

Honorary Lifetime Members – Parker Lund

Tonight we present an Honorary Membership to an individual who was an integral part of the running scene back in the early 1970's and 80's, and who was also instrumental in the creation of the PEI RoadRunners Club. The values that this person helped to instill in the Club still shape our thinking today as to what it means to be a RoadRunner! This year we present an honorary membership to the PEI RoadRunners Club to Parker Lund.

Few of us were involved in those early days of organized road running on PEI, so tonight in presenting this award, we will recite much of the presentation that was used when Parker Lund was named the RoadRunner of the Year back in 1985. It captures the essence of why Parker richly deserves an honorary membership to our Club. That presentation reads



Two very important criteria in selecting the Roadrunner of the Year are helping to organize Club activities while showing a sincere interest in running and in particular supporting beginners. This person's contribution in these areas must be considered somewhat prehistoric. Can we imagine what it was like in the world before the formation of the RoadRunners Club? Well, this year's winner was actively promoting running in the school system on PEI for many years before the Club was conceived!

While a teacher at Colonel Gray High School in 1975, he started the Triple M Plus 2 Running Series that culminated in a "Ten Mile Marathon". The program was directed towards getting people involved

in running and was successful in attracting hundreds of students along with others in the community. His time in the first event was 86:12, very respectable for a "10 mile Marathon".



Two years later, after moving to a principalship in an elementary school, he organized an event call the Triple P 100. It was a fund raising event for St. Jean's School which saw a group of eight people make a three day run from Moncton to Charlottetown while raising \$8,000.00 for playground equipment for the school. It

was an important event in the history of running in PEI because from this group of people came the impetus for the formation of a running club in PEI. Our award winner along with others on this run ... Ewen Stewart, Don Harley, Ken Campbell and Margaret MacDonald continue to be active Club members today.

In October 1977 he convened a meeting of interested people from which the P.E.I. Roadrunners Club was formed. He served as the first President for two years and it was under his stewardship that many of the Club's activities were initiated. He was the first editor of the Newsletter. Both social runs and fun runs, aimed at beginners, were initiated by him. He also organized monthly meetings and never seemed to run out of ideas for interesting guest speakers.

Before the days of race organizers he was instrumental in establishing and organizing such races as the Dairy Queen Polar Run, Volume Rentals Half Marathon, Colonel Gray 10 Miler, CFCY Spring Fever Pace, and Alice Faye's 3 mile Run for Women.

When the Canadian Track and Field Association formed a national road running organization in 1980 he served as the first provincial representative to that body and continued for three years until 1983. His contributions to running through Run Canada were extensive with some of the more notable being the organization of the Labatt's provincial 20 km championship leading to the national race, coordination of the first Run Canada week on P.E.I. and extensive committee work at the national level in an attempt to establish standards for the conduct of races.

Always a promoter of fitness and running, he brought the concept of corporate fitness initiated in the U.S. to P.E.I. by establishing the Corporate Cup in 1981. He worked in conjunction with the West Royalty Fitness Center who have hosted the annual event since 1981. One event had over 50 teams and in excess of 400 participants, a true testimony to his success as a promoter and organizer.

In September of 1981 when the Terry Fox Runs were established in memory of that great runner, none other than our award winner was asked to serve as the provincial coordinator for those events. He acted as the Track and Field liaison with the Canadian Cancer Society and I need not describe in detail the success and significant impact made by the Terry Fox Runs since that time. Once again, our Roadrunner of the Year was there to ensure things got a firm foundation before he passed the reins to others to carry on.

One other organizational success of note was the Island Marathon. The idea was born in 1978. An organizing committee was formed on which he served as co-chairman, resulting in the first Island Marathon being held in September of 1979. He served as co-chairman for the first three years and was successful during the time in establishing our Marathon as one of the best in Atlantic Canada.

Lest you think that all this person does is organize events and serve on committees a survey of his personal achievements will lay that to rest. Over a decade of running has seen him compete in more than 150 races

making him one of our more seasoned and experienced competitors. His performances can be summarized in one word - **gutsy!** He has the ability to push himself to the limit and you can be assured that his performance will reflect everything he has to give on the particular day. It is that toughness that has given him the reputation of someone you do not want to approach the finish line with at the end of a race hoping for him to quit early - it won't happen!

His best racing season was probably in 1980, when he ran four of the thirteen marathons he has run during his career. It

was in the fall of 1980 he ran a very fast 3:04 on our tough Island course and a month later a 3:02 in the Halifax Marathon.



FOR HIS LONG TERM COMMITMENT TO THE PROMOTION OF RUNNING, FOR THE YEARS OF WORK TOWARD BUILDING A STRONG ORGANIZATION, FOR HIS NEVER ENDING CONCERN ABOUT THE GRASS ROOTS OF OUR CLUB AND THE INSPIRATION HE HAS GIVEN HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ON THE ROADS, THE P.E.I. ROADRUNNERS CLUB TAKES GREAT PRIDE IN PRESENTING PARKER LUND WITH AN HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP TO THE PEI ROADRUNNERS CLUB!

Parker now lives in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and unfortunately he can't be with us tonight (he is actually in Florida right now). But Parker is planning to come to the Island this summer and will attend one of our

races. We will present Parker with his honorary membership at that time. We felt it was important to read his citation here tonight as we celebrate another successful year for the RoadRunners Club ... to look back and pay respect and recognition to those individuals who worked so hard to found our Club!

