

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JUNE 8, 2009

DRAGON BOAT TEAMS GET READY FOR JUNE 13

Attention news desk:

Peterborough—102 community dragon boat teams are getting ready to paddle madly to the finish line on Little Lake on Saturday, June 13, in 54 four-boat races during the morning and afternoon. Teams are practicing each weekday on the hour, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30, pushing off from the T-Wharf on Crescent Street.

Each year new teams join in the fun and this year is no exception with the Chemong Docs, Dudes and Dolls, Collins Barrow Number Crunchers, Costco Hole Sailors, Jeri's Bears, the KLC Hammerheads, Team Ensil, Team McClan, North Shore Dragon Warriors and Sun Life Financial racing for the first time.

The competition June 13 starts 20 minutes after the opening ceremonies at 8:00 a.m., when local dignitaries join in the traditional eye-dotting ceremony to bless the boats for the paddlers. Morning heats determine the placement of teams according to fastest times for the afternoon races.

The special breast cancer survivor race featuring five survivor teams from across Ontario will be held at noon, followed by the Peterborough Singers Pop Ensemble singing during the traditional flower ceremony. Announcer Paul Laing will read the names of former members from the survivor teams who have lost their battle against breast cancer—a powerful reminder of what the festival is all about.

Also featured around 5:00 p.m. are the ladies division final races and the grand mixed championship with six boats racing to the finish line.

The 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.

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.

Kawartha Credit Union is the Platinum sponsor for the eighth consecutive year. Other 2009 sponsors include: 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, The Peterborough Examiner and AON; Bronze—Peterborough This Week, Coach Canada, Mark's Work Warehouse and McLeod's Eco Water; Teak—Robert Lightbody, Price Chopper, Saville Publishing, Russelle Toyota, Global TeleSales, Commercial Press and Design, Shirley McDowell/ReMax, Odium Spectrum, Sun Life Financial, NRG Smoothie Bar and Health Eatery, Knights on Guard and Goodlife Fitness.

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For more information, please contact:

Carol or Wayne Mutton at (705) 292-0015 or 768-4294 or waynemutton@personainternet.com or John Gullick, festival chair at 295-2867 or 1-888-277-2628.