

# Battle For First Won't Be Only Contest Waged During Marathon

The battle for the top spot will not be the only contest being waged at the P.E.I. Roadrunners - CBCT-FM Island Marathon this Sunday.

For many runners, there are races within a race. Awards such as those for first Island resident, top masters runner and the team trophy will be up for grabs, as well as the overall top spots for both male and female runners.

One of the most keenly contested titles on Sunday could be in the Masters Division for runners over the age of 40.

Ewen Stewart of Charlottetown has won the male division title in each of the first three years of the Island Marathon. This year, however, he could face some strong competition from runners such as Americans Pudge Hellman and James Horton as well as Islanders Stew Freeman and Salem Hishen.

The female masters division title will be defended by Island runner Eleanor Farrington-Freeman. As of yet, there does not appear to be any challengers in that division.

## KEEN FIGHT FOR TOP ISLANDER

The fight for the top Island runner may also provide one of the interesting races of the day. Jim Wyatt, the defending title holder, could receive challenges this year from any one of Don Priddy, Ewen Stewart, Carl Phillips, Calvin DesRoches or Stew Freeman.

In addition to the award for the top Island finisher, the first finisher from each P.E.I. county will also receive awards.

Another of the major awards is the team prize which goes to the province or state with the five best placings. P.E.I.

took the team title last year, but will probably face stiff competition this year from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and possibly Maine.

The team award has a special prestige since it is sponsored by Johnny Miles, a two-time Boston

Marathon winner, originally from Sydney Mines, N.S.

The awards list at the Island Marathon is one of the more generous in all of Canada. All of the awards are donated. Last year, fourteen Island firms and businesses donated awards.

Awards chairman Ken Campbell says that he places emphasis on usable awards rather than on trophies. Attempts have also been made to provide awards that are made in P.E.I.

This year's race winner, for instance, will receive a framed photograph depicting an Island scene. The first place award is sponsored by the District Association of P.E.I. The Cavendish Rowing Association is adding a certificate for \$200 toward a holiday in the Cavendish area.

Many of the local businesses in the Cavendish area are contributing prizes such as lobster suppers, motel lodging and passes to exhibits.



JIM WYATT

## Marathon Attracts Speedsters

This year's Island Marathon, to be held Sunday, September 22nd, has attracted what should be a hot field.

Eleven of the runners registered so far have previous times better than the 2 hour, 45 minute winning time recorded by Jim Wyatt in last year's 25.2 mile race.

Among the top starters are Dr. Tim Loftus of Florida, Bill Koehler of Maryland, James Jones of New York and Norm Patenaude of Ontario.

All four have times better than the current Island marathon record of 2 hours, 35 minutes, 22 seconds set by Tim Olsen of Nova Scotia in 1980. Koehler came second to Olsen in the 1980 race while Loftus, one of the top 100 marathoners in U.S.A. last year, was fifth that year.

Top Islanders entered included Jim Wyatt, of Crossroads, last year's winner, Don Priddy of Charlottetown who has the top Island marathon time this year, and Ewen Stewart of Charlottetown, who has the fastest time ever recorded by an Islander in the Marathon.

## OPEN TO ALL

Marathoning is also a sport for the common runner as well as the elite athlete. It is a sport that allows all levels of competitors to enter and to succeed on their own terms.

Tips for watching a marathon are simple. First, let the runners know that they have your full support. Bang pots, honk horns, cheer, shout encouragement.

Second, show as much support for the last runner as for the first. Only a handful of runners are out to win the race. Some near the end may be having the run of their lives. They need the support.

Third, if you can, follow the race by moving to two or three vantage points. This also makes it more interesting as you can follow the progress of the runners.

A map of the race route will be printed later this week. The P.E.I. Roadrunners Club invites all to

# Club Dedicates Race

The fourth annual P.E.I. Roadrunners-CBCT-FM

Island Marathon is being dedicated to the memory of Michael Thomas, probably the best distance runner ever produced by Prince Edward Island.

