



2026 Annapolis River Festival Dragon Boat Races

**EVENT INFORMATION &
REGISTRATION GUIDELINES**

Saturday, July 11, 2026

Jubilee Park, Bridgetown,
Annapolis County





2026 Annapolis River Festival

Why participate?



Show your support for local environmental initiatives



Build camaraderie with friends, colleagues or family



Celebrate the diverse values of the Annapolis River



2026 Fastest Team: Bishop Farms

DRAGON BOAT RACES



The dragon boat races are the signature event of the Annapolis River Festival. Eighteen teams will compete for the titles of: (1) Fastest Boat (2) Most team spirit (3) Most funds raised (prizes for the top 2 teams)

The races take place on the Annapolis River at the Festival grounds at Jubilee Park, Bridgetown, Annapolis County. The north bank of the Annapolis River provides space for spectators. Each team will have the chance to race in heats of 3 boats on a 300 m course. Each team will be guaranteed 2 races, with the chance of advancing to a consolation or championship round.

The dragon boat races will take place Saturday, July 11, beginning at 9 AM. Winning teams will be announced during the Dragon Boat Award ceremony, immediately after the final race.

Team Rules

1. A full team consists of 16 paddlers (minimum 14), 1 drummer, and 1-3 alternates. A qualified coxswain is provided to steer the boat. The minimum age for participation is 12 years of age. It is encouraged that each team include a minimum of 8 participants of each gender. PFDs and paddles will be provided for each team member. *see page 6 for cancellation and delay policy.
2. Each team must have a designated Team Captain who is responsible for coordinating team registration, collection of fees and waivers, and communicating with individual team members.
3. Teams are encouraged to identify a Pledge Captain, who will be responsible for distributing and collecting pledge forms, and encouraging team members to collect pledges.

Race Fees and Deadlines

Team fee: **\$1200** (includes event t-shirts for 20 team members, additional shirts available for a fee).

Payment can be made in 2 instalments: **\$400 deposit** required to secure space, due **June 1**; remainder of fee, **\$800**, due **July 2**.

Deadline: Team registration is filled first come, first served. Your place will only be secured upon receipt of a completed registration form and deposit.

HOW TO ENTER A TEAM

STEP 1. REQUEST, COMPLETE AND SUBMIT TEAM REGISTRATION FORM (ONLINE) AND ENTRY FEE

Team registration is \$1200 per boat; a deposit of \$400 is due June 1. The fee includes participation in the races, and a team set of River Fest t-shirts.

Registration forms are available online (www.annapolisriver.ca/riverfest).

Payments can be made by e-transfer, cheque, cash or credit card. E-transfers can be made to carp@annapolisriver.ca.

STEP 2. PARTICIPANT PACKAGE DISTRIBUTED TO TEAM CAPTAIN

Participant packages will include a **team t-shirt order** form so that we can ensure the correct sizes are ordered. Teams are provided opportunity to identify a preferred t-shirt colour from the list of options provided. Preferred colours will be assigned on a first come first served basis.

Packages will also include **waiver** forms or an electronic form can be accessed on the River Fest website: <https://www.annapolisriver.ca/annapolis-river-festival>.

Each team member will be required to complete a waiver form; waiver forms should be submitted in 1 package in advance of the event or at registration on Race Day; if choosing to use an electronic waiver instead, individuals must submit their electronic form by **Monday July 6** to allow follow up with Team Captains.

STEP 3. REMAINING RACE FEE DUE AND TEAM T-SHIRT ORDER FORM RETURNED

T-shirt orders should be provided to the Race Coordinator due **June 1**. If this form is not returned on time we cannot ensure that you will receive your preferred sizes. Payment can be made through the CARP office via cash, cheque e-transfer or credit card.

STEP 4. PLEDGE COLLECTION

Participants are encouraged to raise additional funds, which will support Clean Annapolis River Project. A special prize is available to two teams raising the most pledges. Details on the prizes are on the next page. Pledge sheets will be provided in the Participant Package. Charitable tax receipts will be available for pledges \$25 or greater. Pledge sheets and funds should be submitted at team check-in on race day and are due by 1 PM for consideration towards the special prize.

STEP 5. RACE DAY (JULY 11, 2026)

Teams must arrive for registration, t-shirt pick-up and race briefing at the time indicated to them by the Race Coordinator. All paperwork and funds raised are to be submitted prior to your first race. Participant safety during this event is our number one concern.

In the case that weather or river conditions pose serious risk to participants, the Festival Committee may consider race cancellation or delayed start times.

SPECIAL PRIZES

Most Pledges Raised

We encourage teams that have the capacity to raise pledges in addition to their registration fee. 100% of these funds are a charitable donation to Clean Annapolis River Project. A prize will be awarded to the team that raises the most pledges.



Examples of past prizes...

