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Despite recession, festival up \$21,000

PETERBOROUGH— Would an economic downturn mean Peterborough's Dragon Boat Festival would miss its goal this June. That's what made organizers wonder.

But the wonder of it is the community contributed \$21,000 more than they did in 2008.

Organizers of the 9th Annual Dragon Boat Festival today presented a cheque for \$223,650.43 to the new hospital's Breast Assessment Centre. That total is 21,583.78 more than last year's cheque — and almost \$7,000 more than what organizers hoped to get to buy three new pieces of diagnostic equipment.

Joan Bates, president of Survivors Abreast, John Gullick, festival chair, along with Linda Martinell, top pledge earner for 2009, presented this year's funds to Julie Davis, PRHC foundation president & CEO and Sheila Hamilton, vice-president of patient care and chief nursing officer.

“Community support is vital to keeping pace with the technological changes that improve the chances of surviving this deadly disease. It is truly an honour to accept this gift,” said Davis.

During the news conference, Dr. Sarah Harvey, radiologist and division head of breast imaging, spoke about the equipment the money will buy:

- 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.

Gullick did the math for the totals since 2001. “In 2007, the festival proceeds brought the total given to the centre to \$1,079,794. Now, with last year's \$202,966 cheque and this year's donation of \$223,650 the grand total is at \$1, 06,410, getting closer to the second million.”

Gullick thanked the 2009 festival sponsors for making it all possible. Kawartha Credit Union was the Platinum Sponsor for the eighth consecutive year.

“Kawartha Credit Union extends congratulations to the dragon boat festival for consistently raising the bar in making the event exciting for participants and highly-successful from a fund-raising perspective,” said Robert Wellstood, CEO of Kawartha Credit Union. “We are honoured to align ourselves with the festival as the Platinum Sponsor, and we will continue to support their efforts in this capacity in 2010. We wish them continued success next year.”

Gullick thanked the other 2009 sponsors. 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 and teak: Robert Lightbody, Price Chopper, Saville Publishing, Russelle Toyota, Global TeleSales, Commercial Press and Design, Shirley McDowell/ReMax, Odim 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 Mutton, festival communications chair, (705) 768-4294 (Cell) or (705) 292-0015 home or carolmutton@persona.ca

Q and A

Proceeds 2009

- Total raised \$243,105.39 (pledges and revenue)
- Total pledges raised \$183,285.56
- Portion donated to the PRHC \$223,650.43 (pledges and revenue).
- Portion to Survivors Abreast \$13,454.96 (25% from revenue)
- Hold over for Festival 2010 \$6,000 (from revenue)

Grand Total since 2001 is \$1,506,410

Proceeds 2008

- Total raised \$220,876.63 (pledges and revenue)
- Total pledges raised \$167,236.70
- Portion donated to the PRHC \$202,066.65 (pledges and revenue).
- Portion to Survivors Abreast \$11,909.98 (25% from revenue)
- Hold over for Festival 2008 \$6,000 (from revenue)

Race Results 2009

Mixed Teams

Dragon Flyers	1:41:63.
Hose Monkeys	1:44:67
Skinny Dippers	1:46:44
Synergy	1:47:31
Del Boca Vista	1:48:16
Chemong Docs,	
Dudes and Dolls	1:53:83.

Ladies Division

Peterborough Physio Paddling Pistillites Part 2 1:56:54
Draggin 'R Butts 1:58:94
Peterborough Physio Paddling Pistillites Part 1 1:59:90
Annie's Oars 2:08:58.

Breast Cancer Survivor Teams

McKenzie Cup

Dragons Abreast, Toronto	1:56:25
Wonder Broads, Windsor	1:58:71
Survivors Abreast Team	2:00:59
Canadians Abreast (national)	2:03:55
Abreast or Knot, Windsor	2:11:56.

Overall Time Placement

Dragons Abreast Toronto
Wonder Broads (Windsor)
Survivors Abreast (Peterborough)
Canadians Abreast (National)
Abreast or Knot (Windsor)