The announcement was made by the P.E.I. Roadrunners Club, organizers of the marathon which is to be held this year on Sunday, September 12.

The Club also announced that to mark the occasion, Michale Thomas' daughter, Blanche Doucett of Saint John and granddaughter, Virginia Doucett of Toronto, have been named race patrons and will be in attendance at the race.

Michael Thomas was inducted into the P.E.I. Sports Hall of Fame in 1980 for his illustrious running record from the 1909 to 1912 period. It was a time when running was in a golden age and when Thomas was the best amateur runner in Eastern Canada and one of the better runners in North America.

Michael "Mick" Thomas of Lennox Island was born in 1885 and was already in his mid-twenties before Father John A. MacDoanld encouraged him to take up running competitively. Eventually, Thomas would be compared to another legendary Indian runner of the day, Tom Longboat.

## WINS PATRIOT

Thomas won the Charlottetow Patriot Ten Mile Race in 1909, 1910 and 1911 before crowds of thousands to establish himself as the Island's foremost runner.

It was in Halifax, though, that he made his name known throughout the region. The Halifax Herald-Mail Ten Mile Road Race was generally considered the most prestigious contest in Eastern Canada. For three consecutive years from 1910 to 1912, the "great" Michael Thomas, as the Halifax newspapers called him, went unbeaten against top regional and North American distance runners.

The crowds for these races were estimated at 25,000 people. These were not the only crowds that Thomas encountered. Upon his return to Charlottetown in 1910, Thomas was met by the most rousing reception in the city's history. He was escorted before thousands of cheering fans to the Arena Rink which was covered for the occasion in the colours of Thomas' Abegweit Track Team.

Michael Thomas was the first Islander to run the famed Boston Marathon in 1911. He would finish 26th in Boston with an excellent time under the circumstances. Each runner at that time depended on an ac-

companying cyclist to provide water. Thomas' cyclist, unfortunately, had an accident which left Thomas unaccompanied for most of the race. Still, he covered the 26 mile distance in 2 hours 52 minutes.

## MANY GREATS

Michael Thomas was the first of many great Micmac runners in P.E.I., including Barney Francis and John Paul, and provided an inspiration for native runners.

As patrons for the 1982 Island Marathon, the Doucetts join illustrious company. In 1979 the first annual patrons were Gordon Bennett and Steve Paprowski. Johnny Miles, a four-time winner of the Boston Marathon, and Wallace Rodd, a leading Island runner in the 1930's, were the patrons in 1980. In 1981, the International Year of the Disabled person, the patrons were Tommy Kays and Phil Bower, Island athletes who have performed very well in national competitions for the blind.

The Island Marathon will cover a 26 mile 385 yard route from Cavendish to Charlottetown on September 12. The race, which is sponsored by CBCT-FM, is expected to draw a good number of Island, Canadian and American runners.

# ISLAND MARATHON

## Support From Fans Boost For Runners

### Fan Support Key Ingredient Towards Marathon's Success

P.E.I. has acquired a reputation for plentiful fan support for Island Marathon runners and that is one of the key ingredients for the success of the event, say race organizers.

"Runners like to have spectators cheer them on over the long 26-mile distance. Believe me, it makes a big difference for them to know that they have support from spectators," said race director Jim Wyatt of the P.E.I. Roadrunners Club.

During the three years that the Island Marathon has been held, the fan support has been particularly strong in the Rustico area.

One Massachusetts couple, who ran the race in 1980, wrote back to the Roadrunners Club to express their surprise at the cheering that helped them along that section of the race.

"We have a race here called the Boston Marathon which is reputed to have the best race fans in the world. You should bring the people of North Rustico down here to show these fans what real enthusiasm is," their letter stated.

With relatively small population base and running community, the Island marathon depends very heavily on attracting out-of-province runners to make it a major marathon competition.

