

GOOD DEEDS

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Dragon boat festival benefits variety of groups



**Darrell
Bellaart**
Reporting

The Save-On-Foods Nanaimo Dragon Boat Festival organizers recently marked their 2013 success by giving a total of \$32,000 to causes supporting breast cancer patients on Central Vancouver Island.

The Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation received \$22,000 and \$10,000 went to Nanaimo Hospice.

Funds for Nanaimo Regional General Hospital will help purchase the new breast MRI attachment, a vacuum biopsy device and computer-aided evaluation system, for use with the new magnetic resonance imaging machine at NRGH.

Together, these components will cost \$100,000 and provide a better image of breast tissue than is currently possible, to increase detection and therefore speed up both treatment and recovery.

"The whole essence of the society and the Save-On-Foods Dragon Boat Festival is to raise money and awareness for early detection of breast cancer on mid-Vancouver Island," said Bob Buchanan, of the Nanaimo Dragon Boat Festival Society.

The festival "has made an incredible difference to the lives of women and their families right here in our community," said hospital foundation executive director Maevae O'Byrne.

Black Friday proceeds

While shoppers converged for one of the year's biggest spending sprees, nearly a tonne of food and almost \$3,000 was raised for Nanaimo's less fortunate.

Woodgrove Centre wrapped up the Big Black Box Food Drive, its holiday food drive initiative, on Nov. 29, otherwise known as Black Friday.

A total of 856 kilograms of non-perishable food items was collected in the shopping centre and donated to Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank.

Woodgrove also presented a \$2,900 cheque to help kick off the campaign.

The food bank has been accessed by more than 6,800 different people in the past year.

"We do not take this support and trust for granted and work hard to ensure all donations have the greatest possible impact in our community," said Peter Sinclair, Loaves & Fishes executive director.



Celebrating a \$22,000 donation to Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation are, from left: Bob Buchanan, Dragon Boat Festival Society, Jim Turley, of Rotary Club North Nanaimo, Fred Masales, Save-On-Foods Terminal Park manager, Keith Mosen, Save-On-Foods north Nanaimo manager, Colin Dixon, Save-On-Foods Country Club manager, Bob Lasota, of Rotary North, Maevae O'Byrne, Hospital Foundation executive director and Dragon Boat Festival founding director Ian Niamath.