

Lobsinger takes honors in biggest 10-km Classic

They were lined up before the race.

They were lined up at the conclusion of the race.

If numbers were any indication, from the Molson's fifth annual Maple Leaf 10-km Classic Bryan Kerr Memorial road race was the most successful in its history.

Altogether, 711 runners registered for the race including almost 300 who waited until just before race time.

Tom Lobsinger led a group of 619 runners across the finish line in a time of 30 minutes and 20 seconds. That bested the previous race record by 20 seconds although many people thought the time might fall under 30 minutes for the first time.

The numbers dwarfed last year's total when about 300 runners participated. The organizing committee wasn't properly prepared for the sudden influx of racers and as a result, the race was 20 minutes late in starting. In addition, the queue at the end of the race reached past the finish line as runners completed the race in droves.

Perfect running weather greeted the athletes. They were met by three water stations en route.

The route began at the Optimist Centre. The runners headed east to Thompson Road, jogged back through Laurier to Bronte Street, went north of Bronte to Mary Street and then ran through the old streets of Milton back to the Optimist Centre.

Significant was the large number of teams which entered. The runners came from as far away as Scotland who annually participate in the race. The club, the Edinburgh Southern Harriers, was the home running club of Bryan Kerr. Kerr organized the first Maple Leaf Classic five years ago.

Harriers captured the team trophy, sponsored by the Optimist Club, beating out a strong challenge from Scarborough Optimists, the perennial winners. Team standings are based on the top three placings of its members. Harriers won 20-31.

Lobsinger won the Bryan Kerr Memorial Trophy for winning the race. He was followed to the finish line by Paul Lockhart, who was second last year, in a time of 30 minutes and 29 seconds; Alec Robertson, of Scotland, in 30:33; Jeff Martin in 30:43; and Bruce McIntyre in 30:52.

The following is a list of top finishers in each of the categories. Carol Davis captured the Open Women title in a time of 36:30 beating out Janet Stalker by 38 seconds. Cathy Riccica was third.

In Junior Men (under 18), Kevin Kozicz was first in a time of 32:15 just nine seconds ahead of Bob Morris. Dave Howarth was third in 32:32.

Doreen Uranick topped the Junior Women followed by Jennifer Gill and Donna Ver-school.

In the men's older categories, Kevin Cormier captured the Sub-Masters (30-40 years) in a time of 31:42. He was more than a full minute in front of Pat Donnelly (32:50) and Charlie McCullough (33:00).

