

Nomination for the 2020 Fred Lynch Memorial Award

Dave Lewis of the

MILTON CANOE & CAMERA CLUB



Dave and his wife Louise are the heart and soul of the Milton Canoe and Camera Club... a non-profit community organization located in their new boathouse on the Mersey River, near Liverpool, NS.

The club has been dedicated to the advancement and enjoyment of both canoeing and photography since 1949 and brings local paddlers together to provide a safe and fun on-water

experience for all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Its mission is not only to raise the skill level of both canoeing and photography but help build relationships among people that share these common passions.

Over the many years of his involvement with the volunteer-run club, he has helped it grow from a borrowed site on the wharf of the Morton House Inn on one side of the river and then, in 2018, move across to a purpose built facility located at 137 West St., in Milton. A full schedule of summer activities is hosted from the new club house, including a weekly canoe school open to members and non-members, plus ad hoc fun races which develop paddling skills for the membership. As the perfect companion activity, the club sponsors presentations on photography skills and contests aimed at shutterbugs who want to share what goes into a greater appreciation of nature and wildlife images.



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As with all community groups, the directors must become the core fund raisers. For the last 20 years, Dave has done that, not only facilitating the construction of their new boathouse but also acquiring grants for

PFDs from the municipality and an accessible 'Candock' through the provincial government's Community Access-Ability program.

Not just involved in club activity, Dave has become Nova Scotia's premier long-distance paddler and racing enthusiast, often entering as a team with one of his two daughters. On another front, Dave was the Nova Scotia representative on a national body looking at developing a Canadian coaching certification program for marathon paddling in Canada.

For several years he hosted the Mersey River Challenge from the Lower Great Brook head pond 27 km. down to the Liverpool harbour as a fund raiser for Queens Co. EMO. In 2004, Dave was host organizer of the Canadian Marathon Canoe Nationals in Dartmouth. He has won the Fred Lynch Memorial Canoe Race and the annual Canoe to the Sea event on the Shubenacadie Waterway numerous times. In 2013, was part of a team which won the Yukon River Quest, a 24-hour grind from Whitehorse to Dawson City.

