

2011 BMO VANCOUVER MARATHON HIGHLIGHTS / STATS & FACTS

Sunday, May 1st, 2011 marks the 40th annual BMO Vancouver Marathon.

- The BMO Vancouver Marathon aims to be the premier West Coast marathon and running event; promoting a healthy and fit lifestyle for people of all ages and abilities and encouraging community spirit and community engagement.
- This is the sixth year of BMO Bank of Montreal's commitment as title sponsor. New this year is the BMO Cheer Challenge – watch for 15 community groups along the route, vying for 10 - \$500 prizes.
- The marathon has grown from 46 participants in 1972 to an anticipated 15,000 this year.
 - 10,350 from British Columbia and over 1800 are Canadians from other provinces
 - 40 countries are represented – top countries are United States, Japan, Mexico, Germany & U.K.
 - More than 1,500 children will run in the McDonald's Kids MaraFun
 - 63% are women in the 21.1 km Half Marathon
- To celebrate our 40th year we welcome two legends of the sport to Vancouver. Masters course record holder Roger Robinson and Kathrine Switzer are on the Expo speakers program on Friday, April 29th. Roger Robinson tells the story of the marathon's origins (with vivid film sequences) and Kathrine Switzer recounts the rise of women in the marathon, from exclusion to excellence - and her own inspiring role in that story as the first woman to run the Boston Marathon.
- The very first Marathon winner – who took home the prize in 1972, 73 and 74, Tom Howard is returning to run the Half Marathon. He is the reigning Canadian winner – with a time of 2:14:33 that stands to this day.
- We're leading the way in the bottled water free category. The BMO Vancouver Marathon has pioneered the use of filtered water on course and thanks to Brita we remain one of the few marathons in North America to go bottled water free. This year we are once again using a new and improved compostable cup.
- Fast track - We expect a fast course this year – with three time champion Thomas Omwenga back to run the Marathon - there are expectations of new course records being set in Men and Women's Marathon and in the Men's Half Marathon. On the women's side Kenyan elite runner Hellen Cheron Kosgei is making her first trip to Vancouver.
- Watch out for our 1970's retro bus at the Brita Sports Expo – we are delighted to be working with the Greater Vancouver Food Bank to fill a Coast Mountain bus with non-perishable food donations.
- The BMO Vancouver Marathon is one of the most scenic marathon courses in Canada, taking runners along a 42.2 km route that includes False Creek, Gastown, Stanley Park, English Bay, the Burrard Street Bridge, Kitsilano, Point Grey and ending at Concord Place.
- Over 1700 volunteers are required to assist with staging all aspects of the BMO Vancouver Marathon.
- The following items are needed: 75,00 safety pins / 30,000 litres of water / 60,000 standard 500mL water bottles will be eliminated / 250,000 compostable cups / 10,000 feet of fencing / 140 portable toilets / 11 entertainment stations / 16 water stations / 11 medical stations.

Website: www.bmovanmarathon.ca Twitter: @BMOVanMarathon