



**HOPE AFLOAT CROSSES THE FINISH LINE** during the Victoria Dragon Boat Festival earlier this month. The festival was held in Victoria's Inner Harbor, with the legislature in the background (left).

# Hope Afloat brings home medals

The Hope Afloat dragon boat team from the Comox Valley has been weighted down with medals in the past month. The team earned a silver medal at the Victoria Dragon Boat festival Aug. 14-15, and a bronze at the Nanaimo Dragon Boat Festival July 9-11.

A gorgeous city and great weather set the stage for Hope Afloat's strong showing at the Victoria Dragon Boat Festival. A total of 29 team members travelled to Victoria.

Ninety dragon boat teams from North America competed in this festival, including 13 breast cancer teams, Hope Afloat publicist Marcy Petersen said. "Hope Afloat worked hard and competed in a total of five races at this festival, placing second in the Amethyst B Division with a time of 2:43.50," she said.

---

“Every person on the boat gave it their all and never let up during the entire 500-metre course.”

**Marcy Petersen**  
Hope Afloat dragon boat team

---

The winning team was only a quarter of a second ahead of Hope Afloat.

Any festival's most important race to Team Hope Afloat is the Breast Cancer Survivors Division, and they did not let themselves down for this race. "Every person on the boat gave it their all and never let up during the entire 500-metre course," Petersen said, "earning them the prestigious award of a silver medal.

"Hope Afloat's energy and spirit kept them only 0.20-seconds behind first place," she said. "Hope Afloat is

very thankful to be under the guidance of their skilled and experienced paddling coach, Don Irvine, who has enabled them to rise to this level of competition."

There were 13 breast cancer teams from across North America entered in the Victoria festival.

Hope Afloat earned a bronze in the breast cancer survivors' race at the Nanaimo festival. There were 11 teams from B.C. and Alberta competing in that race and Hope Afloat's paddlers met their competition with fervor, Petersen said. Even though

the seas were choppy and the wind was blowing the four lanes of boats around at the start line, the team's steerperson kept her wits about her while lining up, holding the boat for the start.

Hope Afloat completed the 500-metre race with a time of 2:51, only four seconds behind the first-place team.