



## **New Race Directors crafting new future for Niagara Falls International Marathon**

**Sept. 2, 2016** – New race directors for the Niagara Falls International Marathon are drawing inspiration from Niagara Falls to enhance the unique experience on race weekend this year.

The Niagara Falls International Marathon named Diane Chesla and Henri Ragetlie as race directors last fall and they've been scouring all things Niagara Falls for ideas to enhance race weekend Oct. 28-30. Niagara Falls has inspired the 2016 finishers' medals and the yet-to-be revealed design of the souvenir race shirt.

And, organizers have lined up a local craft brewer, the Niagara Brewing Company, as host for the official post-race party Sunday, Oct. 30.

"We know running and beer go really well together," says Ragetlie. "Runners are a social bunch and this year we're inviting everyone to celebrate their accomplishments and share their race stories with ice cold beer after a great run."

[Registration](#) for the Niagara Falls International Marathon is open. The full marathon begins in Buffalo N.Y. and finishes in Niagara Falls, ON. Other races include a half marathon, the David Gregory MacKinnon Memorial 10 km and the Niagara Helicopter 5 km. All races are on Sunday, Oct. 30 and finish at the brink of the falls.

The new race directors have a long track record for organizing successful races in Niagara and Ontario. Ragetlie has been directing the Niagara Ultra and other road races for the St. Catharines Road Runners and Walkers Club for 20 years. Chesla was behind the Chocolate Race in St. Catharines for six years and directs two races in the Ontario Ultra Series.

"Both are avid runners and bring that perspective to the Niagara Falls International Marathon," said Dean Iorfida, chair of the annual event's board of directors. "They have strong connections within the running industry – they have their fingers on the pulse and we're happy to have them on board."

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Organizers are enhancing the Health and Fitness Expo at the Scotiabank Convention Centre Oct. 28-29 so there's something for everyone: race participants, their friends and family and others interested in healthy lifestyles. They're also planning race-day entertainment – live bands, costumed performers and more – to add to the fun.

“Our participants love chasing their personal bests on our scenic course,” said Chesla. “Coming in, we wanted to look at some of the other things we can do. These may be small changes, but they all add to enhancing the unique and rewarding experience of the Niagara Falls International Marathon.”

Visit [www.niagarafallsmarathon.com](http://www.niagarafallsmarathon.com) for more information about the Niagara Falls International Marathon and race weekend.

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