

Alex Bain
2005 Ewen Stewart Inspirational Runner Award



Ewen Stewart Inspirational Runner Award 2005-2006
(Presented to Alex Bain by last year's winner - Walter Lea)

I was very pleased when I was asked to announce the winner of this year's Ewen Stewart Inspiration Runner Award. This award doesn't celebrate the fastest times or the most improved runner; rather, it celebrates and honours a club member who presents spirit, determination, guts, grit, and who inspires us all to be the best we can be.

To quote Alex Bain -- the winner of this year's Ewen Stewart Inspirational Award:

"Autism the boy is Alex Bain
Autism is happy and sad
I like Autism
Autism makes me different from my friends
That's OK"

Alex graduated from Bluefield High School in 2005 and won prizes for the highest marks in two of his courses and as well as an application prize.

As a runner, Alex was on the school Cross Country and Track and Field Team for three years. In 2004, he won the Award of Distinction for boys' cross country and another for top junior. Alex has also competed in a number of PEI Roadrunner races. In 2004, he placed 27th out of a field of over 400 runners in the half marathon and was named Rookie of the Year at the 2005 annual meeting.

Almost every weekend, for most of the year, Alex puts on his signature yellow t-shirt, heads to a road race on the Island, and runs for autism.

As his shirt says, he runs for autism, not against autism. Not to raise money to find a way to cure himself or his brother or his mom or prevent people like himself from ever being born, but just to raise awareness and acceptance. He's doing it.

Alex was also successful in raising over \$550. in the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation Run for the Cure. He crossed the finish line 9th out of the hundreds of runners in Charlottetown.

By facing, accommodating, tackling, and conquering many challenges and obstacles, Alex has inspired many and has proven himself to be a most worthy recipient of the Ewen Stewart Inspirational Runner Award.

Alex -- would you please come forward to accept your award.