

Dragon Tales

May 2011

Important Dates

Mark your Calendars!!

May 28th & 29th: Fanshawe Yacht Club Annual Open House (see page 3 for more details)

June 4th: Pickering Dragon Boat Festival
<http://goo.gl/6YmNt>

June 18th: Welcome Breakfast (more info to follow)

July 9th: Hamilton Dragon Boat Festival
<http://goo.gl/QSdZc>

July 10th: Windsor Dragon Boat Festival (Pendragons only)
<http://goo.gl/QEOi2>

August 6th: Woodstock Dragon Boat Festival
www.dragonboatwoodstock.ca/

September 17th: Stratford Dragon Boat Festival
<http://goo.gl/ourEM>

October 1st: River Run 2011 – 27km Paddle down the Grand River (Cayuga to Dunville) (more info to follow)

Interested in helping out with our next newsletter?

Email Brenda Pentland
brenda@londondragonboat.com



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A Note from the Club President

Welcome back paddlers! The boats are in the water and our teams have hit the water for their first practices. Among us are a few new faces. Welcome to all the new paddlers! So far they are doing great and are very enthusiastic! Please help make them feel at home.

There are a variety of events planned over the course of the summer, in addition to the festivals each team has chosen to attend. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Thank you to all of the club members who do such a great job to plan and execute these events on your behalf.

Enjoy our first newsletter of 2011. The newsletter crew worked hard on it and need your help for the next issue. Do you have an interesting story to share? Information you've found about Dragon Boating? A great picture you took? Let them know so it can go in the next newsletter.

I want to thank everyone who helped at the clean-ups and especially the two days of getting the boats and docks in the water. An extra thank you to Jamie and Brenda, who spent many extra hours getting the docks ready and anchored.

Enjoy yourselves this summer and paddle safe!

Heather Peel
2011 Club President

The 2011 Season Has Started!!



Pendragons

Team Captains:

- Karla Schebesch
- Cyndie Wells

Coach/Steersperson:

- Cheryl McLachlan
- Sarah Shellard

The Pendragons are starting the season with a new name (formerly the Wave Riders).

Waves of Fury

Team Captains:

- Gerry Matthews
- Sharon McHale

Coach/Steersperson:

- Jamie Pentland

Assistant Steersperson:

- Dave Cruickshank

Waves of Fury is starting the season with a new look! Keep watching for new jerseys!!

Thank you to all those members that gave up weekend time to be at the Yacht Club cleaning, painting boats, doing dock maintenance etc. We wouldn't be paddling this early if it wasn't for all your hard work. And speaking of hard work as you may have heard from some LDBCI members or seen in the FYC – Scuttlebutt....."Volunteering" is becoming more of a necessity than a personal desire!! The FYC has a requirement for volunteer hours spent helping to clean the grounds, doing odd repairs and other duties. The LDBCI is going to be tracking the number of hours our members 'volunteer' at the Club for FYC functions/events such as clean-up days and the Annual Open House. Any off site recruiting events that are done will also count.

Interested in volunteering? See page 5.

Brenda Pentland has offered to help with the tracking. Please forward your name and date/time to Brenda@londondragonboat.com



2011 Teams

We have some new faces on the dragon boats. If you are a returning member and see someone you don't know please introduce yourself. We have the Waves of Fury team returning and the Wave Riders are returning with a new name, "Pendragons". Waves of Fury practices will be held Monday and Wednesday evenings while Pendragons will be paddling Tuesday and Thursday. Both teams will be at the lake on Saturday mornings unless they are off racing somewhere.



Basic Safety Rules

#1: LISTEN for commands and follow directions from steers person, drummer or coach.

#2: Keep pfd on and done up at all times on the boat.

#3: Use the buddy system. Know your seat number and in the event of tipping, look for your seat partner.

#4: If capsized, listen for instruction and stay with the boat.

Upcoming Events

Welcome Breakfast

We have a few dedicated members who have a tradition going.....pancake breakfast!! This year the breakfast, designed to welcome new members and returning paddlers will be held Saturday June 18, 2011...after practice. We don't want you to paddle with a bellyful of pancakes☺

Karla Schebesch, team captain for Pendragons has offered to be in charge again this year. Please keep an eye out for more details. She'll be contacting teams with info soon!



Who's up for some LDBCI History?

As a founding member of the LDBCI, I was recently asked to consider submitting an article to Dragon Tales with some of the Club History. Rather than ramble on about what we have done in the past few years, I thought I would make it more fun...for everyone!! After all who doesn't love games and prizes!! There will be a multiple choice LDBCI History Quiz available at the "Welcome Breakfast". If you want to play for a chance to win some exciting prizes plan to join us for pancakes and fun on Saturday June 18th (stay tuned for details). — Brenda Pentland

Fanshawe Yacht Club Annual Open House

This year the Open House will be held on May 28th and May 29th, 11:00am – 4:00pm both days. Rosemary Dickenson (FYC) has been on site at the clean-up days to get people signed up for various duties from kitchen help, gate helpers, dock duties, etc. The LDBCI will also have a table set up and we will need people to man that for both days. We will be offering dragon boat rides and are hoping to schedule 15 minutes rides during 1:00 pm to 1:30pm & 2:00pm to 2:30pm.

Coach Jamie has asked for 8 to 10 experienced paddlers to be on the boat assisting during these rides. If you are interested, please talk to Jamie (Waves of Fury) or Brenda (Pendragons).

