

MANITOBA RUNNERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT

2019 was a very successful year for the Manitoba Runners' Association:

- **Membership:** We finished 2019 with 531 members (100 more than last year): 283 renewals, 248 new, 145 youth and 2 schools. This is the largest our membership has been since records started being kept in 2002. 2020 memberships went on sale November 1, 2019 and to date we have 342 members.
- **Board of Directors:** Our current Board consists of Krista Waring (President), Colin Reed (Vice-President), Judy McMullen (Treasurer), Derek Boutang (Secretary), Aldo Furlan, Andrew Swan and Reg Brown, all of whom were approved at our Annual General Meeting on April 6, 2020, which was held online. There were 17 members in attendance.
- **Sponsorship:** We were able to retain our financial sponsors from 2018; Massage Athletica (Presenting Sponsor of the Youth Race Series, City Park Runners (Sponsor of the Race Director of the Year Award) and CM Engrave (Sponsor of the MRA Male and Female Athletes of the Year). Although we lost Stride Ahead as a 2019 sponsor, Running Room Canada Inc. came on board as the full Presenting Sponsor of the 2020 Classic Race Series. We also have a total of 16 sponsors that offer their products and/or services at a discount to our membership, as well as Rob Guy of Canada Run Club offering a free CRC membership to ALL current MRA members.
- **Grants:** We applied for and received a \$5000 equipment grant from Athletics Manitoba for much-needed race and office equipment, as well as shelving for our storage unit. We also received one \$3000 bingo and \$250 towards course certification (used for a new Assiniboine Park 5k loop needed due to construction) from Athletics Manitoba.
- **Merchandise:** We sold 14 MRA jackets this year as well as a number of sweatshirts and t-shirts. We have also purchased 250 branded buffs which we used as prizes at the November Awards Celebration and are selling this year.
- **Race Calendar:** Our 2019 Race Calendar had 46 events with one, Soles on Fire, cancelling early in the season. Both the Winkler Thanks for Giving Run and WFPS were cancelled due to the winter storms in October. Our 2020 Race Calendar has 38 events, but due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all events to the end of August have either cancelled or decided on a virtual option. However there have been enough events that have gone virtual that we are able to continue with both our Classic and Youth Race Series.
- **Run 150:** We applied for and received a grant from the Manitoba 150 Host Committee to create a program we called Run 150, to help celebrate Manitoba's 150th Anniversary. Fortunately we had created a virtual aspect to the program and have been able to be one of the few programs still operating. It has over 260 people registered, with many that are already over halfway to earning the 150 points needed to get a unique Run 150 medal.
- **5k & Flapjack Fundraiser:** We held a breakfast fundraiser at Applebee's Grant Park on February 9th to raise money for the Classic Race Series. Between ticket sales and a 50/50 draw we were able to raise just over \$1000.
- **Summer Student:** Athletics Manitoba made 2 students available to us from May to August. Janine Zajac and Brooke-Lynn Boyd helped out at some of our sanctioned events. This was Brooke-Lynn's second year with us.
- **MRA Hall of Fame Banquet:** Our annual gala event was held on April 15, 2019. Brenda Krueger (Ambassador for the Terry Fox Foundation) was our guest speaker and Mandy Shew of Virgin Radio acted as our Emcee. Overall we made a small profit. Our inductees for 2019 were Grant Towns (athlete) and Terry Fox (builder). Also awarded were the Race Director of the Year award to Glenn Reimer (Headingley Fire Dept Run for Wishes) and MRA Male and Female Road Runner of the Year to Darcey Harder and Lindsey Green. We secured our guest speaker for 2020, Grant Mitchell, and our Emcee, John Sauder of CBC Television & Radio. However the event scheduled for April 27th has been postponed to September 14th due to the pandemic.

- **Centre de Sante Event:** This was our first foray into Race Services for Hire. The event was held on June 6th at Whittier Park and included a 2k & 5k fun run/walk with a free barbeque for the St. Boniface community. 107 people took part. The MRA charged \$5000 for their services as Race Director and Cds was very happy with the outcome.
- **Manitoba Marathon Fit Expo:** Once again Rachel Munday, Executive Director of the Manitoba Marathon donated a free booth to the MRA. The Expo was held on June 14th and 15th and we were flooded with people. We registered an amazing 72 members and were a centre for information regarding all of our sanctioned events.
- **Ice Cream Runs:** These 2 family events continue to grow with 218 registrants in July and 231 in August! Our net profit for these 2 events was over \$2500.00. It has been decided that these events will be run virtually in 2020.
- **Run 4 Your Cause:** The 2019 event was held on October 6th with 8 causes represented: EMAS (Hand in Hand with Haiti), Canadian Hemophilia Society, Manitoba Chapter, Winnipeg Lost Dog Alert, Winnipeg General Strike, RCMPDB, Crescent Fort Rouge United Church, Canadian Centre for Child Protection (Team Shaw) and of course, the MRA. There were 160 participants and a net profit of \$1420.00 was realized. The 2020 event is currently running virtually to the end of June.
- **Awards Celebration:** This year the banquet was held on November 18th and was once again held at the Canad Inn Fort Garry. We had 175 people in attendance and gave out 66 age group trophies and 74 youth participation awards. Once again this event paid for itself. All Award Winners were published this year in the Sports Section of the Winnipeg Free Press. Thanks to member Bob Cox for helping set this up.
- **Race Directors' Meeting:** This year's meeting was held on November 23rd at the Sport Manitoba Hall of Fame Theatre with 22 Race Directors in attendance, as well as Scott Stewart (City of Winnipeg Event Planning), Lisa Lowe (Assiniboine Park Conservancy Events), Sam Neis (MRA Equipment Manager), Murray Rose (course measurement and certification) and the 7 MRA Board Members. Version 2.0 of the "Run As Yourself" videos was previewed. Thanks to Aldo and Chris Walton for putting together another incredibly professional presentation that can be found on You Tube. Dwayne Olson made a presentation on how to organize a successful event, Kathy introduced the Manitoba 150 program, Run 150, and topics that have come up over the 2019 race season were discussed. Krista presented the new tiered fee structure in the 2020 Sanctioning Agreement and Kathy went over the details of the entire package and answered questions.
- **Newsletter:** We put out 4 editions of our newsletter On The Run-winter, spring, summer and fall. It's gotten a bit easier to collect articles as I now have some regular contributors, including our own poet in residence, Aldo Furlan!
- **2020 Financial Aid:** We have applied for, and received, both the Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and the Business Loan (CEBA). As we finished the 2019 year in a relatively strong financial position we are confident that the MRA will survive this unprecedented year.

At this time I wish to thank all of the Members of the MRA Board, as well as the Board members of Athletics Manitoba, for their continued support. We have been able to accomplish much and make the Manitoba Runners' Association an active and important part of the road running scene in Manitoba.

Kathy Wiens
Executive Director
Manitoba Runners' Association

The MRA Mission Statement is to: Promote and support the sport of running for health, fun and fitness for life to runners of all ages and abilities.