



Nanaimo Dragon Boat Festival 2020-CANCELLED

The Nanaimo Dragon Boat Festival is into its 18th year. Both paddlers and the Nanaimo community share many memories of competition, excitement, low tides in Lane 1 and, of course, fun with our themes, decorated tents, elaborate costumes, and music.

The world is now gripped with an unforeseen and what appears to be an unprecedented virus outbreak – Covid 19. There are a number of official sites and we ask that everyone follow their guidelines.

We are cancelling our festival this year as the well-being of our dragon boat community is of primary importance to us. We believe that the outbreak will not be contained in time for our festival this year, July 10 to 12, 2020. We also recognize that social distancing will be impossible to achieve at our event. We hope the cancellation will allow all paddlers to focus on being kind to others, maintaining a healthy lifestyle in accordance with directives, and reducing the impact of the economic downturn.

We will be issuing a cancellation protocol soon that provides two options:

1. registration funds to be held in trust for the 2021 festival without price increases or penalties, or
2. a refund upon request.

We take this step with heavy hearts, but with clear minds. We know the cancellation will have a severe effect on our fund raising efforts for cancer, our loyal supporters including Save-On-Foods, the City of Nanaimo, and numerous other businesses. But the health of our dragon boat community must take precedence.

Should the virus be contained by or during the summer, there may be other festivals available for dragon boaters at that time and we encourage you to support them.

We look forward to a successful Festival with the same theme - Dragons Of The World - next year, July 9, 10,11 2021.

Best wishes to all and thank you for your understanding and your support.

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Chair
Nanaimo Dragon Boat Festival Society

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