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For immediate release

Two Sunshine Coasts, One Race Against Breast Cancer

VANCOUVER, British Columbia - September 20, 2007 - An all-women dragon boat team of breast cancer survivors from the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia is counting down the hours until their departure to the Sunshine Coast of Australia. Sharing more than a common name, the Canadian and Australian Sunshine Coasts are also united in the battle against breast cancer.

On September 22, 2007, the 20 members of BC's Sunshine Dragons Abreast dragon boat team will fly to Australia to compete in the Abreast in Australia 2007 Dragon Boat Regatta. They will be joined by 15 supporters from BC's Sunshine Coast and more than 2,000 breast cancer survivors from around the world for a weekend of colour, sport and celebration of life.

One of a number of teams expected to represent Canada at the Regatta, the Sunshine Dragons Abreast team has had a busy summer fundraising for new uniforms and a special coaching clinic. The team has also been practicing hard on the beautiful waters of Porpoise Bay Provincial Park, located at the southern end of Sechelt Inlet.

Now, the 20-woman team is eagerly anticipating their arrival in Caloundra on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. They expect to find many similarities between the two Sunshine Coasts, including natural beauty, long stretches of golden sand beaches, and beautiful blue ocean water. Gillian Kydd, a proud member of the Canadian team, says that in addition to similar surroundings the team also anticipates being welcomed by friendly Sunshine Coast locals. "We've heard so much about Coloundra's preparation and we want to make a good impression and be fun-loving ambassadors from our Sunshine Coast."

Abreast in Australia 2007 takes place over three full days from September 28 to September 30, near Caloundra on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. In addition to dragon boat racing, workshops will also be held for survivors of breast cancer and their supporters. The workshops will help give women recently finishing treatment for breast cancer the tools to move forward after treatment.

The Sunshine Coast of British Columbia is one of four destination areas of Vancouver, Coast & Mountains Tourism Region. This non-profit society is governed by a private sector board of directors who represent business and community tourism interests from throughout the region. Visit www.vcmbc.com for more information about Vancouver, Coast & Mountains Tourism or call 604-739-9011.

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