

# Auckland In Heavy Training For Largest Jogging Event

AUCKLAND, N.Z. (CP) — During the summer and fall in this city of 800,000 people, suburban streets echo to the thud of running feet.

A mania seems to seize men, women and children. At a time of day when they would normally be relaxing, watching TV or enjoying a few drinks, people are out pounding the pavements.

Auckland is in the grip of training for Round the Bays, featured as the world's biggest "run for fun."

Auckland was one of the founding cities of the jogging vogue. Famous track coach Arthur Lydiard, after training a string of world record breakers in distance races, turned his attention to fellow-citizens.

"Run for your life", he told them—jog to remain healthy.

Jogging caught on among all sections of the community. A prominent American coach, visiting with a team to observe Lydiard's training methods, was persuaded to turn out with the local joggers' club. After a while he found he was alone except for one member, a 70-year-old who was politely waiting for him.

## COURSE ATTRACTIVE

Seven years ago the Auckland Joggers Club and the evening paper, Auckland Star, inaugurated the Round the Bays run.

It is a varied seven-mile course—from a central park through the vegetable markets and fishing-fleet wharfs, past the downtown business sector, along the docks, and then winding along the picturesque harbor with elite residential suburbs, a flying-boat base, yacht marinas, bathing beaches, finishing in another waterfront park.

Each year the number of runners increases. The latest run, late in March, drew a field of 30,000.

Strictly speaking, it is not a race. Everyone who finishes in 100 minutes gets a certificate—and that is not much more than walking pace.

But keen athletes finish in little more than 30 minutes and set a cracking pace.

Behind them come aspiring distance runners, ordinary plodders and real "run for fun" entrants who take time off to call at pubs or enjoy a swim at one of the bathing beaches.

## RUNNERS HELPED

Residents man hoses to sluice down perspiring runners. Cool drinks are available at regular intervals. First-aid units are on hand.

All streets in the vicinity are closed to traffic as runners fill the roadway and sidewalks. So great is the crush at the start that many runners can barely shuffle in the early stages as the field spreads out according to speeds and ability.

commented that when he passed a group of young men, their reaction was an indignant spurt to leave the old buzzard behind.

But when an attractive young girl in short shorts came past, the same young men tended to form an admiring escort immediately behind.

P.E.I. Roadrunners Club  
**MONTHLY MEETING**  
Thurs., April 20th  
St. Jeans Elementary School  
8:00 p.m.  
**GUEST SPEAKER:**  
**Charlie Ballem**  
EVERYONE WELCOME

## ROADRUNNERS

The monthly meeting of the P.E.I. Roadrunners Club will be held on Thursday at the St. Jean Elementary School at 8 p.m. The guest speaker will be Charlie Ballem who will speak on the history of running on P.E.I. All those who ordered club sweaters and T-shirts are asked to pick them up at this meeting.

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BALLEM ADDRESSES RUNNERS

Charlie Ballem, Physical Education Consultant with the Department of Education, speaks to members of the P.E.I. Roadrunners Club Thursday at St. Jeans Elementary School during the Club's regular monthly meeting. Mr. Ballem spoke on the history of running in Prince Edward Island and on some of the famous runners of past years. He stressed in his talk that the Club should promote participation and fitness through jogging—not only the competitive runner but also beginners to become involved in this fast growing sport.

(April 20, 1978)



# Rodgers Outhustle Large Boston Field

\* THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS \*  
\* RACE OF THEM ALL \*  
\* \* \*

BOSTON (AP) — Favorite Bill Rodgers, on his hometown course, wore out his rivals and then hung on despite a late kick by unheralded Jeff Wells to win the 82nd Boston Athletic Association Marathon Monday in the closest finish in the history of the race.

Rodgers, who set the course record of two hours, nine minutes and 55 seconds in 1975, came within 18 seconds of that

mark, plodding 26 miles, 38 yards from Hopkinton to Boston's Back Bay in 2:10.13.

Wells, a 23-year-old seminole student, came out of the pack and just missed overhauling Rodgers. He was clocked at 2:10.15, third fastest time in the race's history.

Edsa Takkanen of Finland was third in 2:11.15, edging 1976 Marathon champion Jim Fultz, a former Georgetown University standout, by 18 seconds. Randy Thomas, Rodgers' protege, was fifth in 2:11.25, followed by Kevin Ryan of New Zealand in 2:11.43 and Oregon's Don Kardong, a 1972 Olympian in 2:14.07.

