



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In Synch for Pink! Synchro swim clubs raise over \$39,000 for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation

Hamilton, ON – November 27, 2008 – Synchro Swim Ontario member clubs across the province were once again in synch for pink raising an astonishing \$39,207 during the 5th anniversary of the annual “Burning Bright for Breast Cancer” province-wide charity initiative in support of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Since 2004, Ontario synchro swim athletes have participated every October during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in an event at their local club where they incorporate a common theme of keeping a candle burning within the pool for a minimum of one hour, in which swimmers hand off the torch in a relay format. The candle symbolizes keeping the flame alive for creating a future without breast cancer. In five years synchro athletes have raised over \$177,000 for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

The Sudbury Synchronized Swimming Club was the club with the most pledges collected with a total of \$8,654.50. Burlington Synchro ranked second overall with \$4,600, Olympium Synchro had the third largest total with \$4,302, followed by Mississauga Synchro with \$3,969.55, and Gloucester Synchro with \$2,630.09. Over 360 athletes at 16 clubs across the province participated with 305 swimmers raising over \$50 each.

Elizabeth Sweeny from the Sudbury Synchro Club was the athlete with the most pledges collected with a total of \$2,855, the largest pledge collection ever in Burning Bright’s 5-year history. Michelle Cannon from Mississauga Synchro followed with a total of \$1,001, Kathaleen Carpenter of Olympium Synchro has the third highest total with \$945, then Kayla Wandziak of Sudbury Synchro with \$550, and Marina Romani of Sudbury with \$460.

“Breast cancer continues to be near and dear to the synchro community. Year after year new and returning swimmers take up the challenge and go above and beyond with their fundraising efforts. Well done!” said Synchro Swim Ontario President Suzanne Laroche. “Synchro Swim Ontario is proud to be a Gold Ribbon supporter of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation – Ontario Chapter and hopes that one day we will have a future without breast cancer.”

“Five years ago, the Burning Bright event was birthed and the clubs, athletes, coaches, and families took it on with fervor and enthusiasm. We have surpassed all expectations and are honoured to raise funds for such a cause as this”, added Executive Director Leslie Makins. “We are thrilled to know that the work of our sport is contributing to creating a future without breast cancer!”

Synchro Swim Ontario will be making the official cheque presentation to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation – Ontario Chapter at 1:30 pm on Saturday, December 6th at McMaster University Pool during the Lisa Alexander Figure Meet where the Top 5 fundraising clubs and top 5 fundraising athletes will be recognized.

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