

## UW teams compete in Dragon Boat Festival (Author: Philip Lam)

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Dragon Boating involves the synchronization of 20 paddlers paced by a drummer and guided by a steersperson over 500 metre watercourse in a 12 metre 'canoe.'

Over 70 dragon boat teams gathered at the Laurel Creek Conservation Area on July 21 for the 4th Telus Dragon Boat Festival of Waterloo Region. Students, staff and faculty of the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University, and Conestoga College were actively involved in the organization and promotion of the College and University Championships in cooperation with the Kiwanis Club of Elmira.

The University of Waterloo was represented by six teams organised by various UW students. After months of pool-side and on-water practices, the UW teams were ready for some serious competition.

After the time trials, two UW teams qualified for the Championship Final and four UW teams qualified for the Consolation Final. UW daBoat and the UW Flying Hammers were scheduled to be racing head to head in the Championship Final against several veteran UofT teams including the Piranhas and VicCrew. Right before the start, all the teams were called back to the dock because lightning was sighted.

After 30 minutes of waiting, all crews loaded up again and made their way to the starting line in the rain. daBoat and the Flying Hammers had collided at the finish line in a previous race so there was a bit of tension in the air. Two minutes and twenty-five seconds after the gun went off, the UofT teams took first, second and third, in what ended up to be an extremely close race. The two UW teams in the championship final did really well, but unfortunately finished the race less than a second behind the UofT teams.

"We've come a long way, and I am exceptionally proud to captain one of the fastest, easily the most enthusiastic, and definitely wettest crew of the weekend," said Gerard Baron, captain of UW daBoat. "Funny, though we didn't finish in the top three in any of our races, we did ever so well. We're moving up and moving up fast."



The Consolation Final of the University Cup was all Waterloo. The UW teams varied in experience, but were all up for the challenge. In the end, it was Fast and Furious, representing Waterloo Science students, followed by Conrad Grebel College, DAS BOOT and the UW Pirates.

Despite the severe rainfall in the latter part of the afternoon, the UW teams did well and far exceeded their expectations. Be sure to catch them at next year's Ontario Colleges and University Dragon Boat Championships.

### **University Cup Championship Final**

Position	Team	Race Time
1	UofT Piranhas	2:24:59
2	UofT Water Dragons	2:24:72
3	UofT Vic Crew	2:25:35
4	UW Flying Hammers	2:25:72
5	UW daBoat	2:25:99

### **University Cup Consolation Final**

Position	Team	Race Time
1	UW Fast and Furious	2:31:20
2	UW Conrad Grebel College	2:31:57
3	UW DAS BOOT	2:31:97
4	UW Pirates	2:32:07