



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JUNE 14, 2009

## **DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL PLEDGES UP**

### **Attention news desk:**

PETERBOROUGH—More pledges are expected to be coming in over the coming days, but as of mid-afternoon Saturday, organizers could announce that the 2009 Peterborough's Dragon Boat Festival, so far, had raised more than \$157,000, compared to \$150, 932 at the same time last year.

The final tally—which will include revenue from the festival—will be announced in August.

For their generosity, organizers thanked the 102 dragon boat teams, festival sponsors, enthusiastic fundraisers and generous donors and pledge-makers.

The money raised during the festival this year will once again go toward purchasing early diagnostic equipment for the breast assessment centre at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre:

Another \$217,000 will 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.

The \$157,000 raised included pledges gathered in by individual pledge winners this year. Linda Martinell with Scotia Rows 4U, raised the most with \$11,078.72, and Jasmine Boovariwala of GE Hitachi Power Dragons came second with \$3,933.24, followed by Dr. Chris Moore, Moore's Mighty Molars with \$2,170.00, Anke Blaicklock, Peterborough Tugboat, \$2053.75 and Maureen Tinney, Blazing Paddles, with \$1,383.46.

Teams raising the most pledges this year were Scotia Rows 4U with an amazing \$15,634.88. Next came Peterborough Tugboat with \$10,731.00, RBC Queen Bees with \$8,332.71, Blazing Paddles with \$7,750.86, GE Motor Maniacs \$7, 053.90 and Beauty and The Breasts with \$5, 747.00.

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 1:41:63. Close behind for second place was first time team, Hose Monkeys, made up of a dozen members of the Local 519 Peterborough Professional Firefighters Association and family members, with a time of 1:44:67. Third place went to the Skinny Dippers at 1:46:44 followed by Synergy, 1:47:31, Del Boca Vista, 1:48:16 and the Chemong Docs, Dudes and Dolls, another first time team from the Chemong Medical Centre in Bridgenorth, with at time of 1:53:83.

Peterborough Physio Paddling Pistillites Part 2 won the ladies division championship with a time of 1:56:54, followed by the second place Draggin 'R Butts at 1:58:94, third, Peterborough Physio Paddling Pistillites Part 1 at 1:59:90 and fourth-place, Annie's Oars with 2:08:58.

Results of the breast cancer survivor races: Dragons Abreast from Toronto won the McKenzie cup at noon with a time of 1:56:25; the Wonder Broads from Windsor placed second at 1:58:71, home team Survivors Abreast Team, third at 2:00:59, Canadians Abreast (national) fourth at 2:03:55 and Abreast or Knot from Windsor at 2:11:56.

The overall winners of the three breast cancer survivor races was Dragons Abreast from Toronto. Second place went to the Wonder Broads (Windsor), followed by home team Survivors Abreast, then Canadians Abreast, and Abreast or Knot (Windsor).

During the traditional flower ceremony the Peterborough Pop Ensemble sang "You Raise Me Up" and a special arrangement by a member of the group of "I Will Remember You". 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 2009 festival sponsors for making it all possible: Kawartha Credit Union is the Platinum sponsor for the eighth consecutive year.

Gold 2009 sponsors include CHEX TV/Wolf/Kruz, 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 and AON. Bronze sponsors are Peterborough This Week, Coach Canada and Mark's Work Warehouse and McLeod's Eco Water.

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McDowell/ReMax, Odium Spectrum, Sun Life Financial, NRG Smoothie Bar and Health Eatery, Knights on Guard and Goodlife Fitness.

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