

Ocean rowboat finds resting place at UL



Pictured with the Atlantic rowboat, The Christina, were Paul Gleeson and Tori Holmes with Eamonn Kavanagh and Peter Kavanagh.

THE rowboat and survived intact, Christina, which twice has come to rest at the traversed the Atlantic University of Limerick

Leave fire hydrants untouched, plea

LIMERICK youths are being asked to leave fire hydrants alone, after one was let out in the Quarry Road area of Thomondgate.

Making the appeal, Cllr John Cronin said that Limerick City Council will be forced to cut off the water supply to certain fire hydrants in Limerick if youths continue to meddle with them.

"If this happens again, City Hall is warning that they will just have to knock off the water and this will only affect the elderly and people with young families in the area. It is also very dangerous to set these fire hydrants off as the pressurised water could seriously harm someone," he said.

Fire hydrants are essential in built up areas to enable fire-fighters to tap into the municipal water supply to assist in extinguishing a fire, he added.

Arena.

The Christina is of significant interest to Limerick in that it was the choice of local man Paul Gleeson and his Canadian girlfriend, Tori Holmes, when they took on the mighty Atlantic in 85 days, in 2005.

Two years earlier, Eamonn and Peter Kavanagh wrote themselves into the history books in Christina, when they became the first Irish people to make the hazardous journey.

Christina was bought by Irish Life Investment Managers and generously donated to the University of Limerick.

Eamonn and Peter Kavanagh, as well as Gerry Keenan, CEO of Irish Life Investment Managers, were at UL to watch the Christina being hoisted to its display position in the Arena.

The boat will remain suspended from the roof just above the indoor running track, where all who pass

through the University Arena can view it.

Speaking from the launch, David Mahedy, director of the University Arena, said that UL was very grateful to Irish Life Investment Managers for recognising the tremendous strength of spirit of those who rowed Christina across the Atlantic by allowing UL to display the craft, which will now inspire all who view it.

"We have tremendous athletes in Ireland and we need to celebrate their achievements. Displaying the Christina will give people an idea of the test of endurance these rowers undertook and the incredible courage it must have taken to

complete their journey".

The first transatlantic rowing race took place in 1997. Thirty teams set off from Los Gigantes in the Canary Islands on October 12, with the aim of reaching Port St Charles in Barbados. The one Irish team in the race consisted of Eamonn and Peter Kavanagh, two brothers from Arklow, Co Wicklow, who finished 5th in their boat, Christina (named after their late mother).

This was a remarkable achievement given that Eamonn and Peter ran out of food with two weeks to go in their race and had to survive on emergency rations for the remainder of the race. Christina was

specifically designed for ocean rowing and was built by Eamonn and Peter.

Atlantic rowing races were also held in 2001 and 2003. Limerickman Paul Gleeson, (a graduate of UL) and Tori Holmes, who hails from Alberta, Canada, competed in the 2005 race. Setting off from La Gomera in the Canary Islands, Paul and Tori completed their crossing to Antigua in 85 days, finishing 13th out of 26 teams. They, too, rowed the Atlantic in the Christina, loaned to them by Eamonn and Peter Kavanagh. Paul became the third Irish person to row the ocean and Tori became the fourth Canadian person to do so.



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The programme is aided by the Department of Education and Science and the European Social Fund as part of the National Development Plan 2007 – 2013

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