



## Media Advisory / Photo Opportunity

### **DRAGON BOATS ARRIVE AT MOONEY'S BAY Ottawa Dragon Boat Race Festival boats arrive ready for action**

- What:** Arrival of the Boats  
Ottawa Dragon Boat Race Festival
- When:** Wednesday, June 4  
Approximately 12:00 – 1:00 PM
- Where:** Mooney's Bay  
Marina Parking Lot

On Wednesday, at approximately 12 noon, the first load of dragon boats arrive at Mooney's Bay, Marina Parking Lot. The boats are launched in the river and ferried across to the Rideau Canoe Club. Boats are then prepped for practices that start later that day. Practices will run from June 4 through to the week of the Festival.

The Festival takes place at Mooney's Bay, June 20-22, with 190 teams, 65,000 spectators and a fundraising target of \$250,000. Proceeds benefit the following eight local charities: Ottawa Senators Foundation/Roger's House, Royal Ottawa Foundation for Mental Health, OCRI School Breakfast Program, Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario, Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Support Program, Algonquin College Foundation, Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre and Good Day Workshop.

A complete list of event day activities can be found at [www.dragonboat.net](http://www.dragonboat.net).

#### **About the Ottawa Dragon Boat Race Festival**

The Ottawa Dragon Boat Race Festival began in 1993 as part of a larger Chinese cultural tradition that goes back 2,400 years. With assistance from the Hong Kong Canada Business Association it started small with only 25 participating teams over a half-day event. By 2006, the sport had grown to 190 teams participating in both the corporate and community categories over two days, making the Ottawa Dragon Boat Race Festival the largest Dragon Boat Festival in North America. In 1998, a charitable component was added to the Festival raising funds for 4 local charities on an annual basis. This year, the Ottawa Dragon Boat Foundation will be supporting a total of eight local charities through a new, three-tier system. To date \$1,000,000 has been raised through the "Pledge Challenge". The Ottawa Dragon Boat Foundation has since been established to help focus and grow this necessary component.

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#### **For more information please contact:**

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