

# 'Sisters' set a heartfelt pace at boat race

It was a weekend of Calgarians supporting good causes.

Sistership, a dragon boat team comprised of breast cancer survivors from all stages of the disease raced their hearts out Friday through yesterday in the Calgary Dragon Boat Festival despite the rainy weather.

"We were all huddling in the tent, cold and wet but everybody's been having good, strong races," said team president and 11 year-cancer survivor Charlene Waldal yesterday.

"It's been tremendous."

Sistership — which broke into two teams of women as there are so many members — placed first and second in the breast cancer survivor race and second in the women's consolation race.

In the spirit of sportsmanship, Sistership even lent a few of their members to a fellow team, which was short three paddlers, so they could compete.

Waldal said the Sistership team was strong because of one common denominator.

"It's our 10th year, so we went back and revisited our roots and realized our message of hope once again."

In an emotional ceremony the members of team Sistership remembered the 23 teammates they have lost to breast cancer over the years by placing carnations in the water yesterday afternoon.