appreciative of my efforts and Sally (Sally Rennick, recreational dragon boat coach) sets a great example for me to emulate.



Men's K4 at Canadian Nationals in 2018: David, Aiden, Evan, and Sam.



You were unable to coach on-water dragon boat during the 2020 season. How are you feeling about that?

I have missed on the water coaching this year. It would have been great to see how the winter training benefitted the paddlers once we could return to the water. I've also missed the (dragon boat) rentals when I could spend a day or a few hours with a group most of whom haven't paddled before. Sometimes I was just their safety person and demonstrator, other groups could be a lot of fun.

What your thoughts for dragon boat at SNCC in 2021?

I hope that whether or not we can do off water training in the winter we can find a way to transition to the water in the spring of 2021 safely.

What is it like being with SNCC?

It's an honour to be part of this club, however small. I'm grateful for the coaching and management of Richard, KC, Sally, Doug, Brian, Ian (Ian Tate, former SNCC Commodore), and the boards of directors. One fall, during my early days of paddling, I was the only one registered and was coached, individually, by Doug. I couldn't believe my luck! I'm glad that after all of our volunteer efforts the City of Welland seems to appreciate the WIFC (Welland International Flatwater Centre) as a venue and I know that our small club has been a positive force in making that happen.

What do you hope to accomplish in your coaching position at SNCC?

I hope to, for as long as I can, continue to develop coaching skills as well as the skills transferable to my career, thanks to the mentorship of Sally.

What else should the SNCC membership know about you?

I just completed my second diploma so with Fitness and Health Promotion and OTA and PTA (Occupational Therapy Assistant and Physical Therapy Assistant), I'll have to follow the opportunities and I hope to travel at some point. For now, I'm continuing as a paddler with SNCC. It's been a challenge over the years since the High Performance group has been so small but we have a couple of additions this year and I plan to make the most of it while I can. I'll always be a part of SNCC in any way I can. ■



Coaches Sally and Evan at the Stratford Dragon Boat Festival, 2018