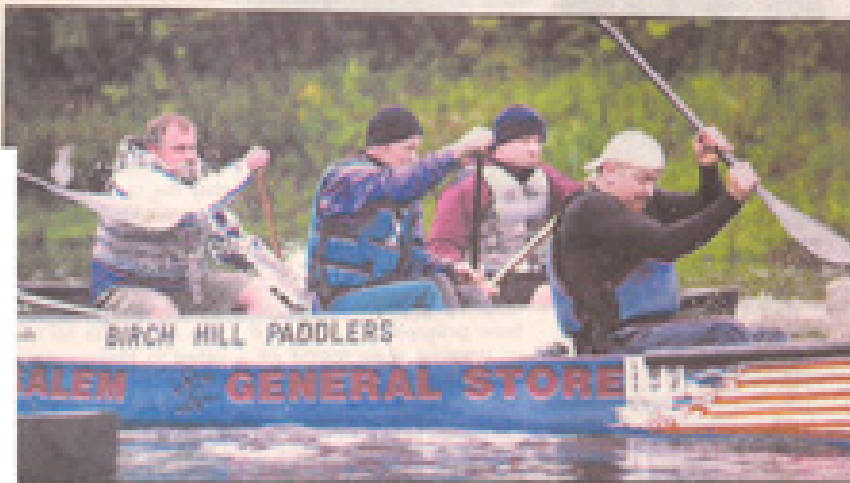




Above, Mike Belanger and Brooke McCallum, 12, both of Northbridge, eye the Blackstone River before Belanger talks part in the Blackstone River Watershed Association's annual Canoe and Kayak Race in Northbridge yesterday. At right, Jon Dowd with her stepdad, Steve Pipe, both of Douglas start off in yesterday's 9-mile portion of the race in Northbridge. The pair came in second place in their class. Below, canoeists take off on the river in South Grafton.



PADDLE CALL



Photos by Jacob Belcher

Above, Chrystal and Jeff Cleary of Grafton listen to safety instructions about the 9-mile course before the start of the race. The Clearys fell in the water a couple of times yesterday during the race.

Above, Steve Falconer of Northbridge stretches out using his oar before the 12-mile portion of the race in South Grafton yesterday.