

## Shine a light

### City Councillor Allan Hubley, who lost his son Jamie to suicide, is this year's honorary chairman

BY JOANNE LAUCIUS, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN JUNE 15, 2012 3:12 PM



Ottawa Councillor Allan Hubley, right, is the honorary chairman of the Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival and will be the drummer in the Youth Services Bureau and City Hall dragon boat.

**Photograph by:** Jean Levac, Ottawa Citizen

South Kanata City Councillor Allan Hubley is the honorary chairman of this year's Ottawa's Dragon Boat Festival at Mooney's Bay.

The 19-year-old event, popular both as a sports competition and as a fundraiser, is the largest of its kind in North America attracting about 210 teams this year.

"And they have these all over the world, so it's a huge honour," says Hubley, who will be the drummer on one of the teams.

"I'm the one who gets to yell out. It's a riot."

But there's a more serious reason why Hubley agreed to take on the role of honorary chair — the opportunity to draw attention to youth mental health and raise funds for the Ottawa Youth Services Bureau ([ysb.on.ca](http://ysb.on.ca)), which assisted his 15-year-old son, Jamie.

Jamie, a Grade 10 at A.Y. Jackson Secondary School in Kanata, took his own life in October. He had suffered from depression and was taunted because he was openly gay. Jamie's suicide became the catalyst for public discussion about youth mental illness.

"It's really a good cause," says Hubley.

Janice Barresi, the executive director of the Youth Services Bureau's charitable foundation, says Hubley has worked hard to shine a light on one of the important issues for young people.

"After the Hubley family lost Jamie, they wanted to make sure no other family suffered from the same tragic plight," says Barresi, who will also be in Hubley's boat at the festival.

The Youth Services Bureau (offers a broad spectrum of services for youth suffering from mental illness, including a mobile team for youth who can't make it to a mental health facility, a mental health walk-in clinic for youth and their parents, a 24-hour crisis line and school-based workers, she says. The programs serve about 3,000 youth and their families each month.

The Youth Services Bureau will be the top-tier charity benefiting from the Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival this year.

Not only do the teams raise funds through pledges — Hubley's boat, which includes city councillors and city workers, plus members of the Youth Services Bureau's foundation board aims to attract \$5,000 in pledges, for example — the foundation will also be able to do some on-site fundraising with a dunk tank, a silent auction and the sale of T-shirts and bracelets, says Barresi.

### Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival

When: June 22 to June 24

What: About 210 compete over two days on a race course at Mooney's Bay Park on the Rideau River. Seven charities in all will benefit from the festival.

Entertainment: This year's lineup includes Spirit of the West and David Usher. Food and fashion vendors; For full listings, visit [www.dragonboat.net](http://www.dragonboat.net).

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