



ESCA In Good Health

Four years ago the main goal of the English Speaking Cancer Association's (ESCA)

PADDLEforCANCER Dragonboat Festival was—and still is—to be a cancer awareness-raising campaign. Financially, our objective was to break even, but it was such a huge success that it became a major fundraiser as well. This year the Festival netted over CHF 90K.

The introduction of the first Fund-raiser's Challenge Cup encouraged extra fundraising by individual team members and brought in more than CHF 22K in additional funds. These proceeds will benefit the Pediatric Oncology Units of CHUV, Lausanne, and HUG, Geneva, as well as ESCA's Counseling Fund. Proceeds from the races and sales on land will cover our operating expenses and enable us to fund our Drop-In Center, professional counseling services, training and supervision of ESCA volunteers, special awareness events, and activities during October's International Breast Cancer Awareness month.



PADDLEforCANCER is now run mainly by volunteers, but we continue to secure the help of a specialist company who supply the boats, paddles, life vests and experienced helmspeople. In this way we can ensure the safest and most professional event possible.

The collaboration with *L'Abbaye* and the *Centre Sportif de la Vallee de Joux*, the enthusiasm of our sponsors and teams, and the hard work and dedication of our volun-

teers managed a record crowd of over 3,000 people, bringing order to all the activities on lake and shore. We sincerely thank you, every one, for your boundless support. We couldn't do it without you!

Mark the date, **Sunday, 4 September 2011**, for the fifth anniversary of **PADDLEforCANCER**, and **register your teams early!**

Catherine Blanc, ESCA President
Patricia Allen, Dragonboat Coordinator



Photos: Georges Gard <http://www.espacephoto.ch/>

Kids Stay Afloat; Adults Don't!

In the mini-regatta, 120 children aged six to fifteen raced in mini dragonboats (dinghies) and canoes throughout the day without mishap. Experienced volunteers, however, including those who steered the children's boats in every heat, did not fare so well in their own impromptu canoe race when one paddler took a mighty stroke and tipped the balance, sending the crew into the Lac. Even the person in charge of water activities got soaked! The children stayed dry as their teams progressed through a number of heats to the finals.

Volunteers, led by **Denise von Maur** and **Jan Ireland**, steered each boat, guided the crew members in and out of their vessels, and during the lunch break provided pleasure trips for over 80 more children who were not actually racing. With so many teams on the water - 28 crews in canoes and 16 mini dragonboat teams - volunteers had their hands full insuring the safety of each child. **Village Camp Vikings**, whose adult team won the corporate category for the third straight year, generously gave extra time and effort to help on the water.

As the mini-regatta has jumped in popularity, the races have attracted more competitors, but good sportsmanship still characterizes the races. This year's victors were:

Gaston and Leon Charles, A division of Junior Canoes
Joan-Pedro and Nina Oliveira, B division of Junior Canoes
Felix and Hugo Bishton, Senior Canoes
ISL Wolves, Mini-Dragonboats



Photos: www.lauramorganphotography.co.uk



Paddles Up for Megan



Photos: Georges Gard
<http://www.espacephoto.ch/>

Bon voyage to a very special ESCA volunteer, **Megan Hamilton**, who has moved back to her homeland in Australia. For almost five years she worked as an ESCA volunteer spending a great deal of her time as the Volunteer Support Team Leader

for the Dragonboat Festival.

During the race week-end she kept all 120 volunteers fed and watered, supervised the sleeping arrangements and other uses of the *Protection Civile*, and directed the activities of the volunteer tent. But these were only her assignments.

Being Megan, she had her nose in just about every aspect of the festival, answering whatever need arose, even dragging her husband and kids in to help. Megan, thank you for all you did for ESCA – we will miss your smile, your humor and your warmth.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are vital to the success of PADDLEforCANCER. Each year, we put out a call for dedicated people to help with myriad tasks from rubbish pick-up to boat loading. This year, in addition to filling Megan's position as **Volunteer Support Team Leader**, we are looking for someone with book-keeping experience to act as **Festival Treasurer**.

If you are interested in volunteering for PADDLEforCANCER, please contact us at:

volunteer@paddleforcancer.ch
 or phone ESCA at: **022 791 63 05**.

For your diary...

When Sunday 1 May 2011 10am-4pm

Where Webster University, Geneva

What Cancer Awareness Trail

Walks for children and adults outside; demonstrations and displays inside

When Sunday 4 September 2011

Where L'Abbaye on Lac de Joux

What Dragonboat Festival 2011

Register your teams early!
details: info@cancersupport.ch

Race Results

Corporate

1 Village Camp Vikings	1:47.65
2 Medtronic Paddling For Life	1:49.80
3 Cargill Crusaders	1:51.56

Open

1 Bateau du Syndic	1:38.41
2 Can Du Boatmen	1:46.57
3 Crossfit Leman	1:46.59

Female

1 Vaud Vixens 2	1:58.11
2 Dragon Hadronettes	2:03.52
3 Dragon Divas	2:10.30

Complete results available at: www.paddleforcancer.ch/pdf/2010_results.pdf

Lost Property

There are still numerous items at the ESCA offices that were left behind at *Lac de Joux*. To enquire about an item, please email: info@cancersupport.ch. Items still unclaimed at the end of the year will be donated to a charity for the homeless.

ESCA, the English Speaking Cancer Association, is a group of professionals and trained volunteers whose mission is to have a positive impact on the lives of those affected by cancer by providing emotional support, practical help and information in English.

www.cancersupport.ch

Thanks to your support!

- 11 years in service
- 86 volunteers trained since 2005
- 200 patients and families touched
- 400 books in the library
- 2,446 hours donated in 2009



Photos: Georges Gard <http://www.espacephoto.ch/>

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You are receiving this Newsletter because of your participation in the Dragonboat Festival. To unsubscribe, email: info@cancersupport.ch



From all of us at ESCA, our best wishes for a most serene and healthy 2011

dragonboat festival

THANK 谢谢 YOU

your generous participation has touched the lives of cancer patients and their families in Geneva, Vaud and neighbouring France

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