

INTERNATIONAL
Dragon Boat Festival 2010
PETERBOROUGH · CANADA

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OTF Awards \$35,000 Grant to the International Dragon Boat Festival for Breast Cancer Survivors

Peterborough - Surrounded by local paddlers, volunteer organizers, Peterborough MPP Jeff Leal announced a \$35,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to the International Dragon Boat Festival steering committee. Karen Cook, a representative from OTF, attended the announcement as MPP Leal presented the organizing committee a plaque from the Foundation.

“Hosting the International Dragon Boat Festival in Peterborough shows this community’s commitment to fighting breast cancer,” said MPP Jeff Leal. “This funding granted through the Ontario Trillium Foundation demonstrates our government’s recognition of the importance of raising funds in the battle against this disease. Congratulations to the organizers and all the volunteers involved in bringing this event to Peterborough.”

The OTF grant will help pay for the cost of professional services and festival equipment, including the rental of 10 dragon boats, needed to run the races from June 11 to 13, 2010.

“This grant will help make our international event a huge success,” said Tina Johnston, festival sponsorship chair. “We’re most grateful for your support and we can’t wait until June when Peterborough will welcome more than 65 survivor teams from around the world. These festivals only happen every four years so this is a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase Peterborough and Ontario.”

The event will involve up to 400 community volunteers and is meant to raise awareness of breast cancer at the local, national and international level. Registered teams will come from all the provinces, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, England, Italy, South Africa, and Singapore. Several activities such as opening and closing ceremonies, a welcoming barbeque, workshops and a gala dinner with entertainment are being planned for the visitors.

Organizers anticipate that the economic impact will result in visitor spending in the central Ontario tourist region of about \$1,215,000.

A leading grantmaker in Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation strengthens the capacity of the voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. An agency of the Government of Ontario, OTF builds healthy and vibrant communities. www.trilliumfoundation.org

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