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Road race: Gaudreau wins second straight York Hospital 5K women's title

Hospital employee wins women's title for second straight year

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Courtesy photo Runners emerge from the starting line at Saturday's York Hospital 5K

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By **Jay Pinsonnault**
 jpinsonnault@seacoastonline.com
 June 08, 2011 2:00 AM

For the second year in a row and at least the third time in recent memory, York's Lau first woman to cross the finish line at the annual York Hospital 5K Road and Cross Co

Gaudreau, who will compete in the prestigious Mt. Washington 7.6-mile road race later in a time of 20 minutes, and 54 seconds. She held off Kittery's Alicia Marquis, who f

Jeffrey Kelly, of Byfield, Mass., was the overall winner in a time of 17:38. Kelly, 43, finished nearly a full minute ahead of second-place runner Joe McEachern, 40, of Kittery (18:34).

The event raised \$10,000 for the For Every Patient Campaign at York Hospital.

Gaudreau, who works as the practice manager at the Orthopaedic Associates of York Hospital, said it was good to get to run with some of her co-workers.

"Sometimes you work with people and they don't really know what you like to do outside of work," she said. "I love to run."

Gaudreau was especially impressed with the large number of third- and fourth-graders from Coastal Ridge Elementary School who ran the race. Gaudreau credited the large turnout to teacher Robert Johnston.

"It was so great to see so many kids get off the couch and get healthy," Gaudreau said. "It was so great to see their faces at the finish line. It was such a good family day, a great community day."

In total, there were 540 registered runners and 499 crossed the finish line.

"It was even better than I hoped and dreamed it would be," said Jean Kolak-Mercer, the events and marketing project coordinator at the hospital. "We had a lot of families and kids participating. A lot of kids were out running and their parents joined them this year. We loved that."

Kolak-Mercer's two sons ran. Griffin Mercer, 14, placed 10th overall with a time of 20:41, while Graham Mercer, 10, placed 11th, just six seconds later. The two trained for the race with Gaudreau.

"Training with them was the biggest part of the race for me," Gaudreau said. "I was running and talking with Graham most of the race. He's just a dynamo. Seeing all the kids out there today makes you appreciate the youth."

Was Gaudreau upset she lost to the two younger boys.

"Not at all," she said. "They deserved it."

Dawn Fernald, the marketing and public relations director at York Hospital, said the highlight of the day for her was the turnout and seeing so many families running the course.

"There were so many moms and daughters running the race, that was great," she said. "It was also great to see so many York Hospital employees (approximately 50) running and the crowd was great cheering them on."

Kelly and McEachern were followed in the men's top 10 by Evan Morse (18:49) of York; Lewis Chamberlain (19:01) of Eliot; Eric Knowlton (19:39) of Wayland; Kyle Gaudreau (19:54) of York; Garrett Perkins (20:01) of Portsmouth, N.H.; Henry O'Shaughnessy (20:21) of York; Brandon Keims (20:25) of York; and Griffin Mercer (20:41) of York Harbor.

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Gaudreau and Marquis were followed in the women's top 10 by Ann Dragsbaek (22:21) of Catie Keenan (22:24) of York; Brett Norris (22:32) of Salem, Mass.; Kelley Santamaria Point; Morgan Bickford (23:01) of Boston; Erica Webber (23:05) of York; Gabby Fogg (2 Kennebunkport; and Anne Hendrix (23:18) of Scarborough.

Female age-group winners were Violet Sullivan (10-and-under, 23:59) of Brentwood, N.H. Keenan (14-17); Bickford (18-29); Marquis (30-39); Dragsbaek (40-49); Hendrix (50-54) Balentine (55-59, 31:30) of York; Carole Eastman (60-64, 27:10) of South Berwick; Luc 47:08) of Biddeford; and Mary Harada (70-and-older, 34:52) of West Newbury, Mass.

Male age-group winners were Graham Mercer (10-and-under, 20:47) of York Harbor; Camde (11-13, 20:48) of Newmarket, N.H.; O'Shaughnessy (14-17); Morse (18-29); Knowlton (30 (40-49); Fred Weston (50-54, 22:13) of York; Kevin Charles (55-59, 23:12) of Dover, N (60-64, 23:29) of Stratham, N.H.; Paul Bryant (65-69, 30:13) of Kittery; and Duncan M (70-and-over, 24:20) of Kittery.

Hopkinton, N.H.; (22:36) of Kittery 3:08) of

; Fogg (11-13); ; Dee Dee y Lessard (65-69,

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