

The Second annual

P.E.I. Roadrunners

MARATHON

**SEPT. 14
1980**

Patrons Named For Second Annual P.E.I. Roadrunners Race

The P.E.I. Roadrunners Club have announced that two-time Boston Marathon winner Johnny Miles and former Island 10 mile champion Wallace Rodd have been named as the National and Provincial Patrons for the Second Annual P.E.I. Roadrunners Marathon.

"We are extremely pleased to have two runners who have set such high standards of excellence act as our patrons," said Don Harley, President of the P.E.I. Roadrunners Club.

The 74 year old Miles, who now lives in Hamilton Ontario and who was raised in Cape Breton, is one of Canada's all time best marathoners.

As an unheralded 21 year old, Miles shocked the running world by winning the 1926 Boston Marathon in the record time of 2 hours 25 minutes and 40 seconds.

In that race, his first marathon, the unknown Sydney Mines native ran head to head during the early stages of the race with the highly favoured Clarence DeMar, who would eventually win seven Boston Marathons, and Albin Stenroos, the 1924 Olympic gold medalist.

No one had expected the Canadian lad to keep up with the favourites, but after he left DeMar behind in the heart-break hills and passed Stenroos at the 22 mile mark, there was no doubt that Miles was the strongest runner of the day.

Miles ran only three times in Boston, and was the winner on two of those occasions. In 1929 he handily beat DeMar to enhance his reputation as one of North America's best marathoners of the day.

Johnny Miles also competed in two Olympics, with a ninth place finish in 1928, and the British Empire Games, where he won a bronze medal in 1930.

Mr. Miles still returns regularly to Nova Scotia to attend the annual Johnny Miles Marathon, named in his honour, in New Glasgow. It was there in 1978 that members of the P.E.I. Roadrunners Club first met him. Although he did not compete in any major road races on the

Island, he does recall pleasant visits to P.E.I.

The Provincial Patron, Wallace Rodd of Charlottetown, was also at his competitive peak during the late 1920's and early 1930's.

During the 1931 to 1933 period he won the Patriot 10 mile road race in Charlottetown three consecutive years.

He was also victorious in the 10 mile Kelly and McInnis road race in Charlottetown in 1931 and 1932.

Mr. Rodd also placed well in regional races. In 1933 he won the Roy Oliver road race in New Glasgow N.S. He finished

fifth in the Halifax 10 mile road race in 1932 and third in that race in 1933.

Mr. Rodd acted as the starter for the First Annual P.E.I. Roadrunners Marathon last year.

The position of National and Provincial Patrons are honorary positions intended to highlight the support that the Marathon has received from distinguished individuals from across the country.

The Second Annual P.E.I. Roadrunners Marathon will be held on Sunday September 14. The 26 mile 385 yard route begins in Cavendish and finishes in Charlottetown.

A Brief History Of The Marathon

Is any long road race a marathon? Not quite. The marathon has a history and tradition all of its own.

The inspiration for the marathon dates back to a legend from ancient Greece.

During their wars with the Spartans, the Athenians fought an important battle just twenty-two miles outside their capital city. Against overwhelming odds they won the battle and, in order to inform the people of Athena, sent a messenger on foot back to the city.

That messenger, Pheidippides, raced to Athens where before the King he delivered the crucial news.

"Rejoice, we conquer!" he proclaimed. Pheidippides then promptly dropped dead.

The name of the place he ran from was Marathon.

Many centuries later this feat was commemorated in the first Olympics in Greece. A road race, known as the marathon, was held to retrace the original run from Marathon to Athens. The

marathon has been part of every Olympics since and has become one of the major sporting events of our time.

During the years immediately following 1896, the marathon was a long road race of unspecified distance.

At the 1908 Olympics in London, England decided to start the race at Windsor Castle and to have the finish line in front of the Royal Box in the Olympic stadium. The distance turned out to be 26 miles 385 yards. That length, established due to a "Royal whim," was later adopted as the official distance of the marathon.

The marathon has become popular the world over with champions being produced from each continent.

The current world record time is just over two hours and eight minutes and is held by Australian Derek Clayton.

The P.E.I. Roadrunners are proud to have brought the marathon tradition to Prince Edward Island.

Roadrunners Pick Theme For Marathon

Organizers for the Second Annual P.E.I. Roadrunners Marathon have announced that the theme for the associated events connected with the race will be "a tribute to P.E.I.'s running forefathers".

The marathon itself will be held on Sunday September 14 starting in the National Park at Cavendish and covering 26 miles, 385 yards, to Province House in Charlottetown.

During the week before the marathon and at the banquet, the Club will be publicizing some of the achievements of past Island runners.

Road racing was once one of the most popular sports in P.E.I., attracting thousands of spectators to watch highly competitive races.

Runners such as Michael Thomas, now in the P.E.I. Sports Hall of Fame, Harry Harley and members of the Abegweit Club established high standards of excellence early in the 1900's.

In 1909, the Patriot 10 Mile Road Race in Charlottetown drew extensive front page coverage. The account of that race included comments such as the following:

"As the three foremost runners . . . sped through the human avenue (of spectators), the excitement grew in intensity and the thronging thousands swayed and surged

like the tumultuous waves of the stormy ocean."

The story went on to note that, "besides the Market Square, which was crowded with people, the sidewalks and streets from the Park Roadway to the finish were thronged, while hundreds were on the roofs in all the front offices and even on the telegraph poles".

