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TIM HORTONS OTTAWA DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL ATTRACTING HIGH-CALIBER TEAMS
Schuylkill Dragons premier women's team travels to Ottawa to compete

OTTAWA, May 18, 2011 – The Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival, the largest festival of its kind in North America, is attracting a growing number of high-caliber competitive teams from around the world. The Schuylkill Dragons from Philadelphia are traveling to Ottawa for the second consecutive year to compete in the women's division and enjoy the free family entertainment at Mooney's Bay Park from June 17 to 19.

"We loved everything about the festival – the water stations, the clean facilities, the organization of the races, the shopping and oh – the reptile exhibit! Also, I don't think we've ever competed with so many other women's teams! Our race in Ottawa was a real growing experience for our team!" said Dr. Hypatia Sawn, aka Hype, the Vice President, Co-Recruitment and Skill Sergeant for the Schuylkill Dragons.

Founded in 2011, the Schuylkill Dragons are the oldest continuously active women's dragon boat team in Philadelphia with paddlers raging in age from 24 to 73. They train for recreational and competitive competitions with their only requirement being that each team member makes a commitment to challenge oneself to work hard. This year the Schuylkill Dragons will be attending competitions in Washington DC, Philadelphia, Ithaca NY, Tampa, Hartford and crossing the border only once to compete in Ottawa.

Traveling teams appreciate the hospitality of everyone onsite including volunteers, organizers and paddlers. Many teams forge lasting friendships and like the Schuylkill Dragons, are counting down the days until they get on the bus to make the trip "for another great weekend of racing, friendships and memory-making!"

The Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival is taking place at Mooney's Bay Park on June 17 to 19, 2011. Admission to the weekend is free and includes family entertainment such as live music, the Tim Hortons Children's Area, exhibitors and vendors. The festival kicks off with a free concert on Friday, June 17 featuring The Trews. Racing begins Saturday, June 18 at 7:30 am and the day ends with a free concert with Steven Page. Races conclude on Sunday, June 19. For a full list of details, the race schedule and free entertainment line-up, visit www.dragonboat.net.

About the Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival

The Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival is the largest festival of its kind in North America and is one of Ottawa's must-attend summer events. This 3-day festival is hosted at Mooney's Bay Park from June 17-19 and features non-stop dragon boat racing, with a total of 190 team and 5000 paddlers. Over 70,000 spectators take in cultural activities, live music, a variety of vendors/exhibits and family-oriented entertainment. For more information, visit www.dragonboat.net, www.facebook.com/ottawadragonboat, www.twitter.com/ottdragonboat.

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