

5th Annual Fort Ridge Fall Classic 2026

 Whonnock Lake, Maple Ridge, BC

A Powerful First Step – Highlights from 2025

If you're wondering whether your child is ready for their first big competition — **this is the one.**

At last year's **Fort Ridge Fall Classic**, we brought a group of **7 young athletes** — **all of whom had never raced before.** What began as a learning opportunity quickly turned into something extraordinary:

 Together, they earned **over 15 medals**, discovered their competitive spirit, and made memories that will last a lifetime.

But beyond the medals, what truly stood out was their transformation. They arrived unsure and nervous... and left with **confidence, joy, and pride.** They supported one another, grew closer as a team, and realized just how much they're capable of — on and off the water.

As coaches, we witnessed raw talent emerge in real time. This event gave us the chance to **unlock their potential**, and gave them a stage to shine — even as first-timers.

The Fort Ridge Fall Classic is **more than a regatta.**

It's a chance for your child to **try something new**, grow in a positive environment, and take their **first step into the racing world** — surrounded by support, fun, and friends.

 If your child is curious about racing or looking for a new challenge, **this is the perfect place to begin.**

Event Overview

- **Event Dates:** Saturday, September 12 & Sunday, September 13, 2026
- **Race Start Time:** 8:30 AM (tentative)
- **Location:** Whonnock Lake, 27871 – 113th Avenue, Maple Ridge, BC
- **Arrival in Maple Ridge:** Friday, September 11, 2026
- **Return to Edmonton:** Sunday evening, September 13, 2026

Race Categories & Events

Each athlete will compete in **6 to 8 races** over the weekend.

- **U10:** 200m / 500m / 1000m – K1, Mixed K2, C1, Mixed C2
- **U12:** 200m / 500m / 1000m – K1, K2, K4, C1, C2, C4
- **U14:** 200m / 500m / 1000m – K1, K2, K4, C1, C2, C4

- **Novice (U16):** 200m / 500m / 1000m – K1, C1
(for athletes who started paddling within the last 2 years)
- **Open (15+):** 200m / 500m / 1000m – K1, K2, Mixed K4, C1, C2, Mixed C4
- **Open ParaCanoe / Special Olympics:** 200m / 500m

Between races, there is **plenty of downtime** to relax, eat, socialize, and cheer for teammates.

Venue Experience

Whonnock Lake provides a beautiful and family-friendly setting:

- Younger athletes enjoy playing in the **sand and swimming** between races
 - The venue is right on the **beachfront**, offering access to nature and recreation
 - Older athletes enjoy the **racing atmosphere** while the younger ones benefit from both sport and fun
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What is a Regatta?

A regatta is a full-day competition featuring individual and team boat races. Most athletes race in 5–8 events throughout the day, with time for rest, recovery, and connection with the paddling community. The event runs rain or shine.

Entry Fees

Option 1 – \$700 per athlete

(Applies to athletes aged 12 and older only)

Includes:

- ☒ Regatta entry fee
 -  Hotel accommodation (grouped with other athletes)
 -  Local transportation (including airport transfers and daily shuttles)
 -  Boat rental
 -  Coaching fees
 -  Snacks during competition
 -  Event coordination
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Option 2 – \$400 per athlete

(For athletes traveling and staying with their families)

Includes:

- ☒ Regatta entry fee
-  Boat rental / Transportation
-  Coaching fees
-  Snacks during competition
-  Event coordination

Does NOT include:

- Accommodation
- Meals
- Local transportation

 Payment Deadline:

 Travel & Flights

Option1 athletes will travel as a group under the **supervision of the coaching staff**.

 Flight information will be shared once the final list of registrants is finalized.

- **Departure:** Friday, September 11 – *Evening flight* from Edmonton → Abbotsford
- **Return:** Sunday, September 13 – *Late evening* flight from Abbotsford → Edmonton

 *Flights are paid separately and are not included in either fee - Please book your flight as soon as possible to take advantage of the available deals.*

 Local Transportation

- **Airport Transfer:** Coaches will arrange **Uber rides** from Abbotsford Airport to the hotel for option 1 athletes
- **Daily Shuttle:** Coaches will rent a **mini-van** to transport athletes between hotel and venue for option 1 athletes.

☒ All local transportation is **included** in the entry fee

 Meals

Friday (Travel Day)

- **Eat dinner before arriving** at the airport
- **Bring a packed lunch and snacks for the flight**

Saturday & Sunday (Regatta Days)

- **Breakfast:** Provided at the hotel
- **Lunch:** Athletes will be taken to the grocery store to purchase their own lunch, snacks, and drinks. *(Please bring extra money for this.)*
- **Dinners:**
 - **Saturday:** A **team dinner** will be organized (Please bring extra money to cover the cost.)
 - **Sunday:** Based on flight time — **coaches will ensure all athletes are fed**

☒ All meals will be coordinated and organised for your athlete in **Option 1**

! Please inform coaches of **dietary restrictions or allergies**

Accommodation

Group Reservation Hotel: Best Western Maple Ridge Hotel

 **Group Reservation Link (Block of 6 rooms booked) :** [Best Western Maple Ridge Hotel | Rooms & Rates](#)

 **Dates:** September 11–13, 2026

 **Estimated Rate:** CAD \$209 per night (2 queen beds)

- Located ~15–20 minutes from Whonnock Lake
- **Free hot breakfast:** waffles, eggs, sausage, pastries, yogurt, fruit
- **Free amenities:** Wi-Fi, parking, indoor pool, hot tub

 Families are encouraged to **reference the group code** when booking to access the discounted rate and ensure they're placed with the team block.

What to Bring

- **Club singlet** – \$55 *(ask your coach to buy one)*
- PFD (mandatory for athletes under 16)
- Paddle, kneepads, race gear
- Water bottle (refillable)
- Towels, sunscreen, sunglasses
- Hat, rain jacket, water shoes
- Extra set of clothes
- Folding chair
- **Binoculars** – great for viewing races and cheering teammates from a distance

☒ Expectations & Conduct

- Athletes must demonstrate **respect, sportsmanship, and team spirit**
- **The club tent is for athletes, coaches, and parents as well**

- Please **stay mindful of space within the tent**, as it is not very big, and ensure that **athletes and coaches have priority**
 - Families are encouraged to bring folding chairs and support the team with positive energy
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Coaches

- **Zak Mahmoudi** – Head Coach
 canoekayakheadcoach@gmail.com
 - **Ginger Brown** – Bantam Coach
 ginger.e.brown07@gmail.com
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Parent Information Session

 **Date: TBD**

 **Zoom Link: To be sent**

This session will include:

- ☒ **Trip Overview**
-  **Accommodation & Flight Details**
-  **Competition Format & Participation**
- **? Q&A with Coaches**

Expression of Interest *(Deadline is August 15, 2026)*

If you are interested in registering your child for the 2026 Fort Ridge Fall Classic, please fill out the following form:

[Fort Ridge Fall Classic Regatta 2026 – Expression of Interest - Google Forms](#)