

John Fyalka Award (2 recipients)

This prestigious award is given each year in remembrance of John Fyalka, Jr. a former runner whose life was cut much too short as a result of an automobile accident. The award recognizes outstanding dedication to the club.

Bob Aube and Howard Spear received an impressive endorsement from member of the media this past year – those words speak volumes about all they have achieved on behalf of their race and on behalf of the club. “Eight years ago, the Maine Marathon had 325 finishers and raised \$2,000.00 for

Mar

charity. In 2004, the event got 755 finishers, plus 1,208 in its accompanying half-marathon and almost 200 in the relay division. So, in November, race officials were especially pleased to present Camp Sunshine----a retreat for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families----with a check



for \$40,000.00,," Other local charities such as the Portland Fire Department Burn Foundation and the Center For Grieving Children also received donations. Including the money raised by scores of Team in Training people, marathon participants since 1997 have funneled almost \$1 million to good causes. And a fair number of those have PR'ed or qualified for Boston on a course that was once renowned as perversely hilly.

"This is Growth. This is Success. This is the Sportshoe Center Maine Marathon/Half Marathon/Relay, an all-volunteer (more than 400 of them) effort that has become, after the Peoples Beach to Beacon 10K, the most glittering jewel in the crown of Maine road racing...."

Thus spoke John Rolfe, Press Herald writer, in special assignment to New England Runner. Congratulations Bob and Howard for all of your success – you are truly deserving of this important award.