

Paddlers Salute Registrar Alice Lunt

By Diane Esecson

We are a lucky club.

Our paddling program has something special. Someone who steps up, year after year, dedicated to doing the behind the scenes work that makes the season run smoothly.

Plainly put—regattas require a boatload of work; this job is not for the faint of heart. There are tricky eligibility rules to adhere to and a pile of paperwork to be submitted on a weekly basis for each regatta.

The want ad for this position would go a little something like this:

WANTED

Renowned canoe club seeks Head of Registration

Tireless, patient, well organized, detail oriented, promptness a must
Excellent analytical, interpersonal and communication skills required

Must perform well under pressure due to unreasonable expectations

Able to sit on small wooden chair for 8-10 hours

6 MONTHS OF THE YEAR

MUST WORK WEEKENDS

NO PAY- must do for love of the club and sport

Thankfully, for a number of years and hopefully for many more, our own unsung hero, Alice Lunt, OCC registrar extraordinaire, has filled this position.

"When people think of paddling they think of being on the high seas, but there is a lot of paperwork before you get there. Alice does it all!" raves Coach Liz Perry. It is a huge commitment throughout the entire season, weekly meetings to attend as well as long sessions with the coaches on Saturday sorting out the crews and of course the daylong regattas each Sunday.

Liz also likens Alice's performance to the Marines, "first in and last out at every regatta." The real trick is that Alice performs her

arduous tasks with ease and in such a lovely manner.

"In recent years she has started doing the paperwork for our long distance crews and also helping escort. Her finest hour escorting occurred in a women's long distance race. We had four women's crews and one escort boat broke down starting a series of events that ended up with one escort boat servicing three crews. Alice was running the change chart for all three simultaneously. Only Alice," exclaims Liz. Did I mention extreme multi-tasking?

In addition, this job requires coordination with paddling's governing body OHCRA. "Alice is a wonderful liaison with OHCRA, everyone loves Alice... and she is a great asset because she is held in such high esteem by OHCRA that we can always count on being heard if we send Alice," explains Liz. Did I mention politician and negotiator?

Amidst the organized chaos of a regatta, Alice also manages to be a valued paddler. After most crews have gone home to warm showers, Alice takes a quick break near the end of the day to race, then back to work.

As regatta season approaches, it is easy to take for granted the simplicity of showing up to the regatta at your allotted time with your paddle and jumping in a boat. What an excellent moment to take note of the hard work and devotion of one particular member. Mahalo Alice!