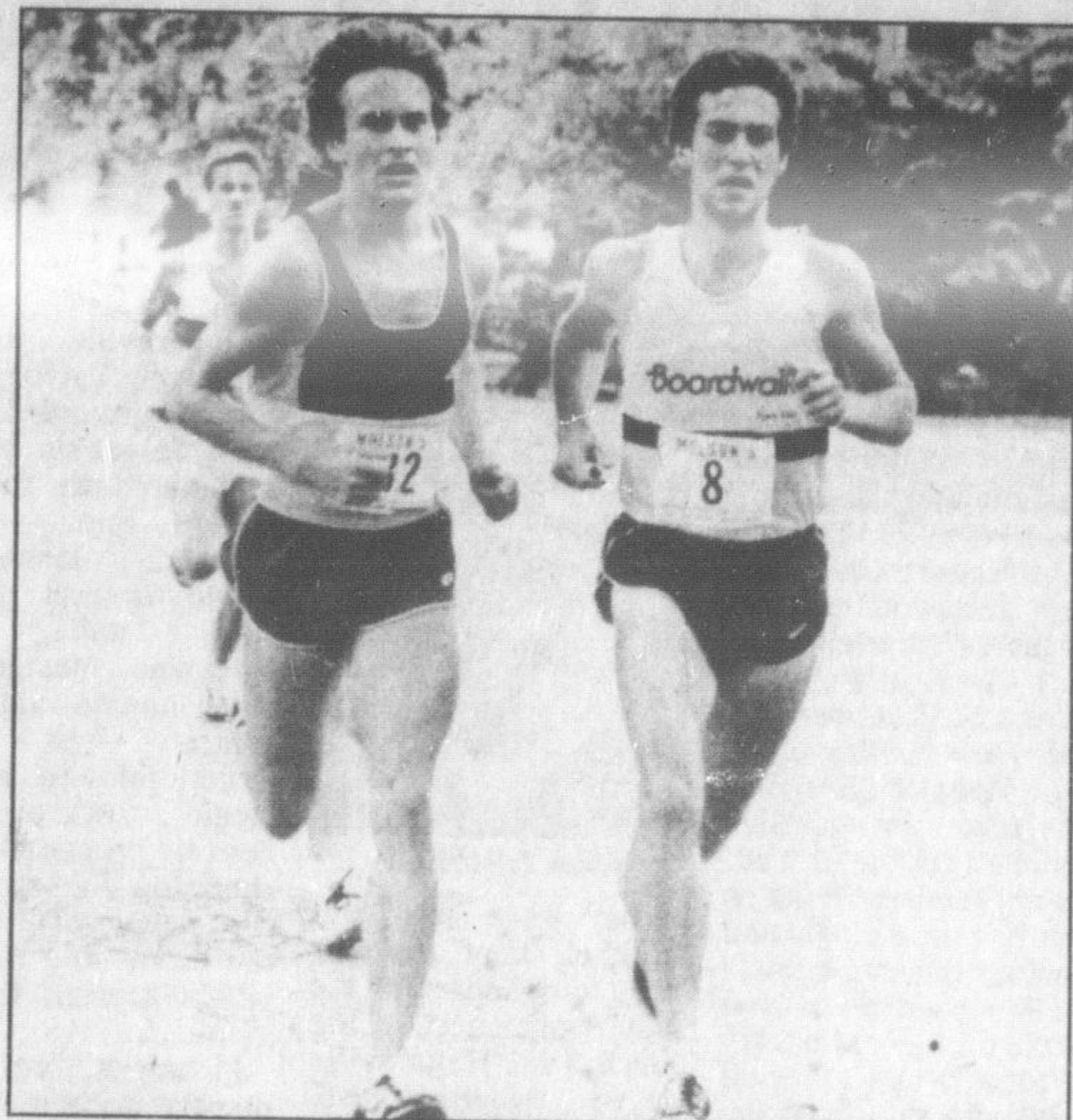
Gary Jackson covered the 10 km in 32:23 to win the Masters (40-50) title. He was followed by James Lufton in 32:54 and Jack Friel in 33:44.

In the Esquire Men's (over 50) group, Jim McIlwhan topped the runners in a time of 35:27. Ron Adams was second in 36:21 while David Milne followed in 37:05.

In the women's events, Judy Barton topped the Sub-Masters in a time of 40:50 just five seconds ahead of Irma Smith. Nancy Wells was third 40 seconds later.

Acton's Audrey McCabe topped the Masters Women (over 40) in a time of 39:05 just being nudged out of the third spot in the Open Women's group. Christine Walker was second in 42:10 with Joanne Castle following in 43:32.

Trophies were presented to the winners. Plaques, made by noted Milton long-distance runner Roy Poloni, were presented to all winners of events. Poloni did not compete because he was busy.



Heading down the final leg of the 10 km. run is winner Tom Lobsinger. A group of five runners broke away from the pack and raced together for much of the race.

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Three water stations were located along the route. This was the second station, at Laurier and Ontario streets, and was warmly greeted by the more than 700 runners who participated. Volunteers had set up the special stations along with a sprinkler to cool

down the runners. The weather co-operated with a relatively cool and not very windy setting.



Race winner Tom Lobsinger receives the Bryan Kerr Memorial trophy from Mr. and Mrs. Kerr for winning the race. The Kerrs are the parents of Bryan Kerr who, five years ago, organized the first race and would, without doubt, be proud of what it has become.



More than 200 people gathered at the finish line to watch the competitors. The first runners appeared back at the Optimist Centre within 30 minutes of the start with the rest arriving for another half hour. The competitors

themselves watched the return of their fellow runners when queues, set up to give all runners an accurate placing, reached beyond the finish line.



In what looks like a horde of humanity, the bulk of the runners head south on Thompson Road and approach Laurier Ave. While some streets were closed to the public during the race, most weren't which

saw cars battling people in the early hours of Sunday for a place on the road.



The agony of running for more than half an hour and 10 km shows on the face of this competitor as

he approaches the finish line. More than 600 competitors finished.