



MANITOBA RUNNERS' ASSOCIATION REPORT

Athletics Manitoba Annual General Meeting

June 25, 2026

- **MEMBERSHIP**

- 2025 ended with an unprecedented total membership of 1033. 2026 is off to an awesome start with 858 members as of June 12th.

- **BOARD & STAFF**

- The 2025/26 Board of Directors consisted of President-Derek Boutang, Vice President-Lorraine Walton, Treasurer-Al Neumann, and Secretary-Jessica Drakul, and Board Directors-Aldo Furlan, Andrew Swan, Heather Pawluk and Bob Stewart. Our 2026/27 Board has seen the departure of Jessica Drakul, with Bob Stewart moving into the role of Secretary. Also new to the Board are Bob Cox and Leigh Patterson.
- MRA staff continues to consist of Kathy Wiens, MRA Executive Director and Jim Rennie, MRA Equipment Manager and MRA Timing Manager. We also have 4 contract timers, Steven Hurkett, Marcia Galvin, Shelley Borschawa and Reg Brown.
- Our new Events Coordinator, Christa Rusk, decided for personal reasons to resign in June 2025, and we decided not to re-fill the position.

- **EVENTS**

- Our 2025 Race Calendar included 60 events. The 2026 edition has 63 events, 8 of which are put on by the MRA.
- As the new sanctioning body for Trail in Manitoba, we sanctioned 3 trail events in 2025 and have 4 on the calendar for 2026.
- The 2025 Run 4 Your Cause event took place on Sunday, June 1st at Marpeck Commons, CMU with 227 registrants, our biggest event to date. There were 12 Causes represented with total donations raised for all Causes at \$8,650.71. The 2026 edition on June 14th had 284 registrants with \$14,458.60 raised.
- The 2025 Tracktastic event took place on August 28, 2025, with help from Athletics Manitoba and the Bison Track Team. We had 48 participants and plan to do the event again this year on Wednesday, September 2, 2026.
- The 2025 MRA John Wichers Family Ice Cream Runs exceeded all expectations with a total of 1170 registrations divided between 6 events: 4 in Winnipeg, 1 in

Niverville and 1 in Morden. Access Storage once again paid for all of the ice cream.

- **FUNDRAISING**

- Our sponsors are all back for 2026, including Birchwood Automotive Group (MRA Hall of Fame) Massage Athletica (MRA Youth Race Series), Running Room (MRA Classic Race Series), CM Engrave (MRA Road Runners of the Year Awards), City Park Runners (MRA Race Director of the Year Award), Access Storage (MRA Family Ice Cream Runs) and Testify Performance at The Rink (Strength Club). We welcomed Brian Mayes, City Councillor for St Vital, as a new sponsor of our MRA Track Club and track event, Tracktastic. We continue to look for more sponsorship opportunities for our Celebration Series, Hall of Fame Plaques and Indigenous Run Series.
- A 2026 Season Kickoff Fundraising Breakfast was held at Canad Inns Windsor Park on March 28 with 64 tickets sold. Stephanie Hnatiuk, Registered Dietitian, and Certified Running and Fitness Coach, gave a short talk “Fuel the Fire: Level up your Running with the Power of Performance Nutrition”.

- **MRA TIMING SERVICE**

- The MRA Timing Services continues to grow, due to more events wanting to be timed (there is only one other qualified timer in Manitoba-Steve Gajerski). We timed 16 events in 2025 and have 22 events lined up for 2026.
- Six courses were newly-certified in 2025.

- **NON RUNNING EVENTS**

- Our AGM was held on April 13, 2026 and was once again held online. A meeting was held following the AGM to elect the new Executive: Derek Boutang-President, Lorraine Walton-Vice-President, and Alan Neumann-Treasurer. Other board directors include Aldo Furlan, Andrew Swan, Heather Pawluk and Bob Stewart.
- Our annual Hall of Fame Banquet was held on April 27, 2026. 175 tickets were sold, with the event being held at the Caboto Centre. Many thanks once again to our Presenting Sponsor, the Birchwood Automotive Group and Steve Chipman, who helped to make the evening a great success. It was decided not to have a keynote speaker this year. There were 4 inductees, including Brian Walker, Darcy Ready, Dorothy (Goertzen) Quayle and Rachel Munday of the Manitoba Marathon. MRA Race Director of the Year was Brett Lamoureux of the Islendingadagurinn Road Race (Gimli), the President’s Award was given to Reg Brown and an Excellence in Volunteering Award was awarded to Shelan Ennis. Also presented were the 2025 MRA Road Runners of the Year, Tristan Da Silva

and Jessica Wylychenko, and the 2025 MRA Master Road Runners of the Year, Jaala Van Dongen and Johnny Coffin.

- Our annual Race Directors' Meeting was held virtually on November 15, 2025 with 27 people in attendance. This meeting introduces our Sanctioning Package for the following year and reviews any issues that arose during the current year (such as smoke!).

- **MRA SERIES**

- Participation in our 2024 Classic and Youth Race Series grew substantially with 437 people taking part in the Classic Series and 170 in the Youth Series. Our Annual Awards Celebration was a huge success on December 1, 2024 with 230 people in attendance. 64 trophies were given out for the Classic Series, 109 medals and 18 trophies were awarded in the Youth Series, 88 medals were earned in the Celebration Series and 4 medals were given out for our Indigenous Run Series.

- **MRA PROGRAMS**

- The MRA Track Club continued through 2025 and into 2026 with a 2025 outdoor Summer Session and a 2026 indoor Winter Session. This road runner-specific program was coached by Matt Van Schepdael, Noel Kendle and Calvin Reimer.
- MRA Online Coaching continued with 12 athletes, coached by Noel Kendle, Calvin Reimer and Matt Van Schepdael.
- MRA Strength Club was sponsored and run by Testify Performance at The Rink. They provide your choice of once or twice a week strength workouts throughout the year.

2025 was an extremely busy year with 2026 looking like it's not going to let up!

Hope you are all keeping well!

Kathy Wiens, MRA Executive Director