

APRIL 28 -
MAY 4, 2023

VOL. 39, NO. 34

POTSDAM-
CANTON, NY

northcountrynow.com

NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK

SUBSCRIBE
North Country
This Week
See coupon
only \$99

FREE

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY'S MOST-READ PAPER

Canton Canoe Weekend

Local spring ritual brings chance to win big

BY PAUL MITCHELL

North Country This Week

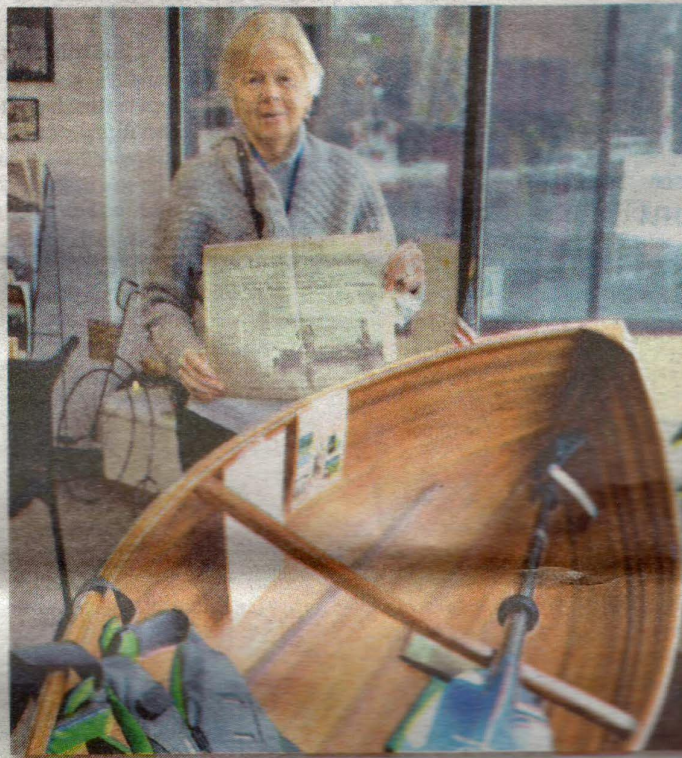
CANTON — A true spring ritual is the sight of cars, trucks and SUVs carrying canoes and kayaks through the streets of Canton.

This year will be no different as the 61st annual Canton Canoe Weekend offers both competitive and recreational opportunities for canoeists and kayakers of all ages May 5-7.

"We predict great water conditions for the race, seriously, though that is tough to do. The Grasse River watershed is fairly small so a lot of rain a couple days before can have a dramatic effect on level," said Gene Newman, a long-time coordinator and avid participant. "The long range forecast is for normal rainfall so I think it could be a good year. In the past we have been able to modify the course to make sure the race is safe for everyone no matter what the conditions."

"We have been working on being a nonprofit charitable organization under the umbrella of SLVP (St. Lawrence Valley Paddlers). This has helped with the fundraising. The Canton business community has always given us great support and we couldn't have grown without it," Newman noted.

Members of the J. Henry Rush-



Canton Historian Linda Casserly shows the new GRB strip Rushton style "Miss Lassie" canoe, to be raffled during the 61st annual Canton Canoe Weekend May 5-7. The new canoe, valued at \$3,200, was donated by the Richard Rushton Family.

ton family have been frequent attendees at the canoe races but are not expected to attend this year.

"As of right now I don't think any of the Rushtons will be here.

SEE CANOE PAGE 10

\$1.2 million

to fund

LC Drive

BY ADAM ATKINSON

North Country This Week

POTSDAM — A Potsdam-based solar startup run by the former CEO of the now defunct LC Drive company is slated to receive \$1.2 million in federal funding to develop a new inverter technology.

Mission Sun will receive the money from the U.S. Department of Energy as part of the federal government's two-year program to invest in the domestic solar supply chain, announced Sen. Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand Thursday.

Mission Sun will use the funding to build next generation solar products including further development of its solar inverter technology which will reportedly make solar panels cheaper and more efficient, said a press release from the senators' offices.

"Mission Sun and its sister company Mission Power are excited to build the next generation of utility scale solar inverters," said Russ Marvin, Mission Sun president. Marvin formerly ran the now shuttered LC Drives Corp. which was

CANOE...

They all came last year for the 60th and had a great time. They have given us tremendous support and are very appreciative of keeping the Rushton name alive and the memory of J. Henry," Newman remarked.

The weekend events will kick off on the Grasse River with the Friday afternoon Rushton Tour on Friday, May 5. The afternoon paddle will take place between 4 and 6 p.m. with a flexible start time. The recreational paddle begins at the Pyrites boat launch and continues downstream 4.5 miles, concluding at Taylor Park, following along much of the original race course.

On Saturday, May 6, there will be a variety of activities from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at Taylor Park. The day begins with recreational races at 9:30 a.m. of one, three, five and eight miles in length on the Grasse River. There will be a special division in the one- and three-mile races for paddlers in Rushton style boats. This 'Rushton Cup' event is sponsored by Slipstream Watercraft and will feature special awards.

The Saturday morning recreational races will be followed at 12:30 p.m. by solo canoe and kayak, amateur and pro races, featuring the C-1 Men's and Women's Pro World Championships held on the Grasse and Little Rivers. NCPB is our media sponsor, DJ Double Dutch will be providing music, and GT's Family Restaurant will be at Taylor Park cooking their famous chicken BBQ from 12:30 to 4 p.m. or until sold out. The BBQ will be available for picnicking in the Park or as takeout.

At 3:30 p.m., the Joe Randi/Rushton Relay Race takes place. This is a two-mile relay race with classes for family and friends, high school, college and open division teams.

On Sunday morning tandem canoe and kayak, amateur and pro races will begin at 10 a.m. Following the tandem races, between 1 and 3 p.m., go to Taylor Park to Try Out a Boat. A variety of adult and youth recreational and racing canoes, kayaks and stand up paddleboards will be available for a test paddle.

Also, Sunday May 7, is National Ride A Bike Day. Canton Canoe Weekend is partnering with Grasse River Outfitters to encourage bicyclists to ride to the Park Street boat launch in Canton to watch tandem canoe and kayak racers navigate the Little River, and later, ride to Taylor Park to participate in the Try Out a Boat session.

While recreational races draw many local paddlers, the pro races attract paddlers from across the United States and Canada.

We just want people to come out and either compete on Saturday or Sunday if you want or do the Tour of part of the original course on

Friday evening. If you don't want to paddle, come out on Saturday and eat some of GT's great chicken barbecue and watch some fantastic athletes compete at the highest level," stated Newman. "Or come Sunday afternoon for the try a boat. There will be many different kinds of boats for people to try. We do have something for almost everyone."

Registration for all races, the Rushton Tour are open. Visit the Canton Canoe Weekend website to register.

Tickets are available to win a Rushton style "Wee Lassie" canoe, kayak paddle and life jackets valued at \$3,200. There is a second prize of a Grasse River Boatworks ultra-light bent shaft canoe paddle, custom built in the winner's choice of color, valued at \$250. A third prize features an antique, rustic wooden canoe bookshelf valued at \$500.

For more information, please visit our website: www.cantoncanowebweekend.org.

'While recreational races draw many local paddlers, the pro races attract paddlers from across the United States and Canada.'