



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 3, 2009

## Dragon Boaters Paddle for New Equipment

### ATTENTION NEWS DESK:

Registration of teams for Peterborough's Annual Dragon Boat Festival 2009 to be held on June 13 on Little Lake kicked off this morning with a big wish.

If dragon boaters and donors can raise as much money on June 13 this year as they did last year, the Breast Assessment Centre at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre will be able to purchase three more state-of-the-art aids for early breast cancer detection.

Last year, paddlers and donors contributed \$220,878 to help purchase detection equipment now in use at the Peterborough and Region Health Centre (PRHC). Another \$217,000 would allow the assessment centre to acquire:

- A \$120,000 computer-aided detection system for breast MRI imaging, as well as software for MRI breast biopsy.
- A \$38,000 software application for mammography reporting stations.
- A second sentinel node probe (\$59,000), which allows for a less invasive procedure and involves the removal of only two or three nodes to determine if the cancer in the breast area has spread.

Julie Davis attended the opening and said, "Our Breast Assessment Centre is the envy of other hospitals, and it's all thanks to our community who have supported the Dragon Boat Festival so generously. These new investments will add an additional level of sophistication to the work done by our radiologists, technicians and surgeons. It allows PRHC to keep up with the changing field of diagnostics and the improvements that new technology brings to early detection."

Peterborough's Annual Dragon Boat Festival in the past nine years has raised a total of \$1,300,671.12, which has allowed PRHC to create one of the most advanced Breast Assessment Centres in the province with three full field digital mammography machines and high end ultrasounds.

The races on Little Lake this year will mark the 10th anniversary of the founding of Survivors Abreast dragon boat team, host of the festival – and the eighth year in a row Kawartha Credit Union has been the festival's platinum sponsor.

Robert Wellstood, CEO of Kawartha Credit Union said " We are thrilled to once again be the Festival's lead sponsor. Through the generosity of the people in our community, we are confident that 2009 will be another successful event. In tough economic times, it is more important than ever to support the initiatives that make a positive difference in peoples' lives, and the Dragon Boat Festival is such a cause."

John Gullick chair of the festival committee, said, "Our annual festival is all about community. We work together to provide needed funds for the Breast Assessment Centre but just as importantly we all have a great time with lots of fun and excitement for participants and

spectators alike. The Peterborough Dragon Boat Festival is one of the largest, if not the largest, event of its type in the world. Something we can be very proud of.”

Community teams that have been waiting for several months to register for one of the spots in the festival can now pay their entrance fees and register for the races on June 13 at Little Lake.

Registration packages can be picked up at three Kawartha Credit Union branches in Peterborough on Monaghan and Chemong roads and at Lansdowne Place — but completed registration documents with fees are only accepted at the Monaghan Road branch next to the General Electric complex.

Registration chair Susan Miller urges teams to get their applications in as soon as possible. “As always, it’s first come, first served, so collect your team, collect your registration fee money and get that application in,” she said. The \$700 registration fee includes a practice and free team pictures.

This year, 72 mixed community teams, 28 women’s teams and up to 8 survivor teams for a total of 108 — more than 2,000 paddlers — will race for breast cancer awareness and pledges for diagnostic equipment for the breast assessment centre.

Two trophies will be awarded: the Kawartha Credit Union trophy for mixed teams and the Survivors Abreast trophy for the ladies division winner. Both trophies will be placed in Peterborough’s Sports Hall of Fame.

During the launch of the 2009 festival, John Gullick, festival chair, praised the support of festival sponsors who include: **Platinum** — Kawartha Credit Union, **Gold** — CHEX TV/Wolf/Kruz, Minute Maid/Coca Cola Ltd., and Country 105/91.9 BOB FM/Energy 99.7; **Silver** — Scotiabank Group, Tim Hortons, AON, and the *Peterborough Examiner*; **Bronze** — *Peterborough This Week*, Coach Canada, McLeod’s Ecowater and Mark’s Work Wearhouse; **Teak** — Price Chopper, Saville Publishing, GlobalTeleSales, Commercial Press and Design, Shirley McDowell/REMAX, Robert Lightbody, RusselleToyota, Sunlife, NRG Smoothie Bar and Health Eatery, and Odium Spectrum.

The launch of Peterborough’s Annual Dragon Boat Festival for 2009 was held in the Centre Court at the Lansdowne Mall, with music provided by a Dixieland band, one of 17 bands and ensembles that make up the Peterborough New Horizons Bands.

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For more information, please contact:

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# FAQs — Peterborough's 8th Annual Dragon Boat Festival

## **Total raised \$220,876.63 (pledges and revenue)**

Total pledges raised \$167,236.70

Portion donated to the PRHC \$202,966.65 (pledges and revenue).

Portion to Survivors Abreast \$11,909.98 (25% from revenue)

Hold over for Festival 2009 \$6,000 (from revenue)

## **Pledge Winners**

### **Top Teams**

Scotia Rowers 4U \$17,320.21

LCBO Flaming Spirits \$7,284.65

GE Hitachi Power Dragons \$6,654.55

Blazing Paddles \$6,036.40

GE Motor Maniacs \$5,429.02

Survivors Abreast \$4,894.00

### **Top Individuals**

Linda Martinell \$15,360.78

Matt Drysdale \$4,631.31

Elaine Ford \$2,060.00

## **Race Winners**

### **Mixed Teams Championship**

Dragon Flyers 1:39.98

Team Synergy 1:40:71

Paddle Pumpers 1:41:91

Motley Crew 1:43:64

Gold's Gym 1:49:04

Skinny Dippers 1:51"41

### **Ladies Teams Championship**

Paddling Pistillites Part 2 1:52:58

Paddling Pistillites Part 1 1:55:36

Draggin 'R Butts 1:57:22

Annie's Oars 2:04:29

### **Breast Cancer Survivor McKenzie Cup**

Pickering's Pink Sensations 1:54:14

Ottawa's Busting Out 2:00:02

Canadians Abreast (national) 2:02:42

Survivors Abreast Team 2 2:01:26

Survivors Abreast Team 1 2:05:16