Canadian Jerome Drayton of Toronto, the 1977 winner, was never in contention after complaining of a pulled leg muscle. It was uncertain whether he would finish.

## RUNS SPORT STORE

Rodgers is a 30-year-old former school teacher operating a sporting goods store in Boston.

In ideal weather, Rodgers wore out Frank Shorter, the 1972 Olympic Marathon champion who was runner-up at Montreal two years ago.

Rodgers, Shorter, Tikka and Ryan took charge in a jam-packed crowd of more than 4,000 starters. They turned the race into a four-man duel more than 13 miles.

Shorter finally wilted as Rodgers inched in front of Tikka at the fourth checkpoint, 13 miles from the start.

Rodgers began to pour it on as he headed into the three hills which have spelled disaster for many runners in the past. He opened a 20-yard lead, then widened it to 60 on the first hill. At Heartbreak Hill, five miles from the finish, he widened his lead to 250 yards.

Wells charged from sixth place at the halfway mark and missed catching Rodgers. He finished almost like a duck.

## PACE WAS TOUGH

"I'm happy," Rodgers said. "At the finish, I didn't know I would make it. It was a tough pace. I was really hurting. This was almost the hardest marathon of my life."

Despite the cool, overcast weather, large crowds lined the route, poured onto the streets and hindered the runners.

Shorter managed to finish 23rd.

A 33-year-old Atlanta television sportscaster, Gayle Barron of Atlanta, captured the women's division.

Barron was timed in 2 hours, 44 minutes and 52 seconds, more than two minutes slower than the women's record set in 1976.

It was her 12th marathon. She started running competitively four years ago and her fifth race since September



## RODGERS VICTORIOUS IN MARATHON

Decked with laurel crown Bill Rodgers, CENTER, of Melrose, Mass., waves to

crowd after winning the 82nd running of the Boston Marathon Monday. Rodgers

unofficial time was two hours, 10 minutes, 13 seconds. At RIGHT is

Boston's Mayor Kevin White. See Storey On Page 13 (AP Laserphoto)

