

MANITOBA RUNNERS' ASSOCIATION



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 13, 2026

2025, from every perspective, has been the best year ever for the Manitoba Runners' Association!

- **Membership:** We finished 2025 with 1033 members, as compared to 926 in 2024: 561 renewals, 472 new, 254 youth, 45 life-time, 62 AM members and 6 Organizations. 2026 is off to an even better start with a total of 705 members as of March 31, 2026. AM members continue to get a complimentary membership.
- **AM/MRA Affiliation Agreement:** Our current Agreement expired on March 31, 2024 and we are still in the process of ratifying a new one. In the interim, our current Agreement will continue, with consensus from both parties. We are hoping to have a new Agreement soon.
- **Board Membership:** This year's 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.
- **Staff:** Our second Events Coordinator submitted her resignation half way through the year, and it was decided not to pursue another candidate at this time. Jim Rennie continued in his role as MRA Equipment Manager and MRA Timing Manager (contract positions); we also had 4 contract timers, two of whom were in training positions.
- **MRA Ambassadors:** An official MRA Ambassador Program was introduced and we chose 6 people to represent us for the next 2 years: Mike Cook, Daria Weiss, Pamela Cusicanqui, Shirley Ramos, Bo Huang and Andrew Ferguson. They have done an admirable job of promoting the MRA at events and on Social Media, and have worked at all of the MRA events throughout the year. I consider their work to be a huge contribution to the promotion of the MRA!
- **Marketing:** We attended two promotional events in 2025: Reh Fit Fair on Oct 7th and the Physical & Health Educators of MB Marketplace on Oct 24th. Both were well-attended and worthwhile for the MRA.
- **Finances:** We ended the year with \$26,333.64 invested in GICs/Term Deposits and a balance in our chequing account of \$46,314.00.
- **Charitable Status Application:** Our application and subsequent objection for Charitable Status were declined.
- **Grants:** Our annual Bingo grant (\$3000) and Course Certification Grant (\$250) from Athletics Manitoba were received. We satisfied all of the requirements of the Provincial Government's Art, Culture & Sport in the Community (ACSC) ACSC Small Capital Grant (\$30,000) and the Final Report was submitted. All monies were received and the Grant is now closed.
- **Fundraising:** Two Fundraising Breakfast were held, one in the spring (Season Kickoff Fundraiser) and one in the Fall (End of Season Fundraiser). The spring event was better attended, and so it was decided to only hold the spring event in 2026.
- **Sponsorship:** We were able to retain our Presenting Sponsors: Massage Athletica (Youth Race Series), Running Room Inc (Classic Race Series), Steve Chipman of the Birchwood Automotive Group (Hall of Fame), along with Storage Vault Canada (Family Ice Cream Run Series), Jonathan Torchia of City Park Runners (Race Director of the Year award), Testify Performance at The Rink (MRA Strength Club) and Brian Mayes (TRACKtastic and MRA Track Club). Devin Soroka of Intrepid Dezine once again supported the Celebration Series by providing free design services and a discounted price for the medal, and Chris Cale of CM Engrave

again provided four complimentary plaques for the MRA Road Runner of the Year awards at both our MRA Awards Celebration.

- **Discount Sponsors:** We had 19 sponsors that offer a discount on their products/services to our membership.
- **Merchandise:** This year we sold 9 neck warmers, 11 water bottles, 7 pairs of sunglasses and 16 toques, totaling \$830.00. Our partnership with ATAC Sportswear provided for sale branded jackets, t-shirts, long sleeves, singlets and hoodies, resulting in a profit of \$540.00. We have now purchased branded Nike caps, which will be for sale throughout the 2026 season.
- **Newsletter:** We put out 4 editions of our newsletter On The Run-winter, spring, summer & fall.
- **Equipment:** A full inventory of the road race and timing equipment was completed on November 7, 2025 and there was very little equipment replacement needed. New equipment purchases during 2025 included a third finish archway, a fourth generator and some new signage & A-frames.
- **MRA Timing Services:** Our timing service timed 16 events in 2025. Jim Rennie and Steven Hurkett are now fully trained. Shelley Borschawa and Marcia Galvin acted in a training capacity. New Timing equipment purchases included a Chronotrack Timing system (we can now time 2 events at the same time) and a Go-Pro Hero13 bundle (waterproof) for finish line photo capture. The cost of timing chips skyrocketed this year (2025 cost: \$11,580.14). This has resulted in the decision to increase our fees from \$3.50 to \$5.00 per person with a minimum charge of \$1000.00 (this is the industry's norm for chip timing). We already have 20 events signed up to be timed by us in 2026.
- **Course Certification:** The following courses were certified in 2025: Linden Woods 10k, Manitoba Marathon & Half Marathon, Run 4 Your Cause 5k, Run Sage Creek 5k and the Winnipeg 10&10 10-miler.
- **2025 Race Calendar:** Our Race Calendar this year had 60 events, 1 of which was canceled. Ten were new to our calendar, and two were trail events. 2026 Sanctioning is going well with 60 events confirmed so far. Eight of these events are put on by the MRA.
- **MRA SERIES:**
 - **MRA Classic & Youth Race Series:** In 2025 we had 22 events in our Classic Series and 24 events in the Youth Series. There were 437 members that took part in the Classic Series, with 28 women and 36 men earning trophies. There were 170 members that took part in the Youth Series, with 109 earning medals and/or trophies. MRA lime green gloves were given out as prizes to all youth that earned an award.
 - **MRA Celebration Series:** We had 138 participants sign up, with 88 earning a beautiful Canada Goose medal designed by Devin Soroka at Intrepid Design.
 - **MRA Indigenous Run Series:** This was our second year with this participation series, which included 2 events: Run for Indigenous Women & Girls & the Reconciliation Run. This series was open to MRA members and non-members alike, with anyone completing both of the runs earning a beautiful medal designed by Bryan Sullivan of Bright Ideas Graphics. We had 2 women and 2 men earn a medal in 2025.
- **MRA PROGRAMS:**
 - **MRA Track Club:** Two sessions of the Track Club were held in 2025: a winter session from January-April with 84 registrants and a summer session from July-September with 57 registrants. Both sessions were coached by Bison track athletes Matt Van Schepdael, Dan Heschuk & Gavin Maxwell, with the addition of Sarah Smith in the summer. Our overall profit for the year was \$2400.00, after coaches were paid an honorarium. I charged \$40 for the Winter Session and \$50 for the Summer Session per registrant, and it was available to MRA members only.
 - **MRA Strength Club:** we had a total of 18 members take part, for a profit of \$1081.26.
 - **MRA Online Coaching:** a total of 12 members took part in this program, resulting in a profit of \$2856.50.
- **MRA AGM:** Was held virtually on April 7th, with 17 members and 1 staff in attendance. Derek Boutang and Aldo Furlan were reinstated for another 2-year term; Alan Neumann, Andrew Swan, Lorraine Walton and

