



# *Festival Facts*

## The Festival

- North America's largest dragon boat race festival
- The Ottawa Dragon Boat Race Festival began in 1993 with the assistance of the Hong Kong Canada Business Association
- 2010 Marks the 17th Annual Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival
- Original Founders are Frank Ling, President of the Asian Heritage Month Society; Warren Creates, Head of Perley-Robertson, Hill and McDougall LLP's Immigration Law group; and Mike Chambers, President of the Canadian Olympic Committee
- Executive Director John Brooman
- Represented by Ottawa's three largest media groups; CTV, CHUM & The Ottawa Citizen

## Logistics

- A non-profit festival with free admission to spectators
- Held at Mooney's Bay Park on Riverside Drive in Ottawa
- 70,000 attendees over three days
- Over 350 volunteers
- Free downtown parking and shuttle service, with bike parking available on site

## Onsite Entertainment & Activities

- Multicultural performances including live music, cultural presentations, and ceremonial activities
- Roving entertainment
- Children's area featuring award winning family entertainment
- Beer Garden
- Food Vendors featuring international cuisine and summer desserts
- Exhibitions and shopping opportunities

## Dragon Boating

- Part of a larger Chinese cultural tradition that goes back 2,400 years
- Began in South East china as a fertility rite to avert misfortune and bring rain by worshiping the dragon
- A dragon boat itself is a slim 44' racer with a dragon's head at the bow and tail at the stern
- Each dragon boat holds 20 paddlers, a drummer and a steersperson
- 190 team participate with new races every nine minutes with 15 challenge cup categories
- Approximately 5,000 paddlers from across Canada, from as far west as Calgary, AB and as far east as Halifax, NS