

## Dragon boat serenade

**Son's song leaves mother and her teammates in tears**

**NEIL MACKINNON/METRO CALGARY**

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Sandy Johnson knew it was coming, but no amount of prior knowledge was going to prevent her from cracking up.

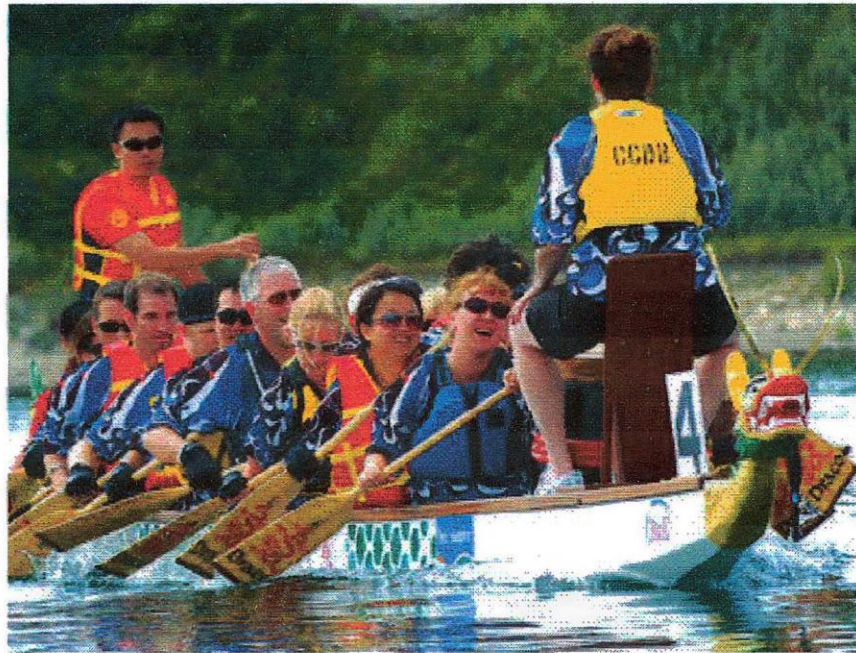
"There's no way you can prepare for something like that," said a teary-eyed Johnson moments after her son Noel, 21, serenaded both Sistership Dragon Boat crews with his song 'She Holds Me Up' after their race at Glenmore reservoir Sunday. "You know it's going to be an emotional race for us, I knew I'd be choked up, it's very special."

Johnson, diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004, said she also knew her son was working on a song, but didn't know the details and wasn't surprised it also touched her fellow Sistership teammates, who wiped away tears just before the release of 23 doves, representing the people who have lost their breast cancer battle over the years, and tossing red and pink roses into the water.

"My mom's battle was truly inspiring, she was so positive and so strong through the entire thing, it just seemed like she was unstoppable and there was no question about it, she was going to make it," Noel said. "It was very infectious for me."

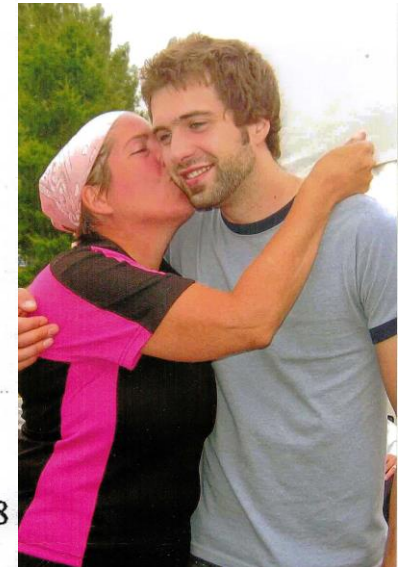
Calgary Community Dragon Boat Race and Festival co-organizer Danny Ng said about 12,000 people flooded to Glenmore reservoir for the event,

<http://www.metronews.ca/calgary/local/article/96316>



ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

The Draco Stealth dragon boat rows on hard to try and win their race as the annual dragon boat race finals went yesterday afternoon at North Glenmore Park.



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