

Janice (Stirling) Gill

Janice (Stirling) Gill was born in 1957 and raised in Winnipeg, spending most of her life in Fort Garry. She met Don Gill in 1984 and married him in 1993. Janice was a loving dog owner and supported the Winnipeg Humane Society and its ideals. She and Don worked out together, including walking their 11 dogs. She worked at Tony's Pizza, her family's business. She had many friends from Tony's and from Athletics Manitoba and the MRA and the broader running community. Her coaches were Chris McCubbins and Ken Perchaluk. Janice was fiercely disciplined and dominated her age class in races for more than 10 years. Saucony Canada sponsored her for running. At the time of her death from brain cancer in 2006, she held a number of records, including the Master's record in the Manitoba Marathon half marathon. She was highly motivated to be the best she could be and in her prime was the top female road racer in Manitoba. One year she won every race on the MRA calendar that she entered. She also traveled to many competitions outside Manitoba, including national championships.

Janice also volunteered in races when she was not competing, and served as a race director. In particular, she worked closely with Jim Daly and Pat Riddell with the Puma Series for many years. Before her death, she received awards from both AM and MRA. When she died on July 24, 2006, Janice was 49 years old. Despite dying much too soon, she left an indelible mark on the MRA in its first 50 years.