Organizers say that one of the important factors in attracting and keeping runners is the positive response they get from spectators.

Although road racing is not a popular spectator sport in Canada, marathons do have an appeal that has attracted large crowds in cities such as Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, and Vancouver.

#### APPEALING

Part of the appeal is the long distance of the race (26.2 miles). It is one of the truly great challenges in sport. As a sporting event, marathoning offers the human drama of a race that depends very much on strategy, endurance, and will.

Marathoning is also a sport for the common runner as well as the elite athlete. It is a sport that allows all levels of competitors to enter and to succeed on their own terms.

Tips for watching a marathon are simple.

First, let the runners know that they have your full support. Bang pots, honk horns, cheer, shout encouragement.

Second, show as much support for the last runner as for the first. Only a handful of runners are out to win the race. Some near the end may be having their last run of their lives. They need the support.

Third, if you can, follow the race by moving to two or three vantage points. This also makes it more interesting as you can follow the progress of the runners.

A map of the race route will be printed later this week. The P.E.I. Roadrunners Club invites all interested persons to come out and watch the runners.

The race starts at 12:00 noon on Sunday at Cavendish in the National Park and ends in downtown Charlottetown.

### Named As Official Starter Of Marathon

CHARLOTTETOWN (IIS) — The P.E.I. Roadrunners Club has announced that Blanche Doucette, the daughter of former Island great runner Michael Thomas, will be the official starter for the P.E.I. Roadrunners - C.B.C.T.F.M. Island Marathon on Sunday.

Doucette, who is this year's race patron, will be travelling from Saint

This year's marathon is being dedicated to the memory of Michael Thomas, an Islander who was one of Canada's best long distance runners in the 1909-1912 period.

The Island Marathon will start at 12:00 noon on Sunday at Cavendish in the National Park and cover 26 miles, 385 yards, on its way to the finish in



P.E.I. ROADRUNNERS CBCT-FM RACE

## ISLAND MARATHON

P.E.I. ROADRUNNERS MARATHON COURSE

# Races Within Races

The battle for the top spot will not be the only contest being fought at the P.E.I. Roadrunners-CBCT-FM Island Marathon this Sunday.

For many runners, there are races within the race. Awards such as those for first Island resident, top masters runner and the team trophy will be up for grabs as

well as the overall top spots for both male and female runners.

For the safety of the runners, the RCMP and Charlottetown City Police will be patrolling many of the key intersections. The RCMP will provide a lead car to guide the front runners safely along the route and they will monitor traffic at some of the busy intersections.

Once the runners reach the

city, City Police will take over in patrolling intersections along University Avenue.

The marathon starts at 11 noon in the National Park at Cavendish and heads into Charlottetown via the Park road, highways 6, 7 and 2 and the Lower Malpeque Road and the Trans-Canada Highway.

If possible, drivers are urged to use alternate routes so as to avoid traffic tie-ups.

## Marathon Attracts Fast Field

**CHARLOTTETOWN (IIS)** — This year's Island Marathon, to be held Sunday, September 12, has attracted what should be a fast field.

Eleven of the runners registered so far have previous times better than the 2 hour, 49 minute winning time recorded by Jim Wyatt in last year's 26.2 mile race.

Among the top starters are Dr. Tim Loftus of Florida, Bill Koehler of Maryland; James Jones of New York, and Norm Patenaude of Ontario. All four have times better than the current Island Marathon record of 2

hours, 35 minutes, 52 seconds set by Tom Olsen of Nova Scotia in 1980.

Koehler came second to Olsen in the 1980 race, while Loftus, one of the top 100 marathoners in the U.S.A. last year, was fifth that year.

Top Islanders entered include Jim Wyatt of Crossroads, last year's winner; Don Pridmore of Charlottetown, who has the top Island marathon time this year, and Ewen Stewart of Charlottetown, who has the fastest time ever recorded by an Islander in the marathon.