Jessica Drakul continued their 2-year term. Two new members of the Board were elected: Heather Pawluk and Bob Stewart. Following the meeting, a new Executive Committee was appointed: Derek Boutang-President, Lorraine Walton-Vice President, Alan Neumann-Treasurer and Jessica Drakul-Secretary.

- **MRA Hall of Fame Banquet:** Our gala event was held on April 28th. Samantha Powderhorn was our Keynote Speaker and Mike Cook acted as our Master of Ceremonies. Inducted were Darolyn Walker (Athlete), Gregg Gemmell (Athlete) and Nick Paulet (Builder). Also awarded were Trechelle Bunn (2024 Race Director of the Year), Lorraine Walton (2025 President's Award) and Janette Rodewald (2025 Excellence in Volunteering Award). The event was held at the Centro Caboto Centre and was a great success with 141 people in attendance. Planning for the 2026 event is already well underway, being held on April 27, 2026.
- **Run 4 Your Cause:** The 2025 event took place on Sunday, June 1st at Marpeck Commons, CMU with 227 registrants, our biggest event to date. There were 12 Causes represented: Heart & Stroke Foundation, Tails of Freedom Rescue, Canadian Hemophilia Society-Manitoba Chapter, Dr. David Crawford Memorial Run, Variety-The Children's Charity of Manitoba, South Whiteshell Trail Association, Bruce and Anne Oake Memorial Foundation, The Dream Factory, St. Amant Foundation, CMV Canada, Latinas Manitoba Inc. and of course the MRA. Total donations raised for all Causes were \$8,650.71.
- **MB Marathon Fit Expo:** Furthering the growth of our membership, this year's Fit Expo on June 13/14 brought in 90 new MRA members! We spoke with 100's of people and cemented our place in the running community.
- **Ice Cream Runs:** Six summer events were held with a total of 1170 registrations. There were 4 locations in Winnipeg: Crescent Drive Park, Bunn's Creek Provincial Park, Devonshire Park (Transcona Trail) and Sturgeon Creek Parkway. There were also 2 out of town locations: Hespeler Park in Niverville and Morden Park in Morden. Ice cream from Sargent Sundae was provided for all participants, kept cold with dry ice from Linde Canada. Medics for Hire provided Medical (Gerry Desjardins and Andrea Mensforth) and Access Storage (sponsor) was on site at two of the events with various giveaways for everyone. We also had one of our Discount sponsors, Stretch Lab, at two of the events to provide warm up services.
- **TRACKtastic!** This year it was decided to go back to Victor Mager Track on Thursday, August 28th. We once again had help from Athletics Manitoba and the Bison Track Team, and received donations of prizes from Big Sky Run Co, StretchLab, Massage Athletica, Lululemon, City Park Runners, Flex Fitness & Yummy Owl, Sargent Sundae and Speed & Savoury. We had 48 participants, which seems to be our sweet spot. Thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, Brian Mayes, who was on site to say a few words and compete in the 800m!
- **Race Directors' Meeting:** This year's meeting was held virtually on November 15th with 27 people in attendance. A recording of the meeting is available on the MRA website: <https://mraweb.ca/race-directors/>.
- **Awards Celebration:** Our 2025 event was a Sunday pasta brunch, held on November 30th at the Centro Caboto Centre with 199 people in attendance. We awarded 64 trophies in the Classic Series, 109 medals in the Youth Participation Series, 18 trophies in the Youth Competition Series, 88 medals in the Celebration Series and 4 medals in the Indigenous Run Series. We decided to move the Athlete of the Year awards back to the Hall of Fame in 2026. Thanks to a generous donation by Mr Rob Guy, we were able to award two winners of our new National Excellence Award: Simone Berube and Alice Sherwin.

As I do every year, I wish to thank all of the Directors of the MRA Board, along with Jim Rennie, Equipment and Timing Manager, for an incredibly successful year. It is with your support and hard work that we were once again able to accomplish so much and make the Manitoba Runners' Association an active and important part of the road running scene in Manitoba. Let's keep growing!

Kathy Wiens

MRA Executive Director

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.