

Aug 9th - 11th



Welland Hope Floats Challenge

Welcome to the 2nd Annual Welland Hope Floats Challenge

Thank you for registering to attend the Welland Hope Floats Challenge on August 10th, 2024!

After a very successful debut in 2023, the Welland Hope Floats Challenge is back and we are thoroughly excited that you have decided to join us again! We will have a wide array of weekend activities available to all registered athletes, and registration and booking details can be found in this bulletin.

Fundraising Opportunities

This event is a fundraiser for both the local BCS team (SNCC Hope Floats), as well as Wellspring Niagara, a not-for-profit organization that exists to provide programming for those who are currently battling cancer, along with their families and support networks. Wellspring receives no external financial or government support, and they rely completely on events such as this to operate their programs in the Niagara Region. Ready to help out? Here are the ways you can help raise funds at this event:

- Attend the Fire & Ice Opening Ceremony and take part in the Silent Auction!
- Purchase one (of many) custom shirts, jerseys, headbands or other, with a portion of all proceeds going to the fundraising efforts. (Pre-purchase links to come soon!)
- Commit to our Pledge Program! [Click here](#) to open and print the Pledge form for your team and hand it in on race day!

Location & Parking

This event takes place at the Welland International Flatwater Centre, located at 16 Townline Tunnel Road in Welland, Ontario. There is free on-site parking, however, we do encourage you to carpool as much as possible. All events over the course of the weekend will take place at this location, unless otherwise marked.





Rules of Racing

For 2024, we will be following two different levels of Rules of Racing. Please see the details below:

For teams that ARE using this as a Dragon Boat Canada Qualifier, you will follow Division I Rules of Racing:

- Women's teams must race with an entirely female-identifying crew, including the steersperson and drummer.
- Mixed teams must race with a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 10 of each gender.
- All racers (including the drummer and steer) must be Breast Cancer Survivors in the BCS Division.
- Roster checks will be completed in marshalling before the first race.

For teams that ARE NOT using this as a Dragon Boat Canada Qualifier, you will follow Division III Rules of Racing:

- All teams may use a steersperson of any gender. Your drummer must be a female in the Women's Division and a cancer survivor in the BCS Division.
- Mixed teams may have 1-19 female paddlers and 1-10 male paddlers. A Cancer/Supporter crew must be made up of at least 50% cancer survivors, and a BCS crew must be made up entirely of BCS paddlers.
- All team members (including the drummer and steer) are required to wear a PFD at this event. Inflatables are permitted. We will have PFD's and paddles available for all to use.

Schedule & Race Format

We currently have 36 crews registered to participate in this event, and we anticipate more to come!

All teams will race 1 x 200m, 2 x 500m, and a 2000m* final. While our goal is to have all teams participate in the 2000m race, in the case that the single day schedule does not allow us to accommodate all teams, we may make the decision to limit participation based on overall results from the straight races. As we wait for team registration to close, we anticipate a full day of racing, from approximately 8:00am - 5:00pm. Exact schedule and details to follow later in August.

Rosters & Waivers

All members of your team are required to complete a waiver prior to participating in this event. Your team has the option of completing this process online or in paper format and you will receive details on how to complete this process no later than July 10th. Waivers must be complete by Thursday, August 8th, 2024.

For teams using this as a qualifier, roster checks will be completed in marshalling prior to the first set of races. Details to come regarding identification and/or Dragon Boat Canada badges. Stay tuned!



*Welcome to
Welland, Ontario*

Aug 7th

Day 1 : Welcome

All Day Team Arrivals & Hotel Check-In

Welcome to Welland! Teams are expected to arrive in the area over the course of the day, and check into their hotel rooms.

12:00 - 16:00 Practices at WIFC

Free practices will be offered between 12:00pm-4:00pm, for teams who wish to participate. To book your practice, please [CLICK HERE](#)

15:00 - 18:00 Hotel Check-In

No events are planned for the afternoon. Settle into your rooms and enjoy some downtime!

18:00 - 21:00 Fire & Ice Opening Ceremony at WIFC

Alkame Dragon Boat Services and SNCC Canal Dragons, will be hosting the Fire & Ice Opening Ceremony at the Welland International Flatwater Centre, from 6:00-9:00pm. This event will feature live music, a full buffet dinner, wine & beer tastings, a silent auction, speeches and more! Join us and help us raise funds for both SNCC Hope Floats & Wellspring Niagara!