- A catered pig roast for 20 guests & 20L keg of beer
- Team sets of 20 x \$25 gift cards for Home Hardware or other local businesses

Teams can raise funds in advance of the Festival or on Festival day. Teams who plan to raise funds at the Festival must obtain approval by the River Fest Coordinator. Pledges must be submitted by 1:00 PM on Festival day. Tax receipts can be issued for any individual pledge of \$25 or greater, provided that the appropriate information is provided (e.g. donor name and contact information). A pledge sheet will be provided to Team Captains to assist with this process.

Ideas for raising pledges

- Raffle- are you an artist, crafter, or builder of some type? Raffle off one of your creations
- Auction off your talent- Do you have a specialized skill set or talent? Raffle off a coupon for your services
- Use social media- it is free and easy. You can even link to crowd-sourced funding platforms such as "Go Fund Me"
- Host a game night, dinner, or other special event- indicate the cause and recommended donation on your invitation

CARP will promote fundraising events or activities through the Annapolis River Festival's social media pages. Tag posts using @CARP's Annapolis River Festival. Additional information can be sent by e-mail to River Fest volunteer Katie McLean, katiemclean@annapolisriver.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dragon Boat Cancellation/Delay Policy

Dragon Boat race deposits (\$400) are non-refundable. These funds are used to cover the fixed costs required to plan and host the event. The Dragon Boat races will proceed rain or shine. In the event of lightning, high winds, or other unsafe conditions as determined by the race official, racers will be pulled off the water until it is determined that it is safe to proceed. Racing will recommence after the unsafe conditions have passed. All races must be completed before 5:30 pm (9 hours after the scheduled start). If possible, in the event of a delay, we will attempt to complete all the scheduled races, but the race program may be modified to ensure race completion by the specified time. This may include elimination of races as needed to get back on schedule. In the unlikely event the race needs to be cancelled in its entirety due to unsafe conditions, no rain date will be scheduled; if such a case arises, all efforts will be made to offer a refund the remaining portion (\$800) of the race fee.

What to expect on site

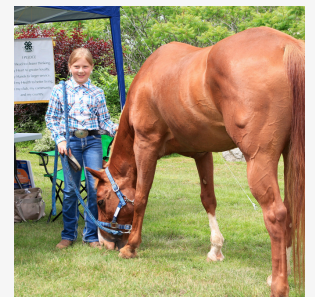
CARP's Annapolis River Festival offers free admission with a number of activities provided at no cost, including kids activities, live music, and the skills village.

Dragon Boat teams are encouraged to bring a free standing tent or shelter for their team members to use throughout the day. An area will be designated for teams to set up their shelters. There are not many trees available, so it is not possible to use a rope to support a tarp.

Participants are encouraged to bring a camping chair and a re-usable water bottle. Water refill stations will be available at various locations on the Festival grounds.

Festival activities officially begin at 9 AM, however, Dragon Boat participants are required to arrive at 8 am for registration; this will be followed by an 8:30 am race briefing and at 8:45 am the first race will be staged. Food, coffee, and beverages will be available from a number of vendors on site throughout the day.

Dragon Boat participants are welcome to participate in other Festival events. Some events may require advance registration. Visit the Festival website for details: www.annapolisriver.ca/riverfest



About the Festival

The inaugural River Fest took place in July 2015, and quickly became one of the most talked about events of the summer. Our organizing committee is excited to announce that we will be back by popular demand on Saturday, July 11, 2026.

The purpose of this festival is to raise funds for CARP, to create awareness of CARP, and to showcase the environmental, cultural, historical, and recreational values of the Annapolis River. In addition, the event is an important friend-raiser for the organization.

The Festival takes place at Jubilee Park, Bridgetown, offering outstanding views and access to the river. Admission to the site is free and there are lots of activities to keep every member of the family busy. This includes kids' games, the "Skills Village", live music, and educational displays. On the water you can participate in canoe, kayak or SUP races, the canoe obstacle course, or a guided boat tour. Under the big tent, you will find a wide array of food vendors, as well as options for local beer, cider, wine, and spirits that you can enjoy as you watch the main stage.





About Clean Annapolis River Project

The Clean Annapolis River Project (CARP) is a community-based environmental non-profit organization registered in 1990. CARP is guided by its vision of ecologically healthy watersheds and a mission to enhance the ecological health of the Annapolis River watershed for current and future generations, through science, leadership, and community engagement.

Over its 36 year history CARP has been successful in delivering a wide variety of projects that address environmental issues specific to the Annapolis watershed. The success of these projects has allowed CARP to be recognized provincially and nationally as a leader in implementing community-based stewardship and conservation initiatives.



Contact Us

Race Registration

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Festival Co-chairs

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www.annapolisriver.ca/riverfest



CARP's Annapolis River Festival



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