



PRESS RELEASE

5K / HALF MARATHON

Canada Army Run Sets Sights on Becoming North American Destination Run

Military and civilians run together in half-marathon and 5K events to celebrate and recognize contributions of Canadian Forces at home and abroad

OTTAWA, Ontario (June 22, 2009) – On the heels of the most successful [Ottawa Race Weekend](#) ever, organizers of that event are now turning their focus and energies towards creating another North American destination run: [Canada Army Run](#), scheduled Sunday, September 20.

“Ottawa is a running town,” said Jim Robinson, General Manager of Ottawa Race Weekend, who has been hired by the Department of National Defence as the official race organizer for 2009 Canada Army Run. “Ottawa is also a beautiful city and, as the Capital of Canada, draws visitors from across North America and around the world. I have no doubt that the Army Run will grow to become a major destination for runners across North America and as important to the city as Ottawa Race Weekend.”

The Army Run made Canadian history last year by shattering records for the largest number of entrants for an inaugural run. The sold-out event brought together 7000 civilians and military personnel who ran, walked, or wheeled together along spectator-filled streets and raised tens of thousands of dollars for [Soldier On](#) and the [Military Families Fund](#), initiatives that support injured soldiers and military families in need.

This year’s Canada Army Run is expected to break records again, with planning underway for an even bigger and more exciting event.

“We expect to break records for growth this year,” said Major Christopher Horeczy, Army Run Director, “particularly in the numbers of civilians who join us. It’s an opportunity for the military – Air Force, Army, and Navy – to extend our military *esprit de corps* and camaraderie to all Canadians and to express our appreciation for their support. It’s also an opportunity for civilians to run, walk or wheel beside the Canadian men and women who serve them at home and abroad.”

“For soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen,” said Commander of the Army [Lt. General Andrew B. Leslie](#), “there’s nothing more powerful than knowing you have the support of Canadians for what you do at home and abroad. That’s one of the reasons Canada Army Run has been an overwhelming success. It provides an important opportunity for civilians and the military to come together in a show of camaraderie and mutual respect. I’m looking forward to this year’s run and for another opportunity to say ‘thanks’ to our troops and the Canadians who support them.”

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PRESS RELEASE – CANADA ARMY RUN

From the [105 mm Howitzer cannon](#) used as the “starter’s pistol” to the “dog-tag” medals participants receive at the finish line, this event is “military” in every aspect. Among the highlights: a field-kitchen-style pasta dinner the night before; two dozen generals, led by the Commander of the Army; the [Central Band of the Canadian Forces](#); a helicopter start-line fly-past; a [Skyhawks Parachute Demonstration Team](#) jump; a vanguard from the [Canada Army Veterans Motorcycle](#) team; and distinctive long-sleeved technical running shirts that incorporate the [CADPAT Canadian camouflage pattern](#). The start of both the half marathon and 5K also includes a special salute to injured soldiers, more than 30 of whom participated in 2008.

Last year’s event drew participants from every province and territory in Canada, as well as from the United States and dozens of other countries.

Registration is now open at www.armyrun.ca.

A social media release has been posted [here](#).

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About Canada Army Run

[Canada Army Run](#) is a unique running event in which civilians run, walk, or wheel side-by-side with members of the Canadian Forces (Air Force, Army, and Navy) in half-marathon and 5K events. Launched in 2008 with 7,000 runners (a Canadian record for the largest number of entrants for an inaugural run), this event is expected to grow to become a North American destination run. Fundraising efforts benefit [Soldier On](#) and the [Military Families Fund](#). The 2009 Canada Army Run is scheduled for September 20.

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