

RACE *on the* RIVER

DRAGON BYTES

Volume 1, Issue 1

Editor: Emma Eagles

April, 2018

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PRESIDENT WELCOME:

Welcome. My name is Chris Higdon, and I have the privilege of serving as President of the Race on the River board of directors for 2018. I am pleased to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to you, on behalf of our entire organization.

Many of you have heard the phrase 'it takes a village', used to refer to the scale of a difficult task. Well, I can think of no better way of describing how we, as a community, have worked together to make it to what is now our 17th annual event. Each year we transform our river front into a festival like none that I have seen. In order to pull this off, our group of 18 board members rely on at least 25 corporate sponsors, and more than 150 other volunteers. The result of their efforts is an event with around 40 races between 600 paddlers, watched by more than 1,000 spectators. Finally, over the past 16 years, we have raised more than 1.8 million dollars for our three beneficiaries.

Thank you in advance for taking part in this year's event. Thank you for being a part of our village.

Paddles up!

Chris Higdon, President
New Glasgow Dragon Boat Society

INTRODUCING OUR 2018 HONOURARY CHAIR: JEFF MACLEAN

In July 2015, Jeff was appointed President of Michelin North America (Canada) Inc. He has served for over 25 years at Michelin in manufacturing and general management positions in Nova Scotia and Clermont-Ferrand, France. The first half of his Michelin career was focused on engineering, quality, operational and leadership roles in Canada's three manufacturing plants. Subsequently, he served in a role focused on progress in the world truck tire lines, as Employee Relations Manager for the Canadian operations and then as site Manager for the Michelin Pictou County Facility.



Jeff is a graduate of Saint Mary's University and the Technical University of Nova Scotia (now Dalhousie University), where he earned a B.S. in engineering and applied sciences.

"I am very honoured to serve as the Honorary Chair for the 17th annual Race on the River here in Pictou County" said Jeff MacLean, President, Michelin North America (Canada) Inc.

"This wonderful event showcases the exceptional caring side of our community. It highlights the donated time and dedicated efforts of all of the wonderful volunteers, organizers, paddlers, or the crowd on the shore cheering, allowing this event to make a positive difference in people's lives. The three very deserving charities that are being supported this year are all great examples of making our world a better place. Now let's get paddling!"

New Glasgow Dragon Boat Society Board of Directors 2018:

President: Chris Higdon, **Vice President:** Dion Antle, **Secretary:** Sherry Cheek, **Past President:** Bob Rogers

Directors: Shirley Murray, Phil Wyman, Terry Richardson, Kim MacLaren, Meghan Brophy, Nikki Parnell, Alisha Mombourquette, Jillian Greene, Sandra DeGruchy, Emma Eagles, Amanda Chambers, Anne Baxter and Jannah McIntyre

Advisors: Roger Swarbrick

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2018 CHINESE NEW YEAR OF THE DOG

In Chinese astrology, each zodiac year is not just associated with an animal sign, but also one of five elements: **Gold (Metal)**, **Wood**, **Water**, **Fire** or **Earth**. Both the zodiac sign and the element shape the astrology of the year. For example, 2018 is an Earth Dog year. Element-sign combinations recur every 60 years.

Five Types of Dog; Which One Are You?

It is theorized that a person's characteristics are decided by their birth year's zodiac animal sign and element. So there are five types of Dogs, each with different characteristics:

Type of Dog	Year of Birth	Characteristics
Wood Dog	1934, 1994	Sincere, reliable, considerate, understanding, and patient
Fire Dog	1946, 2006	Intelligent, hardworking, and sincere
Earth Dog	1958, 2018	Communicative, serious, and responsible in work
Gold Dog	1910, 1970	Conservative, desirable, cautious, and always ready to help others
Water Dog	1922, 1982	Brave, even seemingly selfish; well-versed in dealing with financial issues

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM!

Race on the River is a participation level event for teams wanting to participate for the fun and excitement of Dragon Boating. **All teams must include at least 6 female paddlers.**

A full Dragon Boat team consists of ***16 Paddlers and 1 Drummer.*** Teams may include up to 4 alternates. A qualified coxswain is provided by the event. **Minimum age for participation is 16 years of age (with parental consent).**

Each team must have a designated Team Captain and a Pledge Captain. You may also want to designate a Co-Captain to assist the Team Captain.

The Board of Directors for the Dragon Boat Society have once again decided to reduce the price of registration for the boat to \$600 (a savings of \$50). However, if your team is registered and **PAID IN FULL by May 31st, 2018** you will save an **additional \$100 (making your registration just \$500).**

Mark the following dates on your calendar:
Opening Ceremonies: Friday, July 20th, 2018
Races: Saturday, July 21st, 2018

Register your teams by contacting:

Anne Baxter at:
raceontheriver2018@gmail.com
902.754.9817 or 902.752.3304





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SAVE THE DATE!

Team Captains/Pledge Captains Meeting
TBA (June)

Practice Week
(sign up at Team Captains/Pledge Captains Meeting)
July 16th - 18th

Pledge Deadline/Turn-In at Scotiabank
July 20th

Team Captain's Meeting
July 20th

Opening Ceremonies
July 20th

Race Day!
July 21st

LEARN THE LINGO

Bow - Front of a boat

Coxswain (aka steersperson) - Person at stern of boat whose responsibility is to control the direction of the boat. Responsibilities can also include directing and issuing commands.

Crew - Any person in a dragon boat

Drummer - Crew person whose sole responsibility is to sit on the drum seat and beat the drum and/or keep beat

Festival - Pictou County Dragon Boat Festival;

Head Dock Marshall - Person in charge of docking area

Heat - Any number of boats competing at once under timed conditions

Paddler - A crew member whose sole responsibility is to paddle while in a sitting position

Pledge Captain - Person(s) responsible for passing out and collecting team pledge sheets and tallying team pledge envelope for pledge night

Port - Left side of a boat

Race - Each team having completed one heat is considered to have completed one race

Starboard - Right side of a boat

Starter - Official whose responsibilities are to ensure that all teams competing in a respective heat are lined up properly and to commence a heat

Stern - Back of a boat

Team Captain - Person who is responsible for the conduct and safety of the crew while on the water. May or may not be a crew member. Team captain may also be responsible for a crew discipline and technical administration off-water including crew insurance waivers and administering appeals.

Waiver Form - Insurance waiver form that all crew members must individually reach and sign. If under the age of 19 (must be minimum of 16 or older to participate) will need parents signature on the waiver

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

Interested in volunteering with
Race on the River?

We may have an opening for you!

For more information contact:

Nikki Parnell, Director of Human Resources at:
nikki.parnell@ca.michelin.com



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SUPPORTING OUR BENEFICIARIES

Women Alike Breast Cancer Survivors Society

Helps women living with breast cancer understand that they can lead full and active lives. They are working to improve the quality of life for breast cancer “Thrivers” and raise public awareness about breast cancer and support research for a cure.

Special Olympics Northern Region

Uses sport to assist those with an intellectual disability to become all that they can be - physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. To become accepted, respected and productive members of society. Their mission is to ensure that a full continuum of sport opportunities is available to those with an intellectual disability.

Pictou County Prostate Cancer Support Association

Has been active for over ten years. The objectives of their Society are: to improve the physical and psychological well-being of men who have or have had re-occurring prostate cancer; to offer support to men and their families; to support prostate cancer research and to promote prostate cancer awareness throughout the Pictou County area.



DID YOU KNOW?
Since 2002, this
festival has raised
\$1,912,194!

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