



Backgrounder



A TIMELESS TRADITION

Dragon Boat Racing is a long-standing Chinese cultural tradition dating back 2,400 years. Commencing on the banks of southern China, Dragon Boat racing began as a ceremony held to commemorate the death of Qu Yuan, a Minister of State during the Chou Dynasty.

DRAGON BOAT RACING

Dragon boat racing is the source of annual rituals and festivals celebrated across the world. Dragon boat racing is one of the fastest growing water sports for teams with participants in over 60 countries, totaling approximately 50 million people. These events and festivals promote team spirit, foster power and stamina, and has increasingly become a charitable sport.

TIM HORTONS OTTAWA DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

The Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival began in 1993 with assistance from the Hong Kong Canada Business Association. Starting small with only 25 teams and now in its 18th consecutive year the event has grown to 190 teams in both corporate and community categories. It features non-stop dragon boat racing and endless FREE family fun with the Tim Hortons Children's Area, live entertainment, multicultural food and exhibitors. For more information visit www.dragonboat.net.

OTTAWA DRAGON BOAT FOUNDATION

The Ottawa Dragon Boat Foundation was established in 2003 to help focus and grow the level of community support. To date over \$2.1 million has been raised through the annual Pledge Challenge and those funds have benefited over 28 Ottawa area charities. For more information, visit www.dragonboatfoundation.net

Like us on www.facebook.com/ottawadragonboat and follow us on www.twitter.com/ottdragonboat