

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon co-founders awarded Meritorious Service Medal

HALIFAX, NS, July 14, 2016 – The creation of one of Atlantic Canada’s largest running events has earned Nova Scotia’s Gerry Walsh and Rod McCulloch a federal government decoration.

Yesterday, the Governor General of Canada, David Johnson, honored each of Gerry Walsh and Rod McCulloch, co-founders of the Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon, with a Meritorious Service Medal (Civil Division).

Meritorious Service Decorations recognize remarkable contributions in many different fields. The deeds or activities recognized set an example for others to follow, improve the quality of life in a community and bring benefit or honour to Canada. In this case, McCulloch and Walsh were honoured for their work on the Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon, which has attracted more than 100,000 people since its inception in 2004.

“The Blue Nose has become a successful community event through the efforts of a very large group of passionate, dedicated, volunteers,” said Rod McCulloch. “These folks are what Halifax is all about – community. I am gratefully accepting the award on their behalf.”

McCulloch and Walsh worked with other volunteers to found the Blue Nose Marathon in 2004, with the goal of promoting active and healthy living in Nova Scotia and celebrating that each year through the Blue Nose Marathon. They recently moved to hand the direction of the Blue Nose over to a Board of Directors drawn from the community, and serve as Board members themselves.

“It’s very rewarding to see an idea develop into something remarkable like the Blue Nose Marathon,” said Gerry Walsh. “I’m very proud to be honoured for this work and humbled to see the event continue to reach new and incredible milestones each year.”

Along with McCulloch and Walsh, 16 others were recognized with the Meritorious Service Medal (Civil Division) at yesterday’s ceremony at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax.

About the Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon

Known as ‘the people’s marathon’, the Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon welcomes all ages, abilities and fitness levels to the start line. With the help of more than 1,400 volunteers, the event hosts six running events (Johnson 5KM, Goodlife Fitness 10KM, Recharge with Milk Half Marathon, Scotiabank Full Marathon, Killam Properties Marathon Team Relay and the Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Run-2KM and 4KM), and the largest Active Living Expo in Atlantic Canada. The event takes place annually during the Victoria Day weekend in Halifax and has welcomed more than 100,000 runners since 2004.

For more information, please visit www.bluenosemarathon.com

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