



ATTENTION NEWS/ENTERTAINMENT/SPORTS/TRAVEL EDITORS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNLEASHING THE DRAGONS

***With the Help of Its Sponsors, Toronto “Dots the Eyes” for
2006 IDBF Club Crew World Championships***

TORONTO, July 18, 2006 — Official new 2006 International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) Club Crew World Championships race dragon boats were awakened from their slumber in an eye-dotting ceremony earlier today. Senior government officials, corporate sponsors, race organizers and community representatives participated in the traditional ceremony.

Virtually all dragon boat races and festivals around the world pay tribute to the 2,500 year old history of this sport by holding an Eye-Dotting Ceremony. In today's ceremony at Ontario Place, Taoist monks chanted and led sponsors and dignitaries down to the water's edge, where they dabbed the eyes on the "blind" figurehead of each dragon boat with red paint, thus awakening the dragons.

“This dragon boat competition offers four days of vibrant, fun and entertaining sport and helps make Toronto an exciting summer destination for tourists,” said Tourism Minister Jim Bradley. “The Ontario government is pleased to invest \$200,000 to market this world-class event in US border cities and in Western Canada.”

“Hosting this event would not have been possible without the support of all three levels of government, who recognized the importance of having a water course in Toronto, and provided the funding to make it happen,” said Organizing Chair Sharifa Khan. “Tremendous event supporters and sponsors like Ontario Community in Action Fund, Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership, Ontario Cultural Attraction Fund, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Ontario Lottery and Gaming (OLG), City of Toronto, and of course, our Presenting Sponsor Steelback Brewery, and many others have also helped take this Championship in Toronto from dream to reality.”

The Organizing Committee of the 2006 IDBF Club Crew World Championships would like to recognize and thank all of the sponsors who have helped ensure Toronto puts on an amazing event. Namely, Platinum Sponsors CTV and the Toronto Sun; Gold Sponsor Sony Canada, Silver Sponsors OLG and Slots at Woodbine Racetrack, and Cathay Forest Products Corp., Corporate Boat Sponsors Scotiabank and TD Waterhouse, and Bronze Sponsors Air Canada, Aecon, Coca-Cola, and Pizza Pizza. Media Sponsors for the event are Sing Tao

Daily, Fairchild Television, and Talentvision, as well as Fairchild Radio, World Journal, Chinese Canadian Times, 24 hours and Dragon Boat World.

Significant support was also received from the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership, the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, the Ministry of Health Promotion's Community in Action program, the City of Toronto and Toronto Tourism. The Hong Kong Economic Trade Office, the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto and Ontario Place have also provided support.

More than 3,000 paddlers from well over 100 teams will participate in these Championships. This includes many of the world's best dragon boat crews from across Canada and the U.S., as well as from Australia, China, Germany, Russia and many other countries.

The Championships will be held at the beautiful new Western Beaches Watercourse, off Marilyn Bell Park. Practice runs will be held on August 8 and 9, and official competition will take place from August 10-13, 2006. Admission is free for all. For more information, and for a full schedule of events, visit www.2006ccwc.com.

- 30 -

For further information, or to obtain photos from today's event, contact:

Kris Burley
Devon Group
416-504-5151 ext 355
kburley@devongroup.ca