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Contact: Zach Schneider  
Marketing & Public Relations Director  
[zach@grandmasmarathon.com](mailto:zach@grandmasmarathon.com)  
(218) 727-0947

**BOB HARTL NAMED 2024 RON DAWS  
AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR**

*Longtime Board Member, Participant of Grandma's Marathon*

**(DULUTH, MINN.)** --- Bob Hartl has been named the 2024 Ron Daws Ambassador of the Year, it was announced today by Grandma's Marathon.

Hartl's involvement with the race spans nearly three decades, beginning in 1992 when he first joined the Board of Directors, a position he held with distinction until 2021. Throughout his tenure, Hartl not only helped shape the strategic direction of the marathon but actively participated in the events, completing almost every Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon – often finishing among the top 100 competitors.

Hartl served on many committees during his time on the Board, including as chairperson in the late 1990s. In those roles, Hartl worked year-round to help organize and improve the race, but most of his favorite memories of Grandma's Marathon have come as a participant.

"I always felt the excitement of actually being in the race," he said, "and appreciated the chance it gave me to meet and get to know runners from all over the country and the world. I viewed it as part of my job to share the perspectives of those other runners with the Board when we talked about the race."

As a Board member, Hartl traveled to many other races and was always very proud with the reception Grandma's Marathon received. The many comments about how well the race is organized and supported stood out as a great tribute to the wonderful work of its staff, Board of Directors, and community volunteers.

"Given my many years on the Board, Grandma's Marathon has been a major part of my life," Hartl said. "I am humbled to be joining the previous recipients, some of whom are friends, some running peers, and all of whom have provided me inspiration over the years."



The award is named after Ron Daws, who was a 1968 Olympian and instrumental to the development of road racing in Minnesota. It's presented each year to an individual or group who has been a leader in the development and growth of long-distance running and who has shared a commitment toward Grandma's Marathon and the City of Duluth.

## RON DAWS AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

<b>2023</b> – Rafael Botello-Jimenez	<b>2007</b> – Doris Windsand-Dausman
<b>2022</b> – Katie McGee	<b>2006</b> – Dan 'Digger' Carlson
<b>2020-21</b> – n/a	<b>2005</b> – Ed Hermel
<b>2019</b> – Dan Conway	<b>2004</b> – Kelly Keeler
<b>2018</b> – Patricia Goodwin	<b>2003</b> – Bill Andberg
<b>2017</b> – Austin Jarrow Sports	<b>2002</b> – Terry Lundberg
<b>2016</b> – Brian Larsen	<b>2001</b> – Richard Braun
<b>2015</b> – Peter Graves & Michael Pinocci	<b>2000</b> – Rob Link
<b>2014</b> – Joanie Holst	<b>1999</b> – John Goldfine
<b>2013</b> – Huck Andresen	<b>1998</b> – Kerry Rodd
<b>2012</b> – Jon Anderson	<b>1997</b> – Doug Kurtis
<b>2011</b> – Gloria Jansen	<b>1996</b> – Garry Bjorklund
<b>2010</b> – Martha Firling	<b>1995</b> – Dick Beardsley
<b>2009</b> – Dr. James Kirkham	<b>1994</b> – Dorothy Spencer
<b>2008</b> – Carolyn Mather	<b>1993</b> – Alex Ratelle

For any questions or interview requests, please contact Marketing & Public Relations Director Zach Schneider via phone at (218) 343-9874 or via email at [zach@grandmamarathon.com](mailto:zach@grandmamarathon.com).

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### ABOUT GRANDMA'S MARATHON

Grandma's Marathon began in 1977 when a group of local runners planned a scenic road race from Two Harbors to Duluth, Minnesota. After seeing just 150 participants that year, the race weekend has now grown into one of the largest in the United States and welcomes more than 20,000 participants for its three-race event each June.

The race got its name from the Duluth-based group of famous Grandma's Restaurants, the first major sponsor of the marathon. In addition to the 26.2-mile race, the organization has now added the Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon and William A. Irvin 5K to its weekend offerings.

As the popularity of Grandma's Marathon has grown, our mission has stayed the same – to organize, promote, and deliver annual events and programs that cultivate running, educational, social, and charitable opportunities to our communities.

Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization with a nine-person, full-time staff and a 17-member Board of Directors.



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