



2020 MRA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

TERRY COOKE

BUILDER

In 1988, Terry (Teresa-Lee) Cooke joined the After Five Running Club. Keen to run, hearing of the picturesque Boston Marathon qualifier - The Twin Cities Marathon, she asked the life-changing question, how do we get there?? The answer was easy. You drive or take a plane. "Terry, why don't you organize a bus?" Why not, indeed! Her enthusiasm for running now included training and for the better part of each year organizing a bus trip to Twin Cities from 1990 to 2016, and 2018 and since 1999, the Twin Cities 10-miler. Terry's zeal encompassed many miles and a widening circle of running friends. She joined the Manitoba Runners Association entering everything she could, serving on the Board for several years, and as editor for "On the Run" newsletter. She also managed to accumulate a significant number of first place medals and finisher t-shirts.

Trudge and Tour's inaugural trip to Twin Cities Marathon was October 1990, and Terry met Ray Butterworth, of Beaver Bus Lines, who remained guide, driver and friend for most trips. Her partner, Wes Pastuzenko, annually provided invaluable assistance, both on the bus and at home. In 1999, the inception of the 10-mile race, entrants were chosen by a first come first served basis. Wes's parents drove the Manitoba entries to the US border to ensure they would be received quickly. In May 2000, Terry received a response to her concerns regarding Canadian entries. The Chair of TCM 10 Mile Committee responded Wes's parents no longer had to make that trip, "Trudgers" were provided guaranteed entries. That gift was honoured right up until the last bus trip in 2017. Terry completed five Twin Cities marathons and many 10-milers.

In 1994, Trudge and Tour participated in the Bemidji '4th Annual Loop of the Lakes,' featuring 5, 10 and 25 km runs. She worked with event organizers and she and Wes also ran the 25 km event. Terry arranged all aspects of Trudge trips including accommodation, transportation and entertainment. A favourite Twin Cities celebration for many years was Famous Dave's BBQ and Blues House featuring blues artist, Moses Oakland.

Each year the trip set out with both familiar faces and new participants. Strangers returned running family. The trip provided opportunity for new runners to meet experienced runners and groups and clubs (for example, "Road Kill") were formed during Trudge weekends. But all good things come to an end unfortunately. May 2018 Terry Informed Twin Cities Organizers and runners the trip could not continue due to rising costs and dwindling participation. But memories are endless and treasured. She is deeply grateful for those that supported the trip. It was a wild and wonderful 28 years!

Terry also is the author of a non-fiction book published in 2017 and numerous works of poetry published in several Canadian journals. She continues to perform music and singing, as does her partner, Wes Pastuzenko. Their home is shared with two fuzzy, four-footed family, kitties Meika and Floyd.