



February 2017

To All Dragon Boat racing teams:

You are invited to attend the Canada 150 Original Wooden Dragon Boat Festival on Saturday July 15 and Sunday July 16, 2017 at Canoe Beach in Salmon Arm, BC. This year the festival will be presented by SARP and Aspiral Youth Partners with generous support from the Canada 150 Celebration Fund.

All races will be in the original teak wooden dragon boats brought from Hong Kong to Canada in 1986. These historic boats were the beginning of dragon boating in Canada at Expo 86 in Vancouver, and the nine original teak boats have been lovingly restored in Salmon Arm over the last year.

Six will be used in the Wooden Dragon Boat festival in Salmon Arm this year – all teams will be racing in heats of 3 wooden boats. There will be a maximum of 12 teams competing in two classes – mixed and women's – with each team having 2 races a day for a total of 4 races. Races will take place over two mornings from 8AM to Noon at Canoe Beach in northeast Salmon Arm, and run parallel to the shore for a better view of the whole race by fans and the general public at this popular local beach.

Along with your paddler's village there will be a Festival Village including working artisans, kids' zone, information kiosks and healthy food serving up a taste of the Shuswap – that will be fun for the whole family.

On Saturday afternoon there will be a Carnation Ceremony, fun dragon boat contests and an opportunity for 300+ paddlers plus family and friends to take in some beach time and visit the Festival Village.

Volunteers, participants, supporters, sponsors and spectators will come together for two days of hospitality, athletics, fun and enjoyment.

For more information go to the "Festival" tab on the Dragon Boat page at the SARP website – <http://shuswaprowingandpaddling.com/>. Or email your questions to shuswapfestivalregistrar@gmail.com.

Paddles Up!

Pam Rhine

Pam Rhine, Festival Registrar
Canada 150 Original Wooden Dragon Boat Festival