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For Immediate Release

Community and Family Focus for Local Dragon Boat Festival

United Way of Quinte and The Belleville Dragon Boat Club are happy to announce that they have partnered with each other again this year to host the Belleville Dragon Boat Festival in support of United Way of Quinte. The festival will take place on Saturday, September 13, 2008 at Victoria Park in Belleville, rain or shine.

Belleville Dragon Boat Commodore, Nancy Lewis explained, "The Belleville Dragon Boat Club is pleased to be supporting United Way of Quinte in this second annual Dragon Boat Festival. Not only will this event offer participants a great day of fellowship but will provide the financial support for United Way to contribute to so many worthwhile programs in the Quinte area. In addition to awarding prizes for winners on the water we will be looking for crews who can demonstrate the greatest enthusiasm through team cheers; theme songs and team uniforms."

United Way of Quinte's Julia Gosson noted, "This year the festival has taken on a community focus and will feature corporate, youth and local crews competing against each other in some friendly fun on the water. Each team is guaranteed three races and each participant will receive a souvenir package. The festival will also feature a children's village, food vendors and a team spirit competition with dry land activities."

Dragon boating is the fastest growing water sport in the world and no prior experience is necessary to participate. Crews will receive two training sessions with the Belleville Dragon Boat Club leading up to the festival, and the use of all the required equipment in return for their \$450 adult crew of \$200 youth crew registration fee. The 250 metre races take approximately 2 and a-half minutes to complete for the 20 member crew. Each participant is encouraged to obtain pledges for United Way of Quinte and our goal is \$50 per person. All funds raised will support the 2008 campaign which in turn will be allocated to more than 80 programs in 50 local health and social service organizations throughout Hastings and Prince Edward Counties.

Both adult and youth divisions are available this year, and organizers hope to attract 15 corporate and community teams to the festival. The registration deadline for teams is Friday, August 22, 2008.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at many different levels. For further information about how you can register a team or provide corporate or financial support to the event, please contact Sara Marlin at 613-962-9531 .