



## **BULLETIN #8**

**March 10, 2010**

*Frequently Asked  
Questions*



[www.survivorsabreast.com](http://www.survivorsabreast.com)

We're getting lots of inquiries these days about the international festival in Peterborough in June so here are answers to some of your questions:

### **What will the weather be like?**

You will be arriving around the second week of June.

The weather should be (I mean will be!) fantastic. June is wedding month in Canada, so usually there are lovely blue skies and sunny days with temperatures ranging from 12 degrees to the mid-20's (Celsius). After five months of winter, Canadians think this is wonderful. You might want to bring an umbrella or raincoat (we're praying you won't need it). You definitely don't need mukluks or parkas, but a light jacket or sweater might be needed in the evenings.

You do need sunscreen. (My South African son-in-law says our Canadian sun "bites".)

### **Will it be bug season?**

Ah yes, May-June brings out the infamous Canadian mosquitoes and black flies. However, unless you plan to hike through dense forest, or go fishing at dusk, you should have no problems. They tend to come out just before it rains, or for about 45 minutes at dusk. That's a good time to stay indoors, or wear lots of bug spray. Bugs are annoying, but harmless.

Our team practices in the evenings and has never encountered bug problems at Little Lake.

(No, we have no poisonous snakes or spiders in Peterborough – or wandering polar bears. But we do have a wonderful small zoo that's fun to visit.)

### **What is the cost of food?**

From my experience, food costs are similar to the USA, lower than Australia, but higher than South Africa. (Sorry England, and Italy, I haven't had the privilege to visit you yet.) A cup of Tim Horton's (a popular restaurant chain here) coffee costs \$1.39 (Cdn). A hamburger, soft drink and french fries (chips) for lunch costs from \$5 to \$10. A high-end dinner with wine and dessert costs \$40-\$50 pp. A family-type restaurant dinner costs \$20-\$30 pp. In some Canadian restaurants, we even get free coffee refills. A typical tip (gratuity) is 15 per cent, but this is not automatically added to the bill.



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### **Are there places to shop?**

Peterborough offers many shopping opportunities for our international visitors. We have a wide variety of downtown shops and restaurants for every taste. There will be shuttles to Lansdowne Place Mall, only a short distance from the racing venue. We have great book stores, toy stores, antique malls, gift shops and clothing stores. (Don't pack your suitcase too full – you'll need lots more space going home!)

### **Are there any taxes?**

Ah yes, we have a 13 per cent tax added to almost everything! But that helps pay for our fine highways, professional police protection, universal health care, a top notch education system, and seniors' pensions (although not everyone you talk to will totally agree on that... we also have free speech!) And here's the good news – save your receipts so you can get reimbursed for the taxes you paid when you get to the airport to leave Canada.

### **What's on the festival program?**

Well, I don't want to give away all our surprises, but you do need to know how to dress and plan your wardrobe, don't you? Here are a few highlights:

#### *Friday, June 11*

"Let's Get the Party Started" with a grand pink parade down Peterborough's George Street at 4 p.m. Two thousand survivors are going to paint Peterborough **PINK**. Your team can wear their uniform or you may prefer to pink it up! Anything goes. Be original. Be outrageous! Bring your town/country/state flags. For after the parade, plan to bring a jacket for later in the evening by the lake. We're having a barbecue supper, which will be followed by entertainment at the Opening Ceremony. We hope to have everyone safely shuttled home to bed before 10 p.m.

#### *Saturday, June 12*

The first racers will line up at 7:30 a.m. for the 8:15 race. Your team will be assigned a tent and an Ambassador to assist you with getting your free lunch delivered. After Saturday's last race, you will be shuttled to your accommodation to prepare for the gala evening.



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Again, dress for this is entirely up to your team... but, if you want, here's your chance to get ritzy for a sit-down dinner with linen and crystal – and PINK is always so-o-o-o fashionable. The gala will be a “progressive party.” As soon as your team finishes eating, you will be bused a few blocks away to a modern coliseum to be entertained by a live tribute band. Time to cut loose and celebrate, as only we sisters can. We're going to be smokin' to Elvis, Tina Turner, and many more of our favourite singers. Shuttles are available throughout the evening and the band is booked until midnight.

### *Sunday, June 13*

The first races begin at 8 a.m. (with a 7:15 line up). Once again, your Ambassador will make sure your lunches arrive as well as your flowers for the noon hour flower ceremony. Closing ceremonies will be kept short and we will be having our last hugs and farewell tears by 5 p.m.

As I said, there are more surprises planned but this should help you plan what to pack. If your entire team wants to dine together, or pub together on any particular evening during your visit, I can reserve you a spot ([joannie33@live.com](mailto:joannie33@live.com)). On the other hand, there are many wonderful pubs in downtown Peterborough, so you may just want to pub-crawl and check them all out.



We're busy making preparations for the arrival of 2,000 enthusiastic survivors and their supporters.

I hope you are getting as excited as we are.  
This is going to be one fabulous PINK party!

Sincerely

**Joan Bates**

*Co-Chair, Steering Committee  
International Dragon Boat Festival 2010*

*President of Host Team Survivors Abreast*