

# 'Dragons Alive' Wins Waterford Dragon Boat Festival – Next Up, Tugboat Roundup

by Pete Bardunias, Senior Vice President,  
Membership and Community Advancement,  
Capital Region Chamber

**I**n an exciting performance, the team from Dragons Alive! Had the fastest race time for the 2022 Waterford Dragon Boat Festival held in early August at the Richard M. Hurst Harbor Center in Waterford and were recognized as Festival Champions. This competition has become a regional favorite, as teams from all over converge on the Waterford waterfront to take part in what is both a spirited competition and fundraiser for cancer research. This third annual event pitted teams of up to 20 paddlers each aboard 42 foot lightweight boats with dragon figureheads on the bow, patterned after a popular race format that originated in China. The competition was tournament style, in front of a crowd of spectators which lined the promenade in front of the Harbor Center along the Mohawk River just below Lock E-2.



The coveted trophy won by the Dragons Alive team at the Waterford Dragon Boat Festival.  
*Photo courtesy of Dragons Alive.*

Dragons Alive coaches Louisa Matthew and Anna Judge were ecstatic at the performance of their team and the outcome of the race. "Dragons Alive was very excited to be part of an event supporting such a worthy cause!" says Coach Matthew. The Festival raised \$10,000 to support breast cancer research through the Susan B. Komen Foundation. The community teams were all made up of enthusiastic first-time paddlers, and it was exciting for us to show them what the sport is like when you paddle with a racing team!" Coach Judge added, "The sport is growing fast, and we welcome interested folks to come try paddling with us at any of our practices. It was also an honor to paddle with the Breast Cancer Survivor Team Hope in the Boat. Both teams' home base is Blain's Bay Marina in Cohoes, and we are looking at ways to cooperate in the future!"

For more information on Dragons Alive, their upcoming practices and opportunities to find out more about the sport of Dragon Boating, please visit [DragonsAlive.org](https://DragonsAlive.org).

For more on the Waterford Tugboat Roundup, please visit [TugboatRoundup.com](https://TugboatRoundup.com).

For more information on Capital Region attractions and businesses on land and sea, visit [capitalregionchamber.com](https://capitalregionchamber.com).

In a few weeks, the Waterford docks will once again be busy as the Tugboat Roundup returns to its shores. To be held September 9-11, 2022, the Tugboat Roundup is a gathering of tugboats, workboats, and barges to celebrate the maritime heritage of the Northeast

The Dragons Alive team poses on the Waterford waterfront on the day of their victorious performance in the competition.  
*Photo courtesy of Dragons Alive.*





Inland Waterways. The festival features a tug parade, tug tours, boat rides, tug talks, competitions, fireworks, children's activities, vendors, food, and more. Over 80 vessels have participated since the Roundup began in 1999. Since they are working boats, the attendees each year vary, but there is always a great variety of vessels tied up for people to see, and the fireworks are always among the best in all of upstate New York!

Fireworks light up the night sky overhead as tugs line the docks at a recent Waterford Tugboat Roundup. This year's event promises to be as spectacular as ever!



The Dragons Alive team paddles its way onto the course.  
*Photo courtesy of Dragons Alive.*



**Tugboat  
Roundup  
Waterford**  
September 9th-11th, 2022.