Spring Clean-up

We like to have fun even when we are working hard!



Boat Launch



Good Luck Ben!!

Volunteers Wanted

- Newsletter
- Advertising
- Fundraising
- Event Planning
- Festival Managers

Various committees are being formed based on volunteer selection on registration forms. Individuals will be contacted soon.

If you have any questions, email Brenda
Brenda@londondragonboat.com

As most of you know Ben Gerber, from the Pendragons, recently flew off to beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia to attend the final selection camp of the Canadian Nationals under 23 Dragon Boat Team. There was a quick fundraiser put together for Ben as the costs of this trip were his responsibility. Thanks to LDBCI, Rowbust Members and Dennis at Fitness Forum, we were able to collect \$760 for Ben.

"I would like to thank everyone for their support and generosity; I wasn't expecting this at all!!! You're an amazing group of people and I'll be thinking of you when paddling out west. You've also given me that extra motivation that I needed. Thank you so much!!"

-Ben



Past Events - 5th Anniversary Fundraiser

The London Dragon Boat Club celebrated their 5th Anniversary Saturday April 9th with a dinner and dance at the Forest City National Golf Club. It was a beautiful spring day and we were able to look out and see the main dock through the clubhouse windows. It was a successful and fun evening! Before dinner, we were entertained by the CCNC Chinese dancers and after dinner everyone had fun on the dance floor. We were able to raise \$2581.99 for our club to go towards purchase of a new boat. A portion of the proceeds will be directed to Wellspring.

Thank you to all of our sponsors and donors of silent auction items! Thank you to Karla, Brenda and Gerry for organizing the event!

- Heather Peel



Fanshawe Conservation Area News



Thank You Meredith

The LDBCI Board and Recruitment Committee would like to extend a very big thank you to Meredith Cartwright... aka "Mighty Mouse" for her recent donation of four picture plaques. Meredith has captured many pictures from the past few years on these four plaques. At some point we hope to have them displayed in our equipment room or in the main Club House but for now they are being used at recruitment events. Thank you again Meredith, for your generous donation to the London Dragon Boat Club.



Gate entry: If you have not already purchased your gate pass for the park, please do so the next time you come through. Gate Passes are now \$75 (save \$8 from posted rate). If you are purchasing one, identify that you are a dragon boat paddler and a member of the Fanshawe Yacht Club. If you already purchased one, either show your receipt or give your sticker number to staff at the Registration Hut (inside campground, not main gate) to receive a refund. If you run into any problem, please contact Heather Peel (heather@londondragonboat.com).

Canoe Rentals: The Park has purchased several canoes that are available for rent. For more information, visit <http://goo.gl/wzRLS>

New Phone Number: The NEW Park phone number is **519-951-6181**. This number is for emergencies or general inquiries. The old number is still reachable, but with the new one, you will not need to dial an extension to reach Fanshawe staff.

Rowbust News

Eight spots on the Rowbust Golf Tournament have just opened up!
Join Rowbust on Thursday, May 19th at Firerock Golf Course. Shotgun start at 11:00am followed by Dinner and a Silent and Live Auction. Cost is \$125.00 per person. Call Russ for Information: **519-652-9799**

Have fun with Rowbust at the Port Stanley Festival Theatre - May 25th - \$40 includes show, door prizes, refreshments, penny table. See poster for more information at <http://goo.gl/m97Db> or email Joan at joansmithonline@gmail.com



2011 Board Members

Heather Peel
Maureen Gerofsky
Anita Berkelmans
Dave Gerofsky
Sara Berkelmans
Jamie Pentland
Brenda Pentland

Board members participate in club meetings as well as attend FYC meetings and events. Board members are responsible for helping the club meet the club goals. They oversee membership, equipment purchasing and maintenance, fundraising, social events, insurance and financial responsibilities of the club. They provide us with a fun and safe environment!

Thank you to our board members!

Interested in helping out with our next newsletter?

Email Brenda Pentland
brenda@londondragonboat.com



New Paddlers

Dragon Boat Festivals: Are you new to Dragon Boating and wondering if you should attend a festival? Dragon Boat Festivals typically take place on Saturdays and run the full day. Each team typically participates in two time trail races and ends the day with a championship race. Each of our teams usually chooses 3 or 4 festivals for our teams to participate in per season. Festival participation is not required but is a great experience for all! As a new paddler last season, I signed up for my first festival before I ever held a paddle or stepped in a Dragon Boat. I had so much fun in Welland that I immediately signed up for the other three festivals. The list of festivals and dates for this year is listed on the first page of this newsletter. Please talk to your captains to find out more about festivals.

-Julie Matthews

Do you have a friend that would like to try dragon boating?

New paddlers are welcome but PLEASE LET YOUR CAPTAINS KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO BRING A NEW PADDLER TO PRACTICE!

Please contact info@londondragonboat.com as well as the team captains to let them know you would like to bring someone out on the boat.

Thank you to our sponsors:

*B. W. Machine Tool & Die Inc.
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Tony Clark Car Care
Fitness Forum
Hugh J. Fraser, Barrister & Solicitor
The Net Now Web Hosting & Design*

...and our supporters: Rowbust Dragon Boat Team, and Fanshawe Yacht Club, Stratford Dragon Boat Club, Cobourg Dragon Boat Club

Thank you to the contributors of the May 2011 issue of Dragon Tales: Heather Peel, Brenda Pentland, Julie Matthews, Cyndie Wells, Jillian Todd, and Karen Campbell.