



Photos, courtesy, Allie Fate

Ya Ya Sistership teammates, from left, Marilyn Bayes, coach Heather Webber and steersperson Laura Connolly don pink shirts in honour of their team and the Breast Cancer Race held during the Calgary Dragon Boat Race Festival. The Ya Ya Sistership is comprised of breast cancer survivors.

Fighting with the Dragons

What: Calgary Dragon Boat Race Festival

Rolling down the river.

The sound of chants, grunts, moans and groans echoed along the Glenmore Reservoir when thousands of paddlers, and spectators, took Mother Nature by storm during the 14th annual Calgary Dragon Boat Race Festival.

With teams from across Alberta competing, it was Calgary's Ya Ya Sistership that left their mark on the competition.

The female paddlers didn't get caught down the reservoir without a paddle when they took home gold during the Breast Cancer Race. Many of the paddlers are breast cancer survivors.

More than 100 teams were expected to participate during the weekend competition held Aug. 11 to 13.



The gold medal ceremony of the Calgary Dragon Boat Festival's Breast Cancer Race was emotional for Ya Ya Sistership co-captains Jacqueline Laurie and Frankie Poulain. The festival was held at the Glenmore Reservoir.



It wasn't an Olympic gold medal, but Allie Fate and Frankie Poulain, paddlers from Calgary's Ya Ya Sistership dragon boat team, were winners of the Breast Cancer Race.



Paddler Joyce Geldreich raises the Sistership flag high with Charlene Waldal, who was a speaker during the festival.