

Coach Anne Marie

One of SNCC's newest dragon boat coaches, Anne Marie, will be part of the Paddles Up! UNLIMITED program.

- **How did you get involved with dragon boat?**

- I became involved in the sport of dragon boat in 2016 after attending a Hope Floats event. I fit the criteria for team membership so I decided to give it a try.

- **Can you share a memorable paddling experience and what you learned from that experience?**

- A paddling highlight for me was being a member of the Wonder Woman's Warriors team that participated in the International Breast Cancer Survivor Dragon Boat Festival in Florence, Italy in 2018.

- **How did you get involved with dragon boat coaching?**

- In 2019 when SNCC initiated the special needs pilot program, I became a volunteer paddler. I absolutely loved the participants and the joy they brought to my Friday nights.
- As a result of that experience and through the generosity of the Club, I took the Dragon Boat Coaching Course in May 2020. Being a retired teacher, I was familiar with Special Needs programming and had coached many school teams, so I thought I had some perspective and skills to offer.

- **What do you hope to accomplish as a dragon boat coach at SNCC?**

- One of my favourite sports to coach was European Handball. It was a sport new to the majority of students and it allowed everyone to learn and achieve together. There was a true sense of teamwork. This is what I hope to accomplish in the Paddles Up! UNLIMITED program.

- **What else should the membership know about you?**

- I am looking forward to being on the water and continuing to build a love of dragon boating, teamwork and acceptance for all of our participants. Their potential is UNLIMITED!
- I highly encourage any and all SNCC members to volunteer for this program as you will certainly get more out of it than you need to give.
- I hope to see everyone soon. Paddles up!



Above: Coach Anne Marie racing with Wonder Woman's Warriors in Florence, Italy 2018.

Below: Coach Anne Marie with Canal Dragons at the 2019 Welland Dragon Boat Festival.



Excerpted from the April 2021 edition of the Catch, SNCC's monthly newsletter.