

It was a great day on the water for the 4th Annual Nautical Days Dragon Boat Races at Marina Park in Comox on Sunday, August 6, 2006. The race results show that the competition was exciting and challenging for both the teams in Open category as well as the teams in the Women's category. First place in the Open category was earned by the Sunshine Dragons from Port Alberni with an accumulated time for the day of 5:02, followed closely by the Channel Chargers of Nanaimo with a time of 5:06, Full Throttle, the exciting junior team from Nanaimo with a time of 5:21, our local team the Dragonflies also with a time of 5:21, the Prevailing Wins, a new local team who impressed themselves on their very first race day with a great time of 5:53 and the Cowichan Valley Jolly Dragons with a time of 6:01.

The accumulated times in the Women's category were very close with Hope Afloat Canada from Comox taking first place with an accumulated time of 5:48, followed by Angels Abreast from Nanaimo at 5:57, River Spirit from Campbell River at 6:00, Paddling for Life from Powell River at 6:04 and Blazing Paddles, a local team with a time of 6:05.

The Breast Cancer Trophy was awarded to Hope Afloat Canada, our local Breast Cancer Survivor Team who earned the trophy with the overall best times of the day at 5:48. The trophy was presented by Ray Crossley, who lost his wife to breast cancer five years ago. Rays two sons assisted with the presentation. The breast cancer teams held a touching "Pink Carnation Ceremony" on the water in memory of those women who lost their battle with breast cancer and to honour and inspire those currently living with the disease.

The Comox Recreation Commission would like to thank the race committee, Victor Simonson, Cristine Tames, Gary McWilliam and Mandy Johns for their help in making the dragon boat races a success. Also, a special thanks to John Robbins who not only brought their boat from Port Alberni but also stayed to marshall the teams all day and to River Spirit who brought their boat from Campbell River. Many thanks to Kathleen Leighton for announcing the races and team information at the end of the boardwalk, to the runners Damien and Brody who ran up and down the boardwalk all day with the race results, to the timers Julie McWilliam, Lucy Brown, Hanna Stuart and Gary Brown and to Murray Mason for providing and operating the safety boat. Thank you to Gary McWilliam and Darnell who stood out in the hot sun all day readying the boats and starting each race. We must also give thanks to Aimee, Richard, Sally, Sheila, Marty, Ken, Ed, Gerald, Lyn, Ron, Roughan, Barry, Ted and Stan for helping to load us safely into the boats and thanks to the Coast Guard Auxiliary Unit 60 for their assistance with the carnation ceremony and a big thanks to everyone who assisted with the festival. We look forward to more exciting race action in Comox in August 2007.