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October 9, 2016

October 8, 2017

## MEDIA RELEASE

### GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon Announces Elite Athlete Field Marathon and Half Marathon Sold Out

(Victoria, BC – October 7, 2016) Two former winners of the GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon will be back to challenge for the 2016 marathon crown, it was announced today at the pre-race media conference. The 2015, 2014 and 2013 champions, Daniel Kipkoech and Lamech Mokono, lead a competitive elite field on Sunday in the 37<sup>th</sup> annual event. Catrin Jones, the women's champion in 2010 and 2013 is also returning. As of noon Wednesday, when online registration closed, there were 8,070 in the five events – the Marathon, Half Marathon, Marathon Relay, 8K Road Race and the Thrifty Foods Kids Run. Both the Marathon and Half Marathon are sold out.

Mokono set the course record of 2:13:42 in 2013, and is looking very fit having run 1:41:50 in the Around the Bay 30K in Hamilton, ON in April and 1:09:43 in the BMO Vancouver Half Marathon in May. Kipkoech is also on top form, winning this year's BMO Vancouver Marathon with a time of 2:21:04. Third seed Bryan Andrews from Vancouver is the 2015 Kamloops Marathon Champion, and has a personal best of 2:29:00 (2015 – BMO Vancouver Marathon).

Jones, from Victoria, ran her personal best in 2013 when she won the Marathon (2:43:03), and has since become an ultra-marathon specialist, finishing third in the 50K World Championships in Doha last December. On her heels will be Eva Vail from Portland, who finished second in Victoria in 2014 with a time of 2:45:54, in her debut marathon. Sabrina Wilke, from Vancouver, is third seed and will be running her first marathon. Her personal best in the half marathon is 1:17:07 (San Jose, 2014).

The Half Marathon field is led by 2015 champion Paul Kimugul who won the BMO Half Marathon this year in 1:05:01. He also triumphed in the 2016 Around the Bay 30K in Hamilton, ON in 1:35:17. Rob Watson from Vancouver is second seed – he has a personal best of 1:03:22 set in New York in 2013. Local favourite, Jim Finlayson, is third seed and top master, with a personal best of 1:05:42 at the Comox Valley Half Marathon in 2005.

"The GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon is excited to welcome back 12 Champions from previous years. I think it speaks to the quality of the races and the organization that elite runners return again and again. Running Royalty will be back on our roads Sunday and we can't wait to welcome them," said Ulla Hansen, Dairyland High Performance Athlete Director.

Four-time winner of the TC10K, Jane Murage, leads the women's Half Marathon field. She has a personal best of 1:11:30 (2013, Philadelphia) and has won the BMO Vancouver Half Marathon twice. Christina Overbeck Crawford from Portland and Jodi Nesbitt from Red Deer, AB round out the top seeds in the women's field.

The men's 8K field is led by Trevor Hofbauer from Calgary, with a PB of 23:00. Second seed is last year's winner, Nick Walker from Victoria, who finished in 26:16, and third seed is Brendan Laan from London, ON with PB of 24:00.

Lindsay Carson, the 2014 and 2015 8K champion from Whitehorse, is returning to defend her 8K title. She won in 27:32 last year. She will be challenged by Lindsey Drake from Portland and Taryn O'Neil from Vancouver.

Presented by



The recipient of the Frontrunners 'Walk of Fame' was named as Jamie Morgan. Morgan is a Frontrunners Clinic Coordinator who has tirelessly put in hours of volunteer time over the last 10 years, leading the marathon and half marathon clinics. He is moving to Vancouver where his wife works.

For the eighth year in a row the event will host the BC Marathon Championships. The total prize purse for the Dairyland High Performance Athlete Program in the Marathon and Half Marathon is \$36,650, with \$4,000 each going to the top male and female Marathoner, and a \$5,000 bonus for a new men's or women's Marathon course record. The Men's course record was set in 2013 by Lamech Mokono in 2:13:42 and the Women's by Lucy Njeri in 2011 (2:37:56). Natasha Wodak-Fraser set the women's Half Marathon record in 2012 (1:14:06). The Men's Half Marathon record is held by Jon Brown (2002 – 1:02:32). Gary Barber holds the men's 8K Road Race course record (1989 – 23:23), and Ulla Marquette holds the women's record (1991 – 26:24). Two World Records have also been set in Victoria - Gwen McFarlan in 2010 in the W75-79 (4:02:27); and Betty Jean McHugh in the W80-99 in 2008 (4:35:52).

As of online registration closing on Wednesday the Marathon has 1,350 registrants; the Half Marathon has 3,200; the 8K Road Race has 2,441, the Marathon Relay has 125 (25 teams) and the Thrifty Foods Kids Run is at 854. Late entries for the 8K, Marathon Relay and the Thrifty Foods Kids Run are being accepted at the Race Expo, at the Victoria Conference Centre, from 3:00 pm – 7:30 pm on Friday, October 7, and 9:00 am – 6:00 pm on Saturday, October 8. There is no race day registration.

For more details visit [www.runvictoriamarathon.com](http://www.runvictoriamarathon.com)

- 30 -

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