Mike "Rocketman" Meacher
2006 Ewen Stewart Inspirational Runner Award
(Presented to Mike Meacher by last year's winner - Alex Bain)

This year's winner of the Ewen Stewart Award took up running at the age of 45 years, an age when most of us, battling the cumulative aches and pains of our running habit, start to wind down. If this runner has an ache or a pain, he certainly doesn't show it or tell anyone! And there is no indication that he is slowing down anytime soon!!

Born in Hamilton, Ontario and raised in Montreal, Rocketman moved to PEI 10 years ago with his wife Harriet, an Islander. While Rocketman is a CFA, perhaps being raised on the island of Montreal has made him slip into our Island life so graciously.

Gracious, unless you are in a running race with the Rocketman.

The Island spirit disappears and out comes the Upper Canadian attitude. While most runners slow down and cross the finish line with the runner behind them, not Rocketman. He speeds up and has even been seen elbowing a petite female runner. He flashes his huge smile crossing the finish line. Despite it all, we still love and admire the Rocketman…the legend …..and we thirst for the fountain of youth he has obviously discovered but keeps hidden.

Mike Meacher's first official run was in Hamilton , where he overdid it and landed in the hospital. While recuperating, Mike had time to develop new strategies and entered the Toronto Marathon shortly after. The strategies are apparently working for Mike. He has several marathons under his belt, including the prestigious Boston where he will run again, this year 2 days after his 70th birthday. While Mike impresses all of us, he shames most of us with e-mail week end reminders of long group runs. Many a

bleary eyed runner shows up at 7 on Saturday and Sunday not out of desire but rather sheer guilt.

Mike is a regular at the Road Runner Races. Always smiling, always full of chat, Mike is an inspiration to all of us. He is living proof that age is just a number and that attitude is everything. His infectious joy of life is heart warming and truly inspiring.

Mike's family has been a great support to him over the years. His daughter Carolyn was a big influence in him taking up the sport. Harriet can be spotted at many of the larger races cheering Mike on and often welcomes runners to their home for celebrations. Mike and Harriet's 3 children will meet Mike at the Boston marathon in support of their father.

When Mike isn't running the roads, he keeps busy with studies at UPEI, entertaining numerous friends and acquaintances and relaxing at his cottage with his wife Harriet where they enjoy nature and the arts.