



STUART DRYDEN/SUN MEDIA

Women from the Sistership dragon boat teams prepare to throw carnations in the water after a moment of silence in tribute to breast cancer victims yesterday.

Dragon boat racers battle cancer in waves

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Sun Media

Dragon boat racers gave cancer a good paddling on Glenmore Reservoir during the weekend.

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 rainy weather.

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

Charlene Waldal said 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 sportsman-

ship, Sistership even lent a few of their members to a fellow team which was short three paddlers so they could compete in one race.

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."

An emotional ceremony yesterday saw the members of team Sistership remember the 23 teammates they have lost to breast cancer by placing carnations in the water.

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