

FANSHAWE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL
CAPTAIN/PADDLER BRIEFING #2
June 8, 2026

Hello Team Captains (and Paddlers),

We hope you are as excited as we are about the 13th annual Fanshawe Dragon Boat Festival on Saturday, June 13th at Fanshawe Conservation Area in London.

The festival is less than a week away, so we hope you and your teammates are READY READY to get those PADDLES UP!

A huge thank you to our growing list of festival sponsors. **Check them out [HERE](#).**

Here are a few MORE things to check off on your list to ensure that you and your team have the best possible experience at the festival:

If you have not already done so, download and review the Captain/Paddler package – found [here](#).

Captains and Steersperson Meeting 7:20 am
The Mandatory meeting for Captains and Steerspersons is at 7:00 am on Saturday morning by the Lakeview Pavilion. Give yourself plenty of time to arrive at the site and park. (See PAGE 3 for information re: directions and site maps.)

Captains – when you arrive, check in at **Team Registration (@Lakeview Pavilion)** (open from 6:00am) and confirm your team is cleared to race.

COMMUNITY TEAMS – Please inform Team Registration of any roster changes when you arrive. We will manually update your roster.

OTHER TEAMS – Online roster (Google Docs) should be completed by Friday, June 12th at NOON. If there are any changes after this, please notify Team Registration on Saturday morning before 7am.

ALL TEAMS – ALL online waivers must be completed by 6pm on Friday, June 12th. There will be NO paper waivers at the race site.

Arrival Time and Race Times
Inform your team members to arrive **AT LEAST two (2) hours before your first scheduled race time**. [Race schedule](#) is posted to our website. We will have the schedule at community practices this week. Races are called by **RACE NUMBER** – not time. Please listen to the announcements for your team's **race number** as the schedule can run ahead. The marshalling area is a bit of a walk from the paddler's village so we will be calling races ahead of time. Again – please listen for your race number and give yourself lots of time to get to marshalling!

What to Bring

Remind your team members to dress for the weather conditions (layering is good) and to bring dry clothes to change into. Dragon boating is a “water sport”!! Bring sunscreen!

Bring your own drinking water or water bottle with you on festival day – there will be water filling stations at the site -- close to the Registration area and before you head down to the marshaling area [both are close to the race schedule boards]. Vendors will also have water and other refreshments available for sale.

There is no ATM available at the site. Debit/credit cards often don't work (poor Wi-Fi and data signals in the park) in the vendor area. **Cash is recommended.**

Paddle for a Purpose – Massel Cruickshank Patient Assistance Fund

Did you know that teams and individuals have raised over \$120,000 over the past 10 years? The team that raises the most money will win **free entrance** into next year's festival and the individual that raises the most money will receive a gift card.

Momentum is certainly growing, and team and individuals are busy raising money and pledging online. To learn more or to check out the leader board, visit the fundraising page [HERE](#).

Please bring any off-line funds raised to the Lakeview Pavilion (Registration/ Information area). The team and individual winner will be announced at the awards area at Lakeview Pavilion at the end of the day. ****Funds will be accepted from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm ONLY. ****

Back by popular demand – our **VIP porta-potty!** Please bring your CASH!! (Loonies/ toonies/5s, etc.). All funds raised support the Massel Cruickshank Patient Assistance Fund.

Paddlers' Village – Tent Set-up

You are welcome/encouraged to set up your team tent on Friday, June 12th from 2 pm until 7 pm. Please set up **within the marked areas** as we need a walking path to the marshaling area and a path for the gators. Security is on site overnight BUT please do not leave any valuables at your tent overnight.

Please communicate with your team re: when to arrive and coordinate a meeting location.

SITE & PARKING

[Directions to Site](#)

[Site & Parking Map](#)

- There is plenty of parking close to the festival site. There will be volunteers to direct you **to** and **within** the parking area.

- Paddlers entering Fanshawe Conservation area should use the back gate.** To access the back gate, drive east on Fanshawe Park Road until it ends (east of Clarke Road), turn right (south) and drive until you reach the gate. **The back gate will be open from 6:00am to 10:00am ONLY.** This entrance will get you quickly to the festival site near the Lakeside Pavilion. If you arrive after 10am – you will need to pay \$16 (per vehicle) to enter the park through the main gate. If you use the main gate at ANY time, you will have to pay to enter the park. SO – arrive EARLY and use the back gate!!

OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

- 6:00am Team Captains must check in at the Team **Registration table** at the Lakeview Pavilion when they arrive. Confirm the roster is up to date and all online are waivers done.
- 7:20 am
- 7:00 am **The Mandatory Meeting for Captains and Steerspersons at Lakeview Pavilion (by GWN tent).**
- 7:40am Drumming warm-up with Rosa Domelo - Encourage all teams to attend for this “energizing” and “noisy” workout!
(Rosa is a Fitness Instructor that has worked with the Rowbust team for years).
- 8:00 am Teams in the first race at the marshalling area.
- 8:30 am Racing begins!
- 10:00 am – 12:00 pm ONLY **** Funds will be accepted for Massel Cruickshank Pledge Program**.** (Registration/Info area at Lakeview Pavilion)
- 11:00 am [approximate time] **BCS Flower Ceremony** – on water
(Breast Cancer Survivor Ceremony is an on-water celebration of life. We remember those who we have lost, we think of those who are still fighting the battle, and we celebrate the lives of all who have survived and thrived after their diagnosis).
- 12:30pm or 1pm [approximate time] Lion Dance performed by the Chinese Canadian National Council – London Chapter
- 4:30 pm 2 km race with top 8 teams (based on race times in first race)!

Sarah's Challenge Cup – be sure to stay and watch this exciting race!!

AWARDS from approximately 2:00 pm... **Immediately** after your final race of the day – the entire team goes to the Lakeview Pavilion area for an award ceremony! **Results will only be posted after they are announced at the awards ceremony.**

Note: Race results are not always what they may seem from inside the boat!!

Special awards this year:

- First Team to Register
- Best Team Name
- Best Team Cheer
- Best Dressed Team
- First in your lane! 😊

Some other notes:

* Rowbust will be holding a 50/50 draw. Tickets are 3 for \$5.00. License: posted on website. Rowbust will also be selling “Mystery Bags” - \$10 each **CASH ONLY.** [Vendor area]

* Check out the [vendor area](#) – food, merchandise and services! **BRING CASH.**

* There is First Aid on site – within the Marshalling Area – beside the docks

* **NO CHILDREN** to be left unattended. We do not provide childcare on race day!

* Lost & Found is located next to Info area/Registration at Lakeview Pavilion

* There is playground equipment adjacent to the paddlers' village. Also, the Fanshawe Pioneer Village is within walking distance to our venue.

* **This is a **NON-SMOKING** event! Please be respectful of other paddlers and spectators.**

