

Karen Johnson, Lethbridge Alberta

403-315-9012 lethdragon55@gmail.com

## ***Bio for Nomination of Festival Director 2020*** May 26, 2020

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### ***History in the Sport***

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- Karen Johnson joined the sport as a team building activity with other City of Lethbridge employees in the first year of the festival, 2002, Dragn' R Butz. Finding a new passion for the sport, Karen was instrumental in starting Team ID just after the 2003 festival in hopes of paddling through a longer season and travelling to other festivals. Karen was assistant coach of Team ID for the 2007 and 2008 seasons. In 2008, the Rotary Festival made a concerted effort to improve the skills of local dragon boaters and decided to "beef up" the training provided to the festival teams and with fellow coach Dave Hunt, Karen agreed to take on Head Coach. Karen has since been the race chair of the ATB Financial Lethbridge Rotary Dragon Boat Festival since 2010.

Karen has

- Completed the Level A of the National Coaching Certification Program,
- Obtained Dragon Boat Canada Community and Competitive Coaching Certification.
- Taken Dragon Boat Canada Officiating Level One, Critical Eye Coaching sessions, and several paddling technique workshops.
- Attended Dragon Boat Conferences in Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal.
- Officiated in Lethbridge, Edmonton, Vancouver and Regina.
- Paddled in Kelowna, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, and Elkwater; in the World Masters Games in New Zealand; and the Pan Pacific Masters Games in Queensland Australia.

Karen is the Technical Director for the Dragon Boat Association of Southern Alberta, and one of the coaches for the Coulee Classic Dragons Masters Women's crew.

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### **Previous Officiating Courses**

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Dragon Boat Canada Officials Level 1 Course  
2018, Edmonton AB, Scott Murray

Dragon Boat Canada Officials Level 1 Course  
2010, Vancouver BC, Greg Lamb

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### ***Dragon Boat Coaching Certification***

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#### **Community Coaching Level 1**

2009 Lethbridge AB, Jackie Webber

2018, Edmonton AB, Scott Murray

#### **Community Coaching Level 2**

2017, Vancouver BC, Kamini Jain

(also attended Jim Farintosh Level 2, Toronto ON, October 2019)

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### ***ATB Financial Lethbridge Rotary Dragon Boat Festival – Race Chair 2010-Current***

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This is a volunteer position.

Duties:

- Recruit and support qualified race volunteers for festival weekend
  - Race Director (Chief Official), Head Timer, Starter, Dock Marshall, Crew Marshall, Announcer, On Water Officials. Safety Officer
- Recruit and support qualified volunteers for festival practices
  - Safety Officer, Registrar
- Compile race grid and progression
- Coordinate set up of the race course, start and finish areas
- Coordinate all logistics for 2 weeks of steer training, followed by 4 weeks of local crew training prior to festival. (approx 30 local crews)
- Coordinate lake logistics with the City of Lethbridge
- Coordinate boat rental agreement and logistics
- Prepare and review Safety Plan/Emergency Action Plan
- Locate Chase Boats and drivers
- Develop training opportunities for paddlers and coaches
- Accumulate all required equipment
- Organize C Cup with local Cancer Survivor Team
- Recruiting teams – including presentations

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***Various Coaching Courses***

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**Dragon Boat Canada Expo**

- Toronto 2012
- Montreal 2013

**North American Dragon Boat Conference**

- Vancouver 2009, 2010

**Clinics**

- Tom Arnold, Calgary 2019
- Kevin Kwan 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017
- Waters Edge 2008, 2009, 2011

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***Officiating History***

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**ATB Financial Lethbridge Rotary Dragon Boat Festival**

2010 – present

- Various positions – Course Umpire, Chief Umpire , Chief Official

**Canadian Nationals**

Regina 2019 Crew Marshall

**Edmonton Dragon Boat Festival**

2010, 2012 Course Umpire  
2013 Photo-Finish Operator  
2017 Starter

**Regina Dragon Boat Festival**

2010 Course Umpire  
2013 Photo-Finish Operator  
2017 Chief Official  
2018 Photo-Finish Operator

**Vancouver Concord Dragon Boat Festival**

2014 Assistant to starter/course umpire