



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JUNE 6, 2010

DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL PLEDGES UP

Attention news desk:

PETERBOROUGH – The 10th anniversary Peterborough’s Dragon Boat Festival so far, has raised **\$159,027** in pledges, compared to about \$157,142 at the same time last year.

But that was just the count mid-way through Saturday afternoon. The pledges are still coming in and will continue coming in for a number of days. Then, festival organizers will add to that number all the revenue from more than 20 generous community sponsors, team registration fees and brisk sales of festival merchandise.

The final tally will be announced in early September.

As the fastest teams paddled against wind gusts, but under a brilliantly sunny sky, in the final races Saturday afternoon, festival organizers thanked all 101 dragon boat teams, sponsors, enthusiastic fundraisers and generous donors and pledge-makers for a “wonderful day”.

The money raised from the festival this year will go toward:

- An automated tissue processor, which is a vital piece of diagnostic equipment that cannot only confirm the presence of cancer, but tell physicians when it has been successfully removed.
- The remainder of the funds will be held in trust to support the PRHC’s efforts to install a radiation treatment facility on the grounds of the hospital.

The money raised included pledges gathered in by individual pledge winners this year. Dr. Chris Moore, Moore’s Mighty Molars team, raised the most with \$10,425.00 and Linda Martinell with Scotiabank came second with \$10,093.97, followed by Pam Birrell of Survivors Abreast with \$4,350.00, Anke Blaiklock, Peterborough Tugboat with \$3,272.50 and Glen Given, Blazing Paddles with \$1,655.34

Teams raising the most pledges this year were Scotiabank’s Making Waves with an amazing \$13,781.47. Next, came Survivors Abreast with \$12,992.70, followed by Peterborough Clinic Tugboat with \$12,559.80, Blazing Paddles with \$10,712.11 and Moore’s Mighty Molars with \$10,550.00.

Festival organizers send their congratulations to all the winning teams. The grand championship for the mixed teams goes to first place winner, the McWilliams Moving “Dragon Flyers” with a time of 1:54:46. Close behind in second place was the Price Chopper Panthers at 1:58:78. Third place went to Synergy at 2:03:11 followed by the Holy Rowers in fourth place at 2:07:43 and in fifth place, the River Runners at 2:07:81.

Peterborough Physio Paddling Pistillates #1 won the ladies division championship with a time of 2:19:66 followed by the second place Selwyn Belles at 2:22:76 third, Dragon 'R Butts at 2:23:33 and fourth-place, Pet Value Brookdale at 2:27:96.

Results of the breast cancer survivor races: home team Survivors Abreast won the McKenzie Cup with a time of 2:23.31. Second place went to Cobourg's Survivor Thrivers at 2:24.91. Third was More Survivors Abreast at 2:28:31, and fourth was Barrie's Ribbons of Hope at 2:35:09. In fifth place was Kingstons's Chestmates at 2:43:83.

Survivor Thrivers won the final race with a time of 2:20:04. Second came Survivors Abreast at 2:21:71, third was Ribbons of Hope at 2:28:30, fourth was More Survivors Abreast at 2:28:82 and fifth was Chestmates at 2:36:32.

During the traditional flower ceremony the Peterborough Pop Ensemble sang "Change the World, "You Raise Me Up" and "Walk A Mile." Paul Laing, festival announcer, read the names of former survivor team members who lost their battle against breast cancer and after a solemn moment of silence the teams tossed carnations onto the water.

Adding to the ceremony, Synergy led by captain Heather Angione, and the Medical Centre Rockin' Docs 'N Crew led by captain Donna McGilvray, formed a pink ribbon in front of the bleachers near the Peterborough Art Gallery.

Festival organizers and host team, Survivors Abreast, wish to thank the 2010 festival sponsors for making it all possible: Kawartha Credit Union is the Platinum sponsor for the ninth consecutive year.

Gold sponsors are CHEX TV/Wolf 101.5 FM/Kruz 100.5 FM, Minute Maid/Coca Cola Ltd., and Country 105/91.9 BOB FM/Energy 99.7. The Silver sponsors are Scotiabank Group, Tim Hortons, The Peterborough Examiner, Hastings Marine and AON. Bronze sponsors are Peterborough This Week, Coach Canada and Mark's Work Warehouse and Sun Life Financial.

The Teak sponsors are Tradescope, Price Chopper, Saville Publishing, Russelle Toyota, Commercial Press and Design, Shirley McDowell/ReMax, Rolls-Royce, NRG Smoothie Bar and Health Eatery, Goodlife Fitness, and Aditya Birla Minacs.

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