



## MANITOBA RUNNERS' ASSOCIATION

### January 19, 2021 Report to Athletics Manitoba

- 2021 membership as of January 1<sup>st</sup> was 121, well below 190 from this time last year.
- The Board is currently working on a new set of Bylaws and relevant Policies. The new Bylaws will be introduced at our AGM in April.
- We finished 2020 in a relatively good financial position, thanks to the grants and subsidies from the Federal & Provincial governments. However it's likely that we will run a deficit this year as Government support is coming to an end and sanctioning & membership revenue will probably be significantly down.
- 2021 is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MRA! We have established a committee and are planning on a number of ways of marking this milestone. It has also been decided that this should be a year of giving back to the road running community with the hopes of building a stronger organization by encouraging membership and extending help to our loyal Race Directors.
- The Board has decided to offer all of our 2020 sanctioned events a credit covering their initial sanctioning fee for 2021 if they get their sanctioning paperwork in by January 15<sup>th</sup>. It was important for the MRA to show strong support of its events in this difficult time. As well, it helps to encourage them to make an early decision so that we'll have a decent Race Calendar this year. We currently have 32 events and will probably get more as the year progresses. All of the spring events will be virtual.
- Run 150 was such a success last year that the Board has voted to make it an annual series, adding to our other two series, the Classic and Youth Race Series. This new series will be a participation series open to both MRA members and non-members. Because it's non-competitive, we're hoping to attract walkers, recreational runners and wheelchair athletes, many of whom don't consider themselves to be part of the road running community, and possibly get them as members sometime in the future. Most of it will be virtual, which opens it up to remote communities, the less fortunate, those that work on weekends(!) and to those that are intimidated by organized events. We are investigating a couple of possible sponsorships to support the series: one with Manitoba 150 and another with Recycle Everywhere.

- We have decided that the 2020 AGM (April) and Race Directors' Meeting (November) will both be held virtually again this year, and probably will continue to do so going forward. It makes both meetings more inclusive and accessible. We had record-breaking attendance at both events and members and Race Directors from out of town were able to easily attend. All of our Board meetings will also continue to be held virtually-we've had perfect attendance at all of our meetings since going virtual!
- Finally, our Virtual Awards Celebration, held on November 29, 2020 was a huge success! We had well over 100 people attend and most of them sent in pictures for us to use. Everyone had a great time and especially enjoyed the scheduled breakout rooms where they were able to see and talk to each other. All of the awards and draw prizes were mailed out. It was a very special evening, but we're hoping that it can be an in-person event this year!

Overall, I think that the MRA Board of Directors has a lot to be proud of for 2020. We were able to keep our programs available to our members throughout the year and offered our support to the Race Directors and their events.

Kathy Wiens

MRA Executive Director