Island road races of the early era were largely spectator events, with starting fields of only a dozen or less. Rather than the mass participation sport it is today, running of that day was characterized by keenly fought races between athletes attached to prestigious club affiliations.

Long distance road races faded in popularity during the middle part of the century, but the running boom of the 1970's has once again made it a popular sport.

The P.E.I. Roadrunners Club would like to recognize the accomplishments of the Island's early runners and pay tribute to their contributions to the sport.

The Club is also hoping to restore some of the spectator excitement and interest that surrounded road racing by staging an annual marathon that attracts top runners from each of the Maritime provinces and from other provinces and states.

- The P.E.I. Roadrunners Marathon will be staged Sunday but there's always something which bothered me about such an event (be it here or in Boston). You would have to wonder if sport had a black eye from the word go when the Olympic marathon runner Pheidippides, dispatched to tell the people of Athens about a war victory, arrived, delivered the news and then dropped dead. Times have changed.

- There are a couple of very important Canadian Football League games Saturday as Montreal goes to Hamilton and Edmonton is in British Columbia. Both will go a long way in deciding just who will finish where this season.

RUNNING

Information kits on the Second Annual P.E.I. Roadrunners Marathon are now available to race entrants.

The kits include tips on training for a marathon, a schedule of weekend events, a course description and other information on the marathon.

The P.E.I. Roadrunners Club is asking runners who have not sent in their entry forms to do so as soon as possible. The planning for the marathon will be greatly assisted if the organizers know roughly how many entrants can be expected.

Registration forms and information on the marathon are available from Mr. Lance Miron, 70 Kirkcaldy Ave., Charlottetown, C1E 1G4.

The entry deadline is Sept. 2. The race will be held Sunday, Sept. 14 starting at Cavendish and finishing in Charlottetown.

Enter marathon

When the starter whistle goes on Sunday for the second annual P.E.I. Roadrunners Marathon, there will be several local runners in that race.

Registrar Lance Miron said there are 37 entrants registered as of Monday and six of those are from east of Charlottetown. Claire Birch of Vernon Bridge who ran the marathon last year in 3 hrs. and 27 mins. has entered the race which begins at Cavendish and ends at Province House in Charlottetown.

Making their first marathon ap-

pearance is the only father and son combination, James and Timmy Spears from the Southport area. Timmy at age 12 is the youngest runner in the race which is 26 miles 385 yards in length.

Other "first timers" entering the race are Ronnie Drake of Vernon Bridge, Lambert Pauley of Belfast and a young Wood Islands runner, Mark McOsham.

Late registrations for the race will be accepted at the Sport P.E.I. office until this Friday.

Don Morrison

Special Group Running Wild



Marathoning

The name is enough to send shivers up the spine of most "normal" individuals. Can you imagine anyone running for 26 miles, 385 yards at one clip? I mean, how many of us run that far in a year let alone one afternoon?

Marathoners are not normal individuals. They're special. They are so special that they'll be the first to tell you they don't mind the pain associated with the months of training for a marathon and, having reached the pinnacle of what they feel is the culmination of training, "run" into more pain while beating the living daylights out of the pavement.

There is expected to be in excess of 100 "special" individuals take up the challenge associated with the second annual P.E.I. Roadrunners Marathon. That event is scheduled for Sept. 14 and will be run from Cavendish to Charlottetown, a distance of, yes, you guessed it, 26 miles and change.

The inaugural run was staged last year with 74 runners competing and was, in horseman's terms, won wire-to-wire by Tom Olsen, a non-Islander in a surprisingly good time of two hours, 40 minutes and 33 seconds.

The P.E.I. Marathon has not as yet reached the popularity afforded other such long distance races but given time it will develop into one of the major competitions of the Atlantic Provinces and even Eastern Canada.

One thing the Island run has to offer is some fantastic organization. This year, Don Harley, the commander of the P.E.I. Roadrunner forces, heads a hard working and knowledgeable crew of workers who have, since the finish of the first event, been striving to make number two even more successful. If it can be done, they'll do it.

As for myself, well, I passed up last year's jaunt for less hazardous sports endeavours and to be fair to this year's organizers, I feel it my duty to do the same this time out. Besides, the marathoning world isn't ready for me (or should that be the other way around?)

Island Runner Opens Marthon

Melvin Kaney MacDonald, one of P.E.I.'s best long distance runners of the 1920's, will be the official starter for the second annual P.E.I. Roadrunners Marathon on Sunday.

Mr. MacDonald enjoyed considerable success in road running during the 1924 to 1930 period.

In 1924 he finished second in the Ed Acorn Four-Mile Race in Ch'town. The race was part of the Olympic trials of that year.

He won the 9-mile Kensington to Summerside race in 1927 and was a member of the winning 12-man relay team in the Summerside to Ch'town race that same year. Members of that team included such top Island runners as Barney Francis,

George Walker, Elliot McGuigan and Housie Doyle.

In the Halifax Mail-Star 10-mile race of 1930, Kaney placed as the top Islander and 11th overall. He had a very impressive time of 58 minutes in that race.

Kaney also went on to have a successful boxing career.

Mr. MacDonald is now 75 years old and is a resident of Ch'town.

The P.E.I. Roadrunners Club are pleased to have Mr. MacDonald as the starter since he is a long distance runner from the past. The theme for this year's P.E.I. Roadrunners Marathon is a "Tribute to P.E.I.'s Running Forefathers".

Kaney MacDonald Official Starter For P.E.I. Marathon

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