

JANICE (STIRLING) GILL

Athlete/Builder

Janice (Stirling) Gill was a dedicated Manitoba Runners' Association member, high performance athlete and encouraging training partner that treasured the camaraderie of the running community.

Janice began serious training for road race events in the late 1980's, and by 1993 her life revolved around training and racing with her husband Don Gill and brother-in-law Bob Gill. The harsh Forbes Road "Loop" and her high-end treadmill became her constant regime; setting high personal standards and pushing her herself to new heights in running. In 1996, one of her best years of training, she logged 1973 miles! An amazing feat in its own right.

Saucony Canada sponsored Janice's running. She was coached early on by Chris McCubbins and later on by Ken Perchaluk. She admired them both. Janice was a fiercely disciplined athlete and dominated her age class in races for more than 10 years. 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 the National Timex Championships. However, more than anything, Janice enjoyed visiting with her fellow running friends before and after races.

Additionally, Janice volunteered for 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 recognition awards from both Athletics Manitoba and Manitoba Runners' Association for her dedication to the sport of road running. 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.

May her mind become peaceful, her heart filled with joy and her feet be fleet for all eternity.

2023 MANITOBA RUNNERS' ASSOCIATION ROAD RUNNING HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

