

Walk in the Park 50km Trail Run
Kamloops, BC
September 5, 2004

This was my swansong as Race Director for the 'Walk' since I have relocated to Powell River, on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia.

Paul Doyle came out with me two days before the run to mark the course and kept me entertained with stories of his recent dnf at the Eagle 100. As always I kept my fingers firmly crossed that the flour marking would not be a) eaten by the wildlife in Kenna Cartwright Park, where the 'Walk' is held, or b) washed away in the event of a torrential downpour.

So, of course, we had a torrential downpour the day before the run, while I was doing pre-race registration. On inspection it looked like the marking was intact so I breathed a sigh of relief.....until race day, when we all discovered that markings at two crucial turns were totally obliterated! I apologise to all who went astray, which was most of the field. Thankfully volunteer Ray on his dual purpose motorcycle was on hand to point runners in the right direction once we found the lack of marking.

Fortunately this all happened on the first of the three loops so everyone was very familiar with where (not) to go the second and third time around!

Peter, in his usual fashion, blitzed the course with no serious competition, finishing in an awesome time of 4:36:40. He was going so fast when he passed me while I was climbing the Tower trail on my second loop (his last loop) I had to check to make sure I had not slipped into reverse! And we had a short conversation as he ran by. In the early '90's when I first met Peter I nicknamed him the 'Running Lung'.....the name is still appropriate.

The rest of the field spread out along the course, enjoying the beautiful early autumn weather. Clarence, who had a strong finish at the Eagle 100, was the second runner in, 34 minutes behind Peter. Despite getting lost, Donna had a strong run to finish fourth overall, with Lorraine, ever cheerful as usual, not far behind.

How often do you see sons come out to run with their mothers? We had two mother/son combos on race day, with Diane and Alec finishing the 50km, and Janice and Greg MacDonald competing on the same team in the relay. Nice to see.

Rob flew down from Whitehorse in the Yukon to use up some airmiles and also to lose his ultra-virginity. Thanks for coming to our event, Rob.

We have seen many multiple finishes at the 'Walk'. This year marked three finishes for Donna, four for Chris, five for Bob (with commemorative golf shirt), six for Lorraine, Diane and Brendan, nine for Paul, and ten for Ken, who was awarded with a '10 Finishes' belt buckle.

I would like to express my personal thanks to the day-of-race volunteers, Linda Woodbury (RD for the day to allow me to run), Judy Biggar, Ray Woodley, Mary Doyle, Kathy and Bob Hill, Suzanne Jordan, Colleen Klassen, Cathy Wiens and Cathy Chamberlain. Also to event sponsors Montrail, Sorrento Barber Shop, the Water Place, Runners Sole and BC Athletics.

Nick Jordan, Race Director

