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MEDIA RELEASE

Strongest Ever Elite Field in the GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon Over 80 Athletes Confirmed

(Victoria, BC – September 30, 2010) The elite field in the GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon is the strongest and most competitive in its 31-year history. To date 80 athletes have been confirmed to run, doubling the total from 2009.

“The 2010 GoodLife Fitness Marathon, Half Marathon and 8K Road Race are shaping up to be one of our most competitive races with outstanding athletes, young and old, competing from Canada, United States, Australia, United Kingdom, Switzerland, France, Kenya and Japan,” says Bob Reid, Elite Athlete Director. “Past winners of the Vancouver International Marathon, Benard Onsare and Mary Akor, are making their debut appearance in Victoria and are sure to be threats, Onsare in the Marathon, and Akor in the Half Marathon. Akor is a highly recognized name in North America and is certain to shatter the current Victoria Half Marathon course record.”

Local runners competing include James Landry in the Marathon, Cheryl Murphy and Jim Finlayson in the Half Marathon, and Peter Corrigan in the 8K Road Race. Murphy won the Women’s Marathon in 2008 and 2009 and Finlayson came second in the Half the last two years.

“Three Kenyans, Hillary Cheryot, Lameth Mosoti and Philip Samoei, finished first, third and fourth overall in the Marathon last year and have vowed to return this year and improve on their times. I am predicting that 5 new champions will be crowned with their first-ever victory in Victoria on October 10,” says Reid.

The 31st Annual GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon takes place Sunday, October 10, 2010. The Victoria Marathon is ranked number one in Canada for most Boston Marathon qualifiers and number two in Canada of top Boston Marathon qualifying races. For the second year it will host the 2010 Provincial Marathon Championships. There is \$26,000 available in prize money with \$3,000 each going to the top male and female, and a \$5,000 bonus for any Canadian that breaks the men’s or women’s course record. In 2006, Steve Osaduik broke a 25-year record by winning the Marathon in 2:16:49. In addition to the Marathon there is a Half Marathon, 8K Road Race and Thrifty Foods Kids Run & Marathon. For more details, visit www.runvictoriamarathon.com.

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