

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon co-founders named Champions of Public Education

HALIFAX, NS, June 8, 2016 – Gerry Walsh and Rod McCulloch, co-founders of the Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon, were named Champions of Public Education by The Learning Partnership today.

Champions of Public Education are selected based on leadership and contributions to publicly funded education in Canada. Since 1999 The Learning Partnership have inducted approximately 76 business and community leaders who champion public education in their organizations and in their personal volunteer activities. Today, both Walsh and McCulloch were inducted for their success and passion to inspire thousands of youth to pursue healthy and active lifestyles through participation in the Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Run.

The two men founded the Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon in 2003. Upon conception, Walsh and McCulloch hoped to see the event evolve into a large world-class running event that showcased the beauty of both Halifax and Dartmouth and allowed people of all ages and abilities to get active. Since the first year, where approximately 3,500 people stood at the start line, the event has seen significant growth in many capacities.

- The Active Living Expo is the second largest Expo of its kind in Atlantic Canada
- More than 100,000 people have lined up at the start line of the Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon since 2003; 12,286 people participated in 2016.
- The Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Run has grown to be Canada's largest youth running event.

"The start line at the Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Run is unlike anything you'll ever see," said Rod McCulloch. "We have kids ranging from 2 months old to 15 years old participating. You can tell by the energy that this is a much anticipated event for the whole family, and we're really proud of that."

2016 was a record year for the Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Run, with more than 4,200 youth participating in both the 2KM or 4KM races. The event has become a great way for youth to celebrate active, healthy living, while promoting the key message that physical activity can be fun.

"These kids have grown up running the Blue Nose Marathon and it's been inspiring to watch them progress out of the shorter youth distances into the longer, more challenging courses," said Gerry Walsh. "This was our goal – to give them an event to look forward to and train for each year. We're honoured to be named Champions of Public Education by The Learning Partnership for this work."

The Halifax Champions of Public Education Tribute Luncheon was held today, June 8, at the Prince George, Hotel. Rod McCulloch, Gerry Walsh and Dr. Stan Kutcher were the three Nova Scotia inductees for 2016. Educators Janice Graham-Migel and Cameron DeBaie of the Halifax Regional School Board were also recognized for their exceptional efforts to bring entrepreneurial and experiential learning in their respective schools through The Learning Partnership's programs.

About the Learning Partnership

The Learning Partnership is a national charity dedicated to building stakeholder partnerships to support, promote and advance publicly funded education in Canada. We do this through five key deliverables – innovative student programs, executive leadership for educators, knowledge mobilization and policy, tribute celebrations of excellence and ongoing collaborations across Canada. Since 1993, more than 6.1 million students have participated in The Learning Partnership's programs.

For more information, please visit <http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca>

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 2003.

For more information or to register for 2017, please visit www.blunosemarathon.com

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