

Sports

Sistership bares all for calendar project

By **ANDREW SMITH**

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First it was the Australian women's soccer team.

Then it was the U.S. Track and Field team, followed by Canada's women's nordic team.

Now, it is the time of the Sistership.

All four of these teams—world famous or not—have doffed their clothes for fundraising calendars that have tuned heads if not pages.

But the difference is the women of the Sistership have a greater message: that being diagnosed with breast cancer doesn't have to be the beginning of the end.

"We had a special message," said Sistership member Carole Parks.

"That is that we are more than just our breasts, and that regardless of our aggressive surgeries, we remain sensual, sensi-

tive beings."

"And we also recognize the wonderful men who stand by and love us irregardless of our surgery and scars."

The calendar idea was taken from a similar project in England developed for victims of leukemia.

The Sistership itself was founded in 1998 by 24 women, everyone whose life had been affected by cancer.

They trained diligently for the Calgary Dragon Boat Festival, training for the physical benefits of the sport while drawing emotional and spiritual strength through their participation.

Following their races, team members

toss pink carnations on the water to remember those who have succumbed to the disease.

Funds raised by sales of the calendar will be used as a fundraiser to help the the Sistership participate in the Cross-Canada Dragon Boat Race in Toronto in June of 2001.

So did they have fun?

"We had way too much fun," said Parks.

To order a copy of The Beauty of Life Calendar, call 804-4092 or check your local calendar retailers.

