

INTERNATIONAL
Dragon Boat Festival 2010
PETERBOROUGH · CANADA

MEDIA RELEASE

May 12, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Group of Volunteers Get Ready To Guide International Paddlers

PETERBOROUGH—Volunteer organizers thanked more than 300 volunteers at St. Peter's Secondary School during an orientation and learning session to prepare them for the Peterborough's hosting of the International Dragon Boat Festival (IDBF) 2010 for Breast Cancer Survivors, June 11-13.

Separate orientations are set for the volunteers who will be helping paddlers from as far away as Australia, England and Italy load and unload on the T-wharf at Little Lake and serving them food at the festival's Saturday night gala.

"It's amazing and gratifying to me that we have been able to gather so many volunteers from the community to help run this event," said Sue Bell-Gastle chair of the IDBF volunteer committee. "It's all the behind-the-scenes work that is so important to make sure it runs smoothly. It will look effortless thanks to our volunteers."

At the Wednesday night orientation, organizers briefed volunteers on the all phases of the three-day festival. John Magee and Irene Taylor, co-chairs of safety/security on the organizing committee, also provided volunteers with an overview of safety and security arrangements for the races and other events.

The scores of volunteers (about 500) during the festival will hand out programs, organize the teams for the parade, help set up and take down tents and kiosks and provide information and guidance. In this first session, a group of volunteers from a pool of about 79 ambassadors were matched up, individually or in couples, to each of the more than 75 teams that will be arriving in the city beginning almost immediately after the local dragon boat festival. Ambassadors greet and host the arriving teams and make sure their stay in Peterborough is welcoming and comfortable.

The festival will bring to town more than 2,000 paddlers and supporters. The goal: to raise awareness of breast cancer and to encourage breast cancer survivors to join in and become fully involved. Forty-two teams from across Canada are coming, along with 12 teams from Australia (and Tasmania), two teams from England, two teams from Italy, participants from New Zealand, one team from South Africa, and 13 teams from the United States.

Festival highlights include: a parade of athletes, opening and closing ceremonies, a welcoming barbeque hosted by Mayor Paul Ayotte, a gala dinner and dance, a special memorial race—The Sandy Smith Global Race—a traditional flower ceremony, a variety of workshops for paddlers, information/awareness booths, a beer tent and a "vendor village."

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