Tickets (\$50+ hst) are required to attend this event and capacity is limited. Transportation to and from the event centre is not included. [CLICK HERE](#) to book your ticket now.

Aug 10th



Day 2 : Annual Welland Hope Floats Challenge

7:00-9:00

Team Check-In

Teams must arrive on-site prior to racing begins to ensure that they have checked in at Race Headquarters and dropped off their pledge forms!

09:00 - 12:00

Racing begins!

A firm schedule of races will be released the week before the event, but it is anticipated to begin at approximately 9:00am and end by 5:00pm.

12:00 - 13:00

Cancer Survivor Ceremony

A special Cancer Survivor Ceremony is in the works. Stay tuned!

13:00 - 17:00

Racing Continues!

Races will continue throughout the afternoon, culminating with the 2000m finals. Firm schedule to be released closer to the event date.

15:00 - 18:00

The Dragons Den & Award Ceremony

The Dragons Den, hosted by Rainhard Brewing, will open at approximately 11:00am and will serve throughout the afternoon. The Dragons Den is open to all who are of drinking age: tickets must be purchased on-site.

Aug 11th

Explore Welland &
Niagara Region



Day 3 : Bonus Activities

9:00 - 13:00

Dragon Boat Canada - Steering Accreditation Course

Dragon Boat Canada President, Scott Murray, will be providing interested Steerspeople with the opportunity to participate in a DBC Steering Accreditation Course. Pre-registration and a fee of \$150.00+ tax is required. [CLICK HERE](#) to register today.

9:30 - 16:30

Winery, Farm & Chocolate Tour

For those who would like to explore the Niagara Region, this year we are offering a [day-long wine & chocolate tour](#) on Sunday! This tour begins with a tasting at the Chocolate Factory Experience, followed by a farm tour and wine/cider tasting at Puddicombe Farms, and finishes with a private food and wine session at Comisso Estate Winery. Tickets are \$100.00+hst and must be booked in advance. Seating is limited, so please book early! [CLICK HERE](#) to register today.

11:00 - 16:00

e-Bike Winery Tour

Join Marilyn Bellows on a 5-hour guided eBike tour, through 4 esteemed Niagara wineries. This tour includes your eBike, tastings and a lunch. Tickets must be purchased in advance. \$150.00+ tax. To register, email: info@ebikethebench.com or [click here](#) to view their promotional flyer.

All Day

Athlete & Team Departures

Thank you for joining us, and for helping us raise necessary funds for Wellspring Niagara and SNCC Canal Dragons, Hope Floats!



Registration, Links & Information

Hotels:

Best Western Rose City Suites

300 Prince Charles Dr S, Welland, L3C 73B

\$269/\$279 + tax per night: 1 Queen Suite, or 1 King or 2 Queen Suites with full kitchen.

Phone: (905) 732-0922

Ask to book as part of the "Hope Floats Dragon Boat Group. Must reserve no later than July 6th. Cannot reserve online: phone only.

Niagara College Residences

110 Niagara College Blvd, Welland, L3C 7L4

\$139 + hst per night: 2 bedroom college dorm, includes 2 double beds, fridge, microwave and full washroom.

Email: Laura Stoner lstoner@stayrcc.com
Ask to book as part of "Hope Floats Challenge"
Book online here: [Hope Floats Challenge](#)

Practice Booking:

Welland International Flatwater Centre

16 Townline Road, Welland, L3C 2T4

Complimentary for registered teams, between 12:00pm - 4:00pm, August 9th, 2024

To register: [Click Here](#)

Fire & Ice Opening Ceremony:

Welland International Flatwater Centre

16 Townline Road, Welland, L3C 2T4

Advanced purchase required: tickets are limited. Includes entrance, buffet dinner, wine & beer tasting, speeches, live music + more!

To purchase: [Click Here](#)

Steering Accreditation Course:

Welland International Flatwater Centre

16 Townline Road, Welland, L3C 2T4

Begin the process to gain your Steering Accreditation through Dragon Boat Canada! 10:00am - 2:00pm, August 11th, 2024

To register: [Click Here](#)

eBike Winery Tour:

Vinlands Estate Winery

3620 Moyer Road, Welland

Visit 4 of Niagara regions esteemed wineries on a guided eBike tour! Includes your eBike, tastings and a lunch. \$150.00+ tax.

To register, email: info@bikethebench.com