2013 Guts & Glory Award

The PEI roadrunners are delighted to present Wayne Gairns with the Guts & Glory Award...an award that represents triumph over adversity and the strength of the human spirit.

At 60 years of age, Wayne Gairns has several decades of running behind him. He ran the Boston marathon in 1989 and was awarded the PEI Male Roadrunner of the Year that same year.

Wayne's world took a turn when he was diagnosed with non-hodgkins lymphoma, causing him to put running on the back burner while he focused on his health. He went into remission in 2003 only to have the lymphoma return in November of 2009. He began 2 years of chemo treatments in early 2010 which he completed in May 2012.

The following month, after several months of training that he kept secret from his family, he registered for the Fulton Campbell half marathon. He completed the gruelling course in a time of 2:21.06. He continued to run in several races in the 2012 season and finished the year by completing the PEI marathon just 4 months after finishing chemotherapy, which would be his first marathon in over a decade.

In 2013, his running times improved substantially as he finished the Fulton Campbell in a time of 2:05:19, the Joints in Motion 5km race in 24:41 and the Cox and Palmer 10 km in 50:48. To finish the 2013 season, he decided to forego his own race and ran alongside his sister in law for 21 km of the PEI marathon to help her through it. She claims there is no way she would have finished without his help.

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Wayne's story has inspired many members of his family to take up running over the years and they are rightfully "beyond proud" of his accomplishments.

We all need, and love, a comeback story! At the rate you are going you will have decades of running ahead of you!

Congratulations on being named the
PEI RoadRunners Guts & Glory award winner!
Well deserved!