

Every summer resort holds its regatta late in the season. This combines a sports competition with a social get-together, and the slate includes everything from amateur, or "fun" events, where small crews compete in flat-bottomed rowboats, to full-scale competitions in canoes, outboard motorboats and high-powered launches.

Swimming has developed some great competitors, and an annual marathon swim is a part of the sports background of the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. Marilyn Bell brought fame to Canada when, in 1954, she became the first swimmer to conquer Lake Ontario, making the difficult 32-mile crossing from New York side to Toronto, where she received a tumultuous welcome. In 1955, Miss Bell, then 17, swam the treacherous English Channel. She later added new laurels to an illustrious career by swimming the Strait of Juan de Fuca, a tide-swept stretch of water between the State of Washington and Vancouver Island.

Practically every large city has its athletic clubs or other institutions boasting regulation-sized swimming pools where speed-swimming is part of the winter programme. In the summer, the sprinters, the middle-distance stars and the long distance swimmers switch their attention to the out-of-doors. Water-polo and water-skiing are natural developments to provide added thrills for the proficient swimmers.

The larger lakes and coastal waters also encourage sailing in all rigs and classes, and those who never tire of racing under canvas extend their energies to ice-boating in the winter-time, though their numbers are less than those who are zealots for the more orthodox type of sailing.

Other summer sports introduced to Canada by British immigrants are cricket and lawn bowling. Interest in cricket is increasing with the upswing in numbers of newcomers from the British Isles, and growing numbers of native Canadians have taken up the game. Occasional tours by teams from England and Scotland provide impetus to this sport. Spirited competition is enjoyed by the members of the many lawn bowling clubs in Canada.

All-year Sports

Amateur boxing has its enthusiasts throughout the year, and interest reaches its zenith in the trials for Olympic representation. From these simon-pures have been developed a few outstanding pugilists. Noted professionals of the present era are Pate Supple of Montreal, a bantam-weight; Yvon Durelle of Baie Ste. Annes, N.B., light heavy-weight; Bob Cleroux a Montreal beginner of whom much is expected in the heavyweight ranks, and Gaby Poliotti, a featherweight, and another Montrealer. Wrestling attracts many spectators throughout Canada.

Of course, not every sport enjoyed by Canadians is outlined here, and some enthusiasts may feel that the game of their choice has been overlooked. Scores of fully appointed gymnasias and hundreds of playgrounds, ice-rinks, football fields, and municipal golf courses in such cities as Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver offer concrete testimony to the fact that Canadians are a sports-loving people.