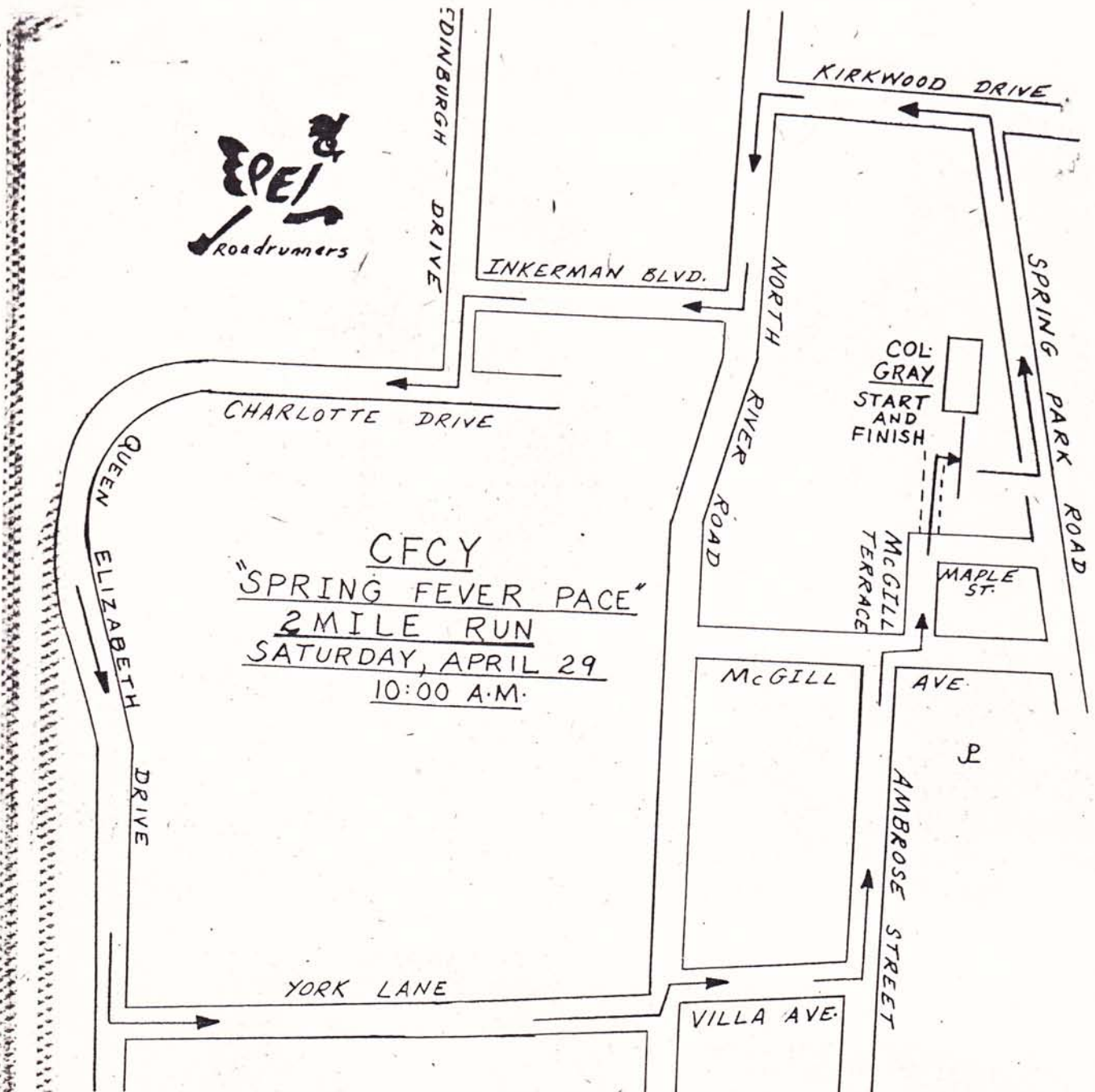




# CFCY SPRING FEVER PACE

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

**P. E. I. ROADRUNNERS CLUB**



## SPRING FEVER PACE GOES SATURDAY

The Spring Fever Pace, the third event of the P.E.I. Roadrunners Club's 1978 schedule takes place Saturday. The event, sponsored by radio station CFCY, is open

to both male and female at the beginner level. The race course is two miles long and starts at Colonel Gray High school at 10:00 a.m. Trophies will be presented to the first

place finisher male and female in the following categories: under 10 years of age, between 10-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49 and over 50 years of age. Certificates will be

presented to everyone who participates. To enter, runners are asked to call 4-7347. The course the runners will follow is shown above.



**RICHARD MUNROE TO SPEAK  
AT ST. JEAN SCHOOL**

Richard Munroe, technical director of the Nova Scotia Track and Field Association, will speak tonight (Tuesday) on running at 8:00 P.M. at the St. Jean School in Charlottetown.

He is a former Canadian Cross-Country Champion and also participated in the International Cross Country Running in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

Parker Lund, Principal of St. Jean School, informs us that a P.E.I. Road-Runner Club is being formed in the province and they now have a representative in Kings and a representative in Queens. They would like to have a representative in Prince.

If any quick interest could be formed in short order, Richard Munroe would be glad to come to Summerside tomorrow night (Wednesday) and give an address on road running. The Road Runners Club have a packet for beginners on October 19th at St. Jean School. Contact Parker Lund at the school if you are interested.

Mr. Lund would like to see more get involved in roadrunning on P.E.I.

## Fitness Club Sets Meeting

SUMMERSIDE — The Summerside and Area Fitness Club is holding a general meeting for members and all interested citizens on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the games room of the recreation centre.

Items to be discussed include the X status of the fitness facility planned for the recreation centre, a spring and summer fitness program. In attendance will be Parker Lund, the founder and driving force behind the Charlottetown Roadrunners Club.

## SPORT NOTES

The Roadrunners club will hold its regular Saturday morning run at 9 a.m., runners are requested to meet at Victoria Park Tennis courts.

From there the group will jog at a relaxed leisurely pace, not exceeding the pace of the slowest runner. The club runs a distance that is agreeable to everyone, making sure that all the runners stay together and have a sociable time. Lets have a good turnout, and bring fellow jogger with you.

### ROADRUNNERS

The monthly meeting of the P.E.I. Roadrunners Club will take place tonight at St. Jean's Elementary School at 8:00. Guest speaker will be Terry Sutherland, a yoga instructor, and a film on running technique will also be shown. The public is welcome to attend.