

Unique motivations, common goal

THIS YEAR'S TEAM: *Province* runners have their eyes on the big May 7 prize

BY HOWARD TSUMURA
SPORTS REPORTER

Runners have always represented every aspect of our society, so this year, when it came time to choose the six members who would make up *The Province's* 2006 BMO Bank of Montreal Vancouver Marathon team, we decided to look at every corner of our fitness community.

In fact, when Running Room founder and *Province* team coach John Stanton looked at the six athletes he will begin training next month to complete the 42-kilometre distance on May 7, he couldn't help but remark, "It's a great blend, a great cross-section."

Our six-person team has athletes in their 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s.

At one end of the spectrum we have the most decorated runner we've ever had in former Simon Fraser University All-American cross-country champion Andrew Lenton, 37, of Coquitlam.

But we also have our first walker in 51-year-old Tina Doughty, a Delta homemaker who decided to start walking to shed some extra pounds.

Each of our six has never run a full marathon. And each of our six has his or her own reason for wanting to make the race a life-defining moment.

There's our youngest team member, 26-year-old Andria Tse of Burnaby, an electrician by trade who passionately coaches her boys Pee Wee rep team in the Burnaby Minor Hockey Association. Tse was involved in a serious motorcycle



A new group of *Province* volunteers has committed to the Vancouver marathon. JASON PAYNE — THE PROVINCE

accident four years ago partway through training for her first marathon. Four years later, she's ready to give it her first real try.

Vancouver's Peter Fairey, a 50-year-old lawyer, just figures he'll

have to get up even earlier in the mornings to complete his training runs. While his profession keeps him busy, so does his family as he makes the time to drive to hockey practices and meet all the demands

that having children involved in amateur sport asks of us.

Surrey's Marty Niver, 47, has been cycling the 58-kilometre round trip from his home in the Cloverdale area to his workplace in Delta at

least three times a week, and all those journies have the electrician looking lean and mean and ready to pound the pavement. But, as he admits, there is always a fear of the marathon distance.

And then there's Port Coquitlam's Tara Smith, a 32-year-old who never thought she'd ever line up and run a full marathon. Her mom Jeni and sister Keri were the runners in the family.

But Smith, a nurse who has lost 105 pounds and run two half-marathons since October of 2004, has found the inspiration to change her life through running.

"There is always another goal and it's about life achievement," says Stanton, who will be waiting at the finish line in May to congratulate each of his runners. "And each one of them has a personal reason for doing it."

Over the next four months leading up to the race, we will bring you those stories. We'll explore the world of inspiration that lies within each of our team members.

And along the way, as we always hope, their stories will inspire you to take on a similar challenge in your life, whether it be running the marathon, a 10-K or perhaps starting a weekly walking or running program.

As the *Province* team hits the roads, they hope to be your inspiration.

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OUR RUNNERS:



TINA DOUGHTY



PETER FAIREY



ANDREW LENTON



MARTY NIVER



TARA SMITH



ANDRIA TSE



JOHN STANTON

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