



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **TC10K and Half Marathon Elite Athlete Field Announced**

(Victoria, BC – Friday April 24, 2015). The elite field in this year's TC10K could be hotly contested with the top seeds all aiming for a 29 minute finish. Vancouver's Kelly Wiebe, winner of the 2014 East Side 10K, will be up against 2013 TC10K winner Paul Kimugul and Leonard Kipkoech, who placed third in last week's Vancouver Sun Run. The women's field will see 2013 and 2014 champion Jane Murage returning, and she will be competing against American Lindsey Scherf, and Victoria's Lemlem Ogbasilassie, who placed second in the TC10K last year. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Half Marathon will see Nick Walker defending his title, his biggest threat coming from Canadian National Team mountain runner, Kris Swanson.

Wiebe, who placed 6<sup>th</sup> at last week's Vancouver Sun Run is a 3-time World Cross-Country team member, and the winner of the 2013 GoodLife Fitness Victoria Half Marathon (1:04:59). Kimugul returns to Victoria hoping to better his 2013 winning time of 29:44. He won the Around the Bay 30K just three weeks ago and is in fine form. Kipkoech is eager to better his Sun Run time of 29:05, but there will also be competition in the Masters field. Philip Samoei, Jim Finlayson, Kevin O'Connor and the newly crowned Vancouver Island Series champion Craig Odermatt could well be in the top five.

Murage was third in the Vancouver Sun Run last week in 33:17 bettering her 2014 TC10K by 38 seconds. Scherf, from New York, is a 6-time NCAA Division 1 athlete and ran the Sun Run last week in 33:30, finishing 4<sup>th</sup>. Ogbasilassie's time last year in the TC10K was 35:27, and last week won the Sooke 10K in 36:57, setting an age-class record. The women's Master's field at the TC10K is always competitive and we will see local favourites Lucy Smith and Marilyn Arsenault battle it out – Smith can never be discounted and Arsenault is in phenomenal form having recently won the Masters title in the Carlsbad 5000 in 17:30. Lioudmila Kortchaguina will also be in contention. The five times Canadian marathon champion won the 2014 GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon.

Both Walker and Swanson have set goals of 1:12 in the Half Marathon. Walker won last year in 1:13:25. Swanson ran the TC10K in 2014 in 31:39 and also 'doubled' in the Half finishing in 1:25:07. Andrea Snider from Grand Prairie is the top seeded female with a goal of 1:29. She ran the 2014 Grimsby Half Marathon in 1:30:52. But don't disregard Cheryl Nicolls – she won the Women's Masters title in 1:26:00 last year, and has run the GoodLife Fitness Victoria Marathon in 1:18:01.

At close of online registration on Wednesday 10,127 had registered. Individuals can still register at Race Package Pick up from 12 noon – 7 pm, Friday April 24, and 10 am – 6 pm on Saturday April 25 at the Race Expo at the Victoria Conference Centre, 720 Douglas Street. The TC10K starts at Government and Belleville Streets: the start times are 7:55 am for the wheelchair and visually impaired athletes and at 8 am for the 10K. The Half Marathon starts at Centennial Stadium, University of Victoria at 9 am. For more information: [www.tc10k.ca](http://www.tc10k.ca)

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