

# Dragonboat races slated for 'the Bay' tomorrow

## Lively Dragon Waterfest takes place along shoreline

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A large dragonboat competition along the Hamilton shoreline this weekend will involve a fair number of Burlington residents.

Nearly 50 boats are expected to take part all day tomorrow (Saturday) at Bayfront Park as the Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC) and the Lively Dragon team of Burlington team up once again for Hamilton's fifth annual Lively Dragon Waterfest.

Fourteen of the teams are community entries, made up of people who live and/or work in surrounding cities like Burlington, Ancaster and Hamilton.

The first race heats will take place at 8 a.m. Each team paddles in three races throughout the day in three rounds, plus a bonus race if they are registered for it. The final race will finish about 5:30 p.m., followed by the fundraising awards and medal ceremony.

### PADDLE-POWERED BOATS

The dragonboat races take place inside a sheltered channel off of Bayfront Park.

A dragonboat is a long and narrow boat powered by people with paddles. Racing them originated in China. For race events, dragonboats are rigged with decorative Chinese dragon heads and tails and are required to carry a large drum aboard. A drummer yells instructions and encourages the team. The boat carries 20-25 people.

Event co-organizer Lively Dragon supplies all the boats, life jackets and paddles for the event.

This is BARC's third straight year as Lively Dragon's charitable partner. All pledges collected by paddlers go directly to BARC.

Lively Dragon also matches each team's first \$100 in pledges. In 2006, \$8,000 was raised for BARC. In 2007, \$7,500 was raised. Prizes are given to the top three fundraising teams and also to the top 10 individual fundraisers.

The funds support BARC's work to restore and protect Hamilton Harbour and its watershed. Formed in 1991, the Bay Area Restoration Council is a community not-for-profit group.

Besides the dragonboat races, Waterfest offers live entertainment, food vendors and a beer tent. It is free to attend.