



September 20th, 2016
Mayor and Council
Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 3P9

Dear Mayor and Council,

I thank you for the consideration of supporting the 6th Annual International Dragon Boat Festival in July and of the Club in 2017.

The International Boundary Waters Dragon Boat Festival has played a major Town role since its creation and development. This past year our event was cancelled and rescheduled due to unsafe weather conditions in June, however we were able reschedule and host a successful festival on September 17th.

In 2016 to date Boundary Waters has:

- Attended the "Freeze Yer Gizzard Blizzard Run CWAC Expo" January 15th & 16th to promote our festival, health & wellness, and Fort Frances as a destination.
- January to April we hosted a weekly poolside paddle and swim lessons.
- April 13th attended a Sports Tourism Clinic hosted by the RRFDC.
- Hosted a Dragon Boat Clinic with US National Coach, Megan Kress for 25 participants from the Rainy River District; Koochiching County; St. Paul, MN and Superior, WI on May 28th & 29th.
- Participated in the NWHU Play Zone event at FFHS on June 15th to promote healthy and active living in our community.
- Offered free paddles every Tuesday from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm for locals and visitors from Tuesday, May 10th to Tuesday, September 20th. (Our paddling season)
- Cleaned up garbage from the marina three days a week, assisted boaters parked at the marina, and scrubbed the docks clean twice per month.
- Offered free paddles all summer for kids 13 to 19 years of age with the help of ParticipACTION Canada, and sponsored by Coca Cola Canada to get kids active in our community.
- Participated on the Voyage Forward Cross Border Committee since May of 2016 to present.

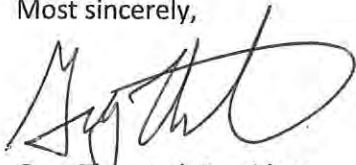
- In preparation for the originally scheduled festival date of June 25th, we put in 68 volunteer hours and provided over \$680 in assistance to the Relay for Life Committee along with the sharing of other resources for the original festival date.
- We cleaned up the riverfront after the storm on June 25th.
- July 1st we participated in the Canada Day Parade.
- July 12th we packed up our boats and trailer and went to Sunny Cove to host an evening of dragon boating with a group of 95 campers and staff, providing \$1,000 in sponsorship and 8 volunteers for the this session.
- August 5th we travelled to Bemidji, MN to race in their festival, winning the Civic Cup, while promoting our area and festival.
- August 9th we provided a free team building session to the Region 1 Girls Volleyball Team before they went to Mississauga.
- August 19th we supported the Howard Young Foundation for their first dragon boat festival and assisted the new local club in Minocqua, Wisconsin in their first races while promoting travel to our area and our festival.
- August 26th we provided 6 volunteers for the IFalls Bass Tourney.
- August 26th we lent a steersman and coach to the Saint John, New Brunswick Dragon Boat Festival where we promoted travel to our area and our festival.
- September 9th – 11th we raced in Winnipeg, winning 2nd in the Mixed Competitive Division, and promoted travel to our area and our festival.
- September 17th we hosted our 5th Annual Dragon Boat Festival with two teams from the US and 4 local teams, and a tribute to honour our local medical staff and cancer survivors.
- Grew our club from 36 regular paddlers last year to 48 team members and 14 local regular paddlers from both sides of the border in 2016 (62 in total). Creating both a Recreational and a Mixed Competitive team to travel and promote our festival and area, as well as a regular local paddler group.
- September 18th provided tents, tables, cooked a pancake breakfast for and volunteered to assist the local Terry Fox Run.
- September 21st attended the RRFDC's Sports Tourism training session.
- **Over the summer we had 310 paddler waivers signed by locals and visitors. 271 Canadian (with one listed as CAN from the UK) and 39 from the US. Of those, 179 were females and 131 were male.**
- **Donated over \$2,000 back into our community this season, with more to come before the end of 2016.**

The real need for the Boundary Waters Dragon Boat Club is the necessary use of the marina in 2017 once again, with the allowance of the spot to park our needed equipment trailer. All team gear and travel costs are individually covered by our team paddlers, with their paddler fees covering the costs of our insurances. We just couldn't provide all the free sessions to youth, locals and visitors without your continued support in this way.

The Dragon Boat Festival, which operates as a non-profit organization under the direction of the International Boundary Waters Dragon Boat Foundation, requests assistance with the costs associated with site preparation and race day maintenance, advertising, and promotion of the event and area. \$1,000 is requested from the Town of Fort Frances to help support our effort to provide a local event that we can all be proud of, as well as an essential destination tourist draw to inject needed dollars into our local economy.

We believe that the Dragon Boat Festival is consistent with the mission and economic interest of the Town of Fort Frances, and we hope that you will find it in your budget to support this continuously growing family friendly community event and local sport for all ages and fitness levels. If I can provide additional information to encourage consideration of our request, please feel free to contact me on my cell at (404) 590-9628 or by email at dragonboatff@gmail.com.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Thorstad', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Greg Thorstad, President

International Boundary Waters Dragon Boat