

Remembering 23 Lives Lost on the One Year Anniversary

By Linda Harrington

Thirty Nova Scotia Remembers Memorial Race full-marathon participants were at the Portapique Community Hall for a not so bright but early 7AM start, joined at the same early time by their half-marathon participants at Chiganois Elementary School, Masstown. Busses brought runners out from Truro, leaving the RECC at 6AM. RCMP were leading the runners as they made their

way toward the finish line at Victoria Park. Many of the runners knew the victims and carried cherished memories, others just wanted to show their support to the community.

Volunteers manned water stations along the route, encouraging runners as they approached. Bass River, Great Village, Debert, Onslow Belmont, North River and Bible Hill Fire Brigades worked together to keep the runners

safe along the roadway until they reached the town limits.

A large group of runners turned out for the 5K and 10K races held on the Cobequid Trail, Truro.

Just like the outpouring of support this past year, people all across Nova Scotia and Canada have been offering their love and support during the emotional one-year anniversary, as well. Many groups took part in virtual marathons in their home-

towns. All proceeds from the race were supporting the Permanent Memorial Build Project of the Nova Scotia Remembers Legacy Society.

A beautiful Nova Scotia Remembers Memorial Ceremony was streamed online Sunday at 3:00PM and featured CBC's Jeff Douglas as MC. Following a 2-minute moment of silence the IronTide Singers & Dancers of Millbrook First Nation performed the "Honour Song". Messages were heard from Jenny Kierstead, NS Remembers Anniversary Committee, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, NS Premier Iain Rankin and Valerie Kingsbury, Minister at First United Church. Musical tributes were performed by Scott Ferguson, Donna Marilyn, Johnny Reid, Melanie Doane, Brett Kissel and Heather Rankin. A beautiful poem was read by Andrew and Katie MacDonald and a lyrical dance was performed by Sophia Kierstead-Abbass.

4-Page Pull-Out



Residents of Little Dyke cheered the runners on with a "GO RUNNERS" sign.



Water stations were much appreciated to the runners.



Runners for the Nova Scotia Remembers Memorial Race arrived for check in shortly after 6AM.



With all the water stations, runner were able to keep well hydrated. Thank you volunteers!



Businesses and community organizations that fly flags were encouraged by the province to lower them to half-mast for April 18-19. Two minutes of silence was also held on Sunday at 3PM.



Paul Hollingsworth, a reporter for CTV Atlantic in Halifax, interviews some of the runners as they arrive on the bus from the RECC, Truro.



Mother Nature wasn't too kind to the runners! They had to endure a cold drizzle throughout part the race.



Bass River Fire Brigade escorted the runners as they left Portapique. Several area Fire Brigades offered their support to help ensure a safe race.



Several members of Debert Fire Brigade assisted with directing traffic near Masstown.

How Do We Remember April 18 and 19, 2020?

What were you doing last year at this time?
Were you going to church,
Or phoning a friend,
Or maybe just hoping
That COVID would end?

What were you doing last year at this time?
Were you peeking out windows,
Or hiding 'neath beds,
Or preparing for sunshine
To shine on your heads?

What were you doing last year at this time?
Were you listening to radio
Or watching TV?
Were you scanning your iPad?
Were you scared just like me?

What are you doing this year at this time?
Are you remembering and honouring
The people who died?
Are you remembering and supporting
Those who survived?

What are you doing this year at this time?
Are you striving to make
Some good out of bad?
How will you remember
And be less sad?

What are you doing this year at this time?

*(The above is a piece that I wrote as we remembered the mass shooting that took place a year ago on April 18 and 19, 2020).
The Sheila Stewart, April 18, 2021*

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