

Alberni Puddle Duck News

"Puddle Duck "



"... a cheap, easy to build 8-foot sailboat that is safe for kids and fun on the water..."

For less than \$300, and with minimal woodworking skills, almost anyone can build their own Puddle Duck. Nearly one thousand boats have been built worldwide many of them assembled in a couple of weekends.



Port Alberni Centennial Puddle Duck Regatta

On August 4th the families and teams who have built Puddle Ducks over the winter and spring will be competing in our fun and friendly Regatta in the Harbour. As part of our Centennial celebrations it will show how we can use our waterfront for family recreational activities.

The event is sponsored by Boston Pizza and they will be entering their own boat. One of our family teams also built a boat with their help.

There will be fun events for the whole family – in boats and on shore!

Sailing will be from 10 am until 1 pm - wind conditions permitting.

Family Boat-building "Sails Away" in Port Alberni



A whole family builds their "Duck" at our second Hatch

Ten families and eight service club teams have built eighteen of these small sailing boats since February. Most of them have been built at two family boat building sessions (known to "duckers" as "Hatches") at the Cadet Hall.

More than 20 young people have experienced the excitement of building their own boat thanks to the sponsorship of local businesses and service clubs who have paid for the materials.

Now they are ready to sail!

Puddle Duck Hatch and Regatta Sponsors

- Boston Pizza
- Windsor Plywood
- Port Alberni Power Squad.
- Rotary Club
- Kiwanis Club
- Coast Realty
- CIBC
- Gyro of the Albernis
- Port Alberni Toy Run
- Puddle Duck Day Care
- Lady Rose Marine Services
- Alberni Industrial Marine
- Port Alberni Port Authority
- Kamma & Blake
- City of Port Alberni
- Kenneth Crowshaw



The Cadet Hall with our first five "hatched" ducks at the end of the second weekend

Heritage Family to donate centennial race trophy

Bill Crowshaw came to Port Alberni in 1911. He and his wife Annie are one of a few "Heritage Families" recognized for having descendants in the city for over 100 years.

Ken Crowshaw, their son, is one sponsor of our Regatta and will be presenting the "Crowshaw Cup", in their memory, to the winner of our First Annual Centennial Puddle Duck Race.

Weather permitting the race will be across the harbour to Holm Island and back.

Alberni PD Racers



Photo courtesy Kathy Johnson

“Let's make it safe”- Port Authority

A small dinghy regatta and race in our busy harbour raises safety concerns. But thanks to financial assistance from the Port Alberni Port Authority we are assured that the boats are properly equipped and that adequate measures are taken.

The Port Authority and the Coast Guard Auxiliary will both provide safety vessels for our race and Regatta.

This is a valuable opportunity to teach our younger participants about boating safety.

There's still time to build your Duck

Puddle Ducks are easy to build and inexpensive. If you want to get involved in the fun there is still time to build a duck for yourself. Who knows you might win the race.

Alberni Puddle Duck Racers will help you to get started. With 18 boats under our belt we have some hints and tips to get you going. We also have patterns for the hull that you can use and save yourself more time with the hardest part of the boat.

Contact us from our web site – see below – or David at:
250-723-1408 or
pdracer@shaw.ca

Our 18 boating families and teams will welcome you to our growing community and help you have fun on our waterfront.

Please come and join us!

Upcoming Puddle Duck Events

There is a lot happening in Duckland! Here are the things to watch for over the next month or so.

Every Saturday starting June 9th.

We will be launching each Saturday for practice sailing in preparation for the Regatta. Duckers are encouraged to bring their boats at 11 am and sail until the wind gets too strong.

“Build a Duck Day” at Boston Pizza – Sun. June 9th

Come and watch the Boston Pizza Staff build their own boat in *FOUR HOURS* starting at 12:30 in the parking lot outside the restaurant. “Kids eat free” during this event (with the purchase of adult meal – conditions apply)

A Parade of Ducks – July 1st

Look out for at least five Puddle Ducks in the July 1st Parade. Any more duckers who want to enter their boats contact David Whitworth as soon as possible.