

Race Director's Report - Regarding the Race Year ending November 30, 2018

I want to start by saying thank you to everyone that made 2018 another successful year for the Queen City Marathon. Without the work of our Board of Directors, Race Committee, hundreds of volunteers, and sponsors we would never be able to put on this world-class event.

Over the past 18 years the Queen City Marathon has seen incredible change and has found its place at the top of the ever-evolving Saskatchewan running scene. Our world-class event showcases not only the best of our city and province but also demonstrates how a group of dedicated volunteers can put on the premier road race in our province, attracting more than 6,000 participants annually.

While 2018 saw a slight decrease in the overall number of participants, the community supporting our event and the work we do continues to grow stronger. Partnerships with our sponsors, EATQCM partners, community groups, charity partners, and groups such as Tourism Regina continue to bring value to our participants and volunteers alike. I am often surprised how many people in Regina will stop me and comment on the Queen City Marathon and how important of an event to our community they feel it is. From truly humble beginnings our event has become a destination event to end the summer each year and something that runners and non-runners alike look forward to.

Our event is not only locally appreciated but is growing in stature across North America. In 2018 we were proud to host a 50 States Club International Reunion during race weekend with more than 50 runners coming from 22 US States; our largest number of American runners to date.

We also continued to support local community groups and youth-serving organizations by providing free registrations to our event. Without this program many Regina youths and families would not be able to participate in our event.

In 2018, our registered participants totaled 6,286. The breakdown was as follows;

- 359 participants registered in the GMS 42.2K Run.
- 15 registered in the City of Regina 42.2K Walk
- 2 registered in the 42.2K Wheelchair
- 1,514 registered in the Auto Gallery 21.1K Run
- 157 registered in the Saskatchewan Egg Producers 21.1K Walk
- 1,019 registered in the Regina Hotel Association 10K
- 718 registered in the Open Road Recreation 42.2K Team Relay
- 565 registered in the Campbell and Haliburton Insurance Family 5K
- 929 registered in the Mini Marathon
- 1,008 registered in the University of Regina Night Owl 5K.

Participants in 2018 came from 7 Canadian provinces and territories, 22 US states, and 2 additional countries. Last year, 92% of our participants were from Saskatchewan, representing more than 200 communities from across our province. A little more than 60% of our participants came from right here in Regina. According to our 2018 registration data, the ratio between female and male participants was 62% female versus 38% male.

With regard to charity and community donations, the 2018 GMS Queen City Marathon was again a success. Thanks to – and on behalf of – our participants, volunteers and sponsors, we were able to make contributions to a variety of local charity and community groups totalling more than \$40,000.

In conclusion, 2018 was once again an exciting year to be race director.

Thank you to GMS for being our title sponsor and to committing to our event in new and exciting ways each year.

Thank you to the Board of Directors for entrusting their event to the Race Committee and myself.

Thank you to the Race Committee for ensuring that the race comes together each year so that each participant has an opportunity to succeed.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who give hundreds of hours each year.

Thank you to our sponsors who trust us to put on a world-class event.

Thank you to the residents of the City of Regina for allowing us to take over many parts of our city on race weekend.

And thank you to our participants who continue to run, walk and roll in our event in amazing numbers each and every year.

Shawn Weimer
Race Director, 2018 GMS Queen City Marathon
Executive Director, RunRegina