



ATTENTION NEWS/ENTERTAINMENT/SPORTS EDITORS

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COUNTDOWN ON FOR CLUB CREW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Toronto prepares to welcome 3,000 paddlers from 12 countries at August 10 Opening Ceremonies

TORONTO, August 3, 2006 — If you think you hear drum beats in the distance, it may not be your imagination. With only one week to go until the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) Club Crew World Championships get underway, dragon boat crews and coaches from across the country and around the world are already arriving in the city.

"This is an exciting event to watch as some of the best club crews from around the world compete in a friendly rivalry for World Championship medals and trophies," said Mike Haslam, IDBF Executive President.

Close to 100 crews are coming to Toronto from 12 countries and regions, including top crews from Germany, Australia, China and of course, Canada and the U.S. Thousands are expected to come down to the waterfront from August 10-13 to cheer on their favourite teams, including a number of hometown favourites.

"Our experienced organizing committee, the hundreds of volunteers and the backdrop of our new spectacular waterfront can make the 2006 Championships a tremendously successful and memorable event for athletes and spectators," said Toronto Mayor, David Miller.

In addition to the competitive races, a number of community and diversity races are also taking place, allowing local and corporate teams to get out and show their team spirit and experience international competition. Special races include: Youth Spirit Challenge, which involves teams of mentally and physically disabled youth, and the popular breast cancer survivor races.

Competing crews will be the first to race on Toronto's brand new \$23-million Western Beaches Watercourse, which was built thanks to the support of the federal and Ontario governments and the City of Toronto. Completed in early June, the course is now outfitted with racing lanes and ready to go.

The Championships officially kick-off on Thursday, August 10th in Nathan Phillips Square, where Opening Ceremonies will be held to welcome the athletes and their supporters to Toronto. The ceremonies, which get underway at 7:30 pm, will include a parade of athletes, speeches by dignitaries and performances by local and international dance and music groups.

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 race schedule, visit www.2006ccwc.com.

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