

Alanna Boudreau

Alanna Boudreau has been involved in the track scene in Manitoba since at least the turn of the century. She took up jumping events while in junior high at Van Wellingham School and continued through high school and 5 years of eligibility at U of Western Ontario in London. She medaled every year in the triple jump at the CIS (now U Sport) competitions while at UWO, and made finals in the long jump and high jump. She won gold in the triple jump when in 4th year. She was cajoled into competing in heptathlons, but she was a “big baby” about having to run the 800m! She says that she was “too bouncy” for even middle distance running. A highlight was making the Canadian team for the U23 NACAC competition in 2004 in Sherbrooke, PQ.

After finishing her competitive career in university, Alanna joined the staff at Athletics Canada and worked with Donna Harris (then Donna Kay) for over 3 years. She also started coaching, supporting Wayne McMahon at Winnipeg Optimists, who had been her coach in her early competing years. Since junior high school, there has been only one year when she was neither competing nor coaching. She coached athletes in the WOA club as well as some U of MB jumpers.

After leaving Athletics Canada, Alanna took a job with Waterski/Wakeboard Manitoba, splitting her time between the provincial and national organizations in that sport. Her office was just across the hall from the AM office. Alanna had to do finance as part of that job, and she realized she could help AM with its finances, when there was a need.

Her affiliation with Athletics Manitoba started as a summer student after high school. She took a very part-time role doing AM finance. When Donna Harris was hired to be the executive director at AM, Chris Belof was the program manager. Chris was studying during the summer and Alanna pinch hit for him during that period. When Chris left for New Brunswick, Alanna stepped into the program manager position under Donna. When Donna left in late 2017, Alanna was hired to be the new AM executive director, a position she holds to this day.

In her role as ED of AM, Alanna has enjoyed working with Kathy Wiens, who is a board member of AM ex officio, and with Krista Waring, who has in recent years been the MRA president. She has worked with the two of them, and with the AM president in developing and tweaking a formal agreement between AM and MRA. In the long history of the two organizations, the relationship is probably as healthy as it has ever been. Alanna says that MRA is an “amazing partner” of AM, doing the heavy lifting in AM fulfilling its mandate in managing road running in Manitoba. “MRA does an incredible job of building and maintaining road running in this Province. We rely on them to realize our goals in road running.” MRA memberships are important to AM in its status provincially and nationally, and MRA and road running supply elite competition but also recreational and masters involvement. After some rocky periods, the MRA/AM relationship is solid, and the current players, including Alanna, are a big part of that. Alanna is excited to continue building the relationship with the MRA and exploring new ways that both organizations can work together in the future.