

Royal Victoria Marathon
Box 675, 185 - 911 Yates Street
Victoria BC V8V 4Y9
Phone: 250.658.4520
Fax: 250.658.4580



Email: info@royalvictoriamarathon.com
Web: www.royalvictoriamarathon.com

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MEDIA RELEASE

Jon Brown joins the Royal Victoria Marathon Board of Directors

(Victoria, BC – May 29, 2008) Two-time Olympian Jon Brown has joined the Victoria Marathon Society's Executive Board as Director, to assist in the planning and direction of the 2008 and 2009 Royal Victoria Marathon. Brown, who announced in November 2007 that he would in future be running for Canada and not his native U.K., will bring a wealth of expertise and knowledge to the board as it plans the 2008 event and the 30th Anniversary in 2009.

"Jon will be invaluable in promoting the marathon at a number of other high-calibre events during the next two years leading up to our 30th Anniversary celebration," says Victoria Marathon Society President, Bob Reid. "We are hoping that he will attract some international-level athletes who will attempt to break the course records of 2:16:49 for men and 2:42:32 for women."

Brown, who has a personal marathon best of 2:09:31, is delighted at being offered a position on the board. "I have 25 years of experience from running streets and trails to international competition and the Olympics, so I can bring a different perspective to the event." The Victoria resident sees the marathon weekend becoming a top destination event. "Developing relationships with the media, sponsors and elite athletes and encouraging more community involvement is where the future of the race lies," he says.

To attract a higher quality field, 2008 will see the Royal Victoria Marathon offering increased prize money to top athletes. The 2008 purse is \$20,000 including course bonus records – up from \$14,400 in 2007. In 2009 prize money will further increase to \$25,500.

The 29th Annual Royal Victoria Marathon takes place Sunday, October 12; in addition to the Marathon there is a Half Marathon, 8K Road Race and THRIFTY FOODS Kids Run. For registration details, visit www.royalvictoriamarathon.com.

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For more information contact:
Bob Reid
President, Victoria Marathon Society
Phone: (250) 384-1520
Cell: (250) 686-7343