



BULLETIN #6

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*The
Sandy Smith
Global Race*



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The Sandy Smith Global Race

The Sandy Smith Global Race is an important tradition at International Breast Cancer Participatory Festivals. Here is the story of how it came into being.



You may not have met Sandy Smith; indeed, until now you may not have heard of her. Yet Sandy is a major reason that many of us from around the world were in Vancouver at Abreast In A Boat's *Ten Years Abreast Celebration* in 2005; at the Dragons Abreast Australia's *Abreast In Australia* in Caloundra, Australia in 2007; and will be in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada in 2010.

Sandy joined Abreast In A Boat in its second year, 1997, and was the first person to hold the position of Global Liaison. In this role, she became the contact person for other women wanting to start their own breast cancer dragon boat team. It was a role she fell into by accident; one that became her passion and eventually almost a full time job. If she got so much as a hint that someone might be interested in starting a team she would pursue that lead; for example, the first breast cancer team in England began paddling in April 2005 as a direct result of Sandy introducing a British paddler she had met in Philadelphia in 2001 to a British coach she met in Singapore in 2003. We are delighted to be welcoming some members of that first English team to Peterborough. Similarly, crews in Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Singapore and other parts of Canada benefited from her unstinting efforts.

Sandy passed away in February 2005. For several years she quietly and bravely fought her recurrence and continued her Global Liaison work as long as her health permitted. She was a woman of incredible courage, perseverance and conviction. When she spoke it was from the heart and she was the most beautiful paddler.

To acknowledge and honour Sandy's contribution to breast cancer dragon boat paddling world wide, representatives from all participating teams will paddle together in The Sandy Smith Global Race in Peterborough, as in Vancouver and Caloundra. To those who are chosen to paddle, Sandy's husband Paul will present a small memento from Abreast In A Boat at the Closing Ceremonies. The last day of *The Ten Years Abreast Celebration* in Vancouver – June 26th 2005 – would have been Sandy's 50th birthday. She was with us in spirit there and her legacy continues.

~ International Breast Cancer Paddlers Commission