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October 9, 2016

October 8, 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

Kipkoech wins his third consecutive title at the 37th Annual GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon

(Victoria, BC – October 10, 2016) It was a runaway win yesterday for Daniel Kipkoech who made it three in a row to win the GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon. Under ideal conditions in B.C.'s capital, the women's race was an exciting duel between Sabrina Wilkie and Eva Vail, with Wilkie triumphant in her first marathon. The Marathon had 1,346 registrants, the Half Marathon: 3,309, the Marathon Relay 135 (27 teams) the 8K Road Race 2,612 and the Thrifty Foods Kids Run: 981, for a total of 8,383.

Kipkoech, who trains in Lethbridge, was never challenged as he took a comfortable lead from the start, running a 3:10 pace at the 10km mark with more than a two and a half minute lead over Bryan Andrews from Vancouver. By half way his lead had increased to just under five minutes, clocking a 1:08:39. At 30km it was over five minutes and it was obvious he had the race under control. His finishing time of 2:20:33 was 8:27 min ahead of Andrews who finished in 2:29:00 and was top Canadian. James Desalvo, from Winthrop, USA, was third in 2:35:05 and was top Master.

Kipkoech said he felt fatigued due to only getting six hours sleep the night before, because he missed his flight from Calgary. "One day I will come back and do a 2:10," he said. "I love this course, the people and the support and I dream of running for Canada one day."

The women's race was an exciting duel between Wilkie, from Vancouver and Vail, from Portland with Vail leading most of the way. At the half way mark there was just 24 seconds between them. At 30km they were neck and neck clocking 1:58:24. But Wilkie pulled away and at two kilometres to go, had a 32 second lead. This extended to 1:37 as she cruised to the finish in 2:45:54. Vail clocked 2:47:31, and Andrea Lee from Black Creek, B.C. was third in 2:56:54. Elizabeth Waywell, from Guelph, ON was the top female Master finishing in 3:09:06. The Marathon hosted the BC Marathon Championships, with Andrews and Wilkie winning the 2016 titles.

For the second year in a row Paul Kimugul, who trains in Surrey, BC, won the Half Marathon in 1:07:19. Rob Watson, from Vancouver, came second in 1:09:55, and third, and top Master, was Victoria's Jim Finlayson in 1:11:01. Kimugul felt good and wanted to try for the course record. "The conditions were good but I am racing the Half Marathon in Des Moines, USA next weekend and didn't want to push it," he said. "I come back here as I love the fans and next year I want to run the Marathon."

Jane Murage (Surrey, BC) won the women's Half Marathon in 1:17:25, her first win in Victoria over this distance. Maria Zambrano, from Calgary, AB was second, and top Master, in 1:18:45, and Christina Overbeck Crawford, from Portland, was third in 1:20:13. The four-time TC10K Champion, Murage, felt strong. "There was no wind and by 10km I knew I could win," she said. "The crowds were shouting Go Jane Go, which kept me going."

There were three age group records in the Half Marathon. Jillian Fong (Vancouver) in the W50-54: 1:25:36. David Guss (Calgary) in the M55-59: 1:17:59. Roslyn Smith (Comox, BC) in the W65-69: 1:51:43.

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Trevor Hofbauer from Calgary won the 8K Road Race in 24:36, second and third was a photo finish with Brandon Laan from London, ON, and Mark Wilkie from Vancouver finishing in 25:16. Bruce Deacon (Victoria) was the top Master finishing in 26:27. For the third year in a row, Lindsay Carson from Whitehorse, won the women's race in 27:35, second was Justine Stecko (Victoria) in 29:32, and third was Lindsey Drake (Portland) in 29:44. Top Master was America Aznar (Edmonton) finishing in 32:59. There was one age group record set: by Thelma Wright (Victoria), in the W65-69: 36:57.

This year was also the inaugural Marathon Relay. The winning team was Van Run who finished in 3:01:04. This team was notable as it only had two runners splitting the five legs.

There were 7,264 finishers – 1,094 in the Marathon, 2,810 in the Half Marathon, 2,277 in the 8K, plus 981 in the Thrifty Foods Kids Run, and 21 teams (102 runners) in the Marathon Relay.

For full results from the 37th Annual GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon go to:
<http://www.runvictoriamarathon.com/after-the-race/results/>

The 38th Annual GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon will take place on October 8th, 2017.

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