

Community Leader

16 pages of reports and news from your part of the region

LIMERICK LEADER 2nd August 2008

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Boat Club Blessing Ceremony

ATHLUNKARD

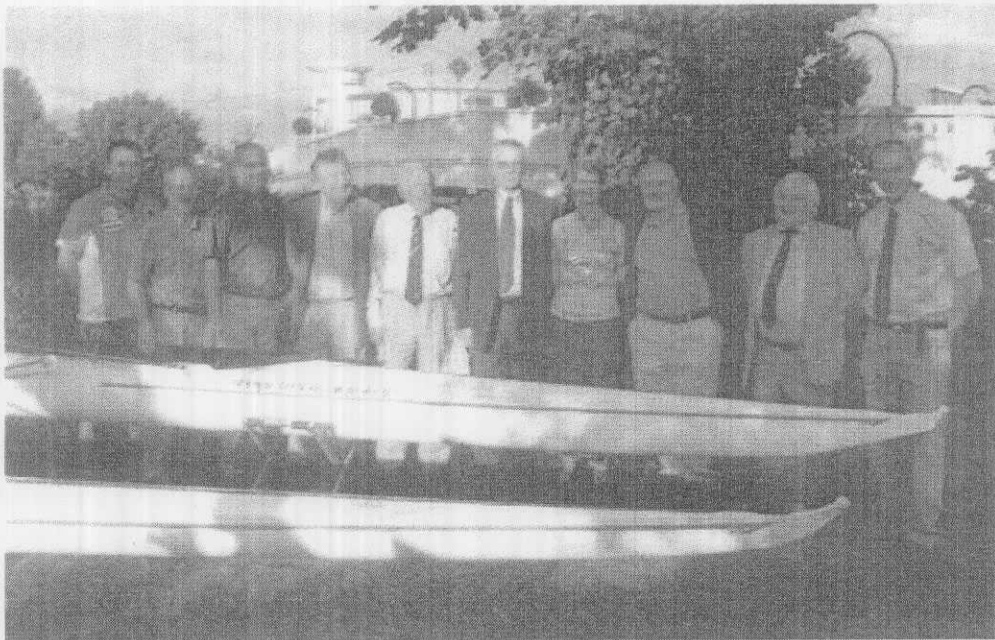
Friday, July 25 2008 was a special occasion for the members of Athlunkard Boat Club. The club unveiled seven new rowing boats valued at €70,000. It is the biggest single investment in rowing equipment since the club's foundation in 1898. It is a clear indication of where the club is going at present and with approx 25 boys and girls rowing, the future looks bright for this famous parish club. This year the clubs ladies crews have kept the flag flying with nine wins at regattas throughout the country. The icing on the cake was the selection of Jessica O'Keffee to represent her country at the Home Internationals in Wales on 26th July.

The boat naming ceremony was the culmination of a major fundraising effort undertaken by the club over the last 2 years and was presided over by Athlunkard's first lady president Patricia Lonergan who followed in the footsteps of her late father Christy Madigan, a tireless worker in the club through-

out his life.

The main sponsor on the night was St. Marys Parish Credit Union, whose name sits proudly on the clubs flagship boat, a new racing eight, purchased in Italy at a cost of €26,000. The connection between Shannon Rugby Club and Athlunkard members over many years was recognised with the rugby club's name on another boat. Some deceased members were also honoured, the late Jack Meehan, Ned Flanagan, Paddy O'Brien & Willie Henn were represented by their families. Also honoured on the night was former Athlunkard president Archie Brown, who attended with his wife Ann and Family.

Guests on the night included Mayor John Gilligan & Minister for Defence, Willie O'Dea. The club would like to express its gratitude to the members of St. Marys Prize Band who entertained the large gathering in the club grounds and gave the occasion a real Parish feel. They later led the attendance along the Sandmall to a reception in the Absolute Hotel.



Representatives of main sponsors, St. Mary's Parish Credit Union, with some committee members of Athlunkard Boat Club



Club president Patricia Lonergan with Minister Willie O'Dea



Members of St. Mary's Fife and Drum band who entertained the crowd

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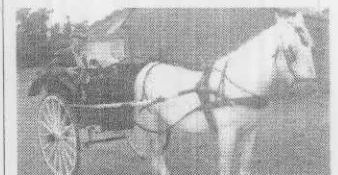
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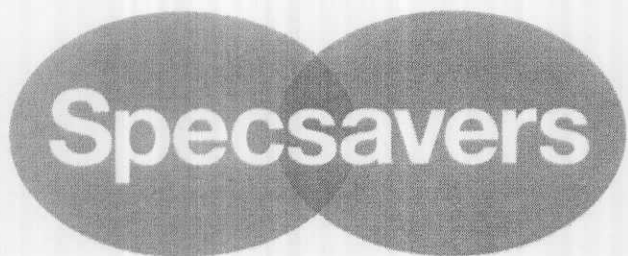
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