



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2004

Want to hear “Paddles up?” Sign up.

PETERBOROUGH — So this is the year. You and your friends are thinking of forming a team to compete in Peterborough’s Dragon Boat Festival on June 12 – for the first time.

Well, sign up fast, say organizers. History shows that almost all the teams who’ve raced in the last three festivals keep coming back. They’re probably registering as you read this.

“Last year we had 80 spots and they filled up quickly,” said John Gullick, festival planning committee chair. “Some teams didn’t get in. This year we have 86 spots. We’re expecting all the teams who were in last year to sign up again, and we know there are new teams ready to enter.”

The actual number of teams racing four months from now is 92. Six spots are reserved for breast cancer survivor teams, the only teams who can be from outside the region. Last year, survivor teams came from North Bay, Kingston and Lindsay. The members of all the other 86 teams have to be from communities listed in the Lindsay, Peterborough and Surrounding Area Bell Telephone Directory.

More teams in the future? Probably not, according to Gullick. “Realistically, staging races for 92 teams is about all we can handle in one day. The festival is energetic and fun, but everyone wants to be home for supper.”

The platinum (\$15,000) sponsor of the festival for the third year is Kawartha Credit Union. “Kawartha Credit Union and our employee teams in the races are delighted to be involved in the festival,” said Robert Wellstood, Kawartha Credit Union CEO. “We work hard for the people in communities across the region and this is a chance to show how much we care — especially about their well-being.”

Other returning sponsors confirmed so far include CHEX TV/Wolf/Kruz (gold); Minute Maid and Marks Work Wearhouse (silver); Americredit, Country 105, Investors Group, Shirley McDowell, Associate Broker RE/MAX Eastern Reality Inc, and Peterborough This Week (bronze); and teak: Saturn Isuzu of Peterborough, Price Chopper, Nurse Emission Testing and Repair, The Connection Newspaper, The Peterborough Examiner and Liftlock Fiberglass Fabrication, home of Kawartha canoes.

As in the past, all money raised during the festival stays in the area to help purchase diagnostic equipment for the regional hospital's Breast Assessment Centre. In 2003, the festival raised more than \$158,000. “The generosity of the people in the Peterborough-Lindsay region and of the festival goers is simply wonderful and we hope they can help us again this year,” said Meredith Cosburn, founder of the festival and Survivors Abreast.

This summer, Survivors Abreast, hosts of the festival, will once again take on up to five teams of breast cancer survivors from outside the area in a special race, which will be followed by a remembrance ceremony.

And again this year, a special plaque will be presented to the dragon boat team with the most pledge money – last year Survivors Abreast team was the proud winner. The plaque, in memory of the late Dr. Richard Jarosonek, is on display in the Peterborough Clinic.

As an added incentive to raise pledges, the top individual pledge earner will win a Kawartha canoe donated by Liftlock Fiberglass Fabrication, 640 The Kingsway. The top prize also includes a free six-month membership to Good Life Fitness Clubs donated by the Chemong Road Club. As well, Marks Work Wearhouse is donating a special athletic kit for first and second place winners.

Registration packages are available at the Kawartha Credit Union, 1054 Monaghan Road, Peterborough. Registration fees remain at \$600 with one practice or \$700 with two practices.

For more information about the festival, please contact John Gullick at (705) 295-2867 or 1-888-277-2628. For inquiries about registration, please contact Susan Miller at 705-743-9253.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS RELEASE:

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