

ALLAN FINKEL

Builder

If you were involved in running in the 1980's, one of the most omnipresent figures in the community was Allan Finkel. He was involved in the administration of the Manitoba Marathon, the MRA and Run Canada. Allan was not the "idea guy" who created a concept; he was the person who would see slivers of ideas, gave them life and helped them grow. The survival of these Manitoba running institutions is testament to Allan's success at doing just that.

After completing the first Manitoba Marathon in 1979, undertrained and overheated, Allan joined the Phidippides Running Club with Doug Sammons and Ron Chopek and learned a lot from their coaching. In fact, in the second Manitoba Marathon in 1980, Allan ran 3:10. He has now run 23 full marathons and 4 ultras in his career, and although he mostly runs half marathons now, he believes he still has one more marathon in him.

Allan joined the board of the MRA in 1980, and in time Allan became MRA President for a number of years. Unable to run in 1981, Allan volunteered with the Marathon and was appointed lead navigator for the wheelchair marathon. In 1982, Allan was recruited to become the start line coordinator for the Marathon. He became Race Director in January 1984. When Allan took over, the marathon registration numbers had dipped from 4,500 to 3,000. In 6 years, he had increased those numbers to 7120, adding school relays, friends and family and the Super Run.

During Allan's time as MRA President and then with the Manitoba Marathon, he saw the conflict between the Manitoba Track and Field Association and the road running community. After many meetings, the conflict was resolved, part of which involved Allan becoming Vice-President of the MTFA and Tim Walker from MTFA becoming a board member at the MRA

Another of Allan's roles in our running community was as Manitoba's representative for Run Canada, a position he held for 4 or 5 years. Among other things, RC set road race standards, developed a race director's handbook and course certification. Allan also chaired Run Canada Week for all of Canada for 2 years.

Allan was honoured by the MRA in 1986 as its first Honorary Builder. Around 2012, Allan's name was added to the Manitoba Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in its new Builder category for his contributions to Manitoba's running community.

2022 MANITOBA RUNNERS' ASSOCIATION ROAD RUNNING HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

