



Hopkinton Athletic Association

2008 Year in Review

In 2008, the Hopkinton Athletic Association was at the forefront of boosting the civic image of Hopkinton, implementing programs benefiting the community, and working with others to create permanent positive change. The HAA thanks its many volunteers, partners, and supporters that helped make for a successful year! To recap the year, below are highlighted some of the activities in which the HAA was involved:

Marathon Fitness Challenge – Kicking off with a school assembly in March, the HAA and volunteers from the local running club challenged second and third graders at Elmwood School to run a marathon, in small segments, over a 10-week period. Children were given a log book, tee-shirts, and water bottles and treated to a “beach party” at the end of their quest. The program will be supported again in 2009 and hopes to become a permanent part of educational outreach to young children about fitness and self-accomplishment.

“The Starter” a Bronze Sculpture of George V. Brown – The Town of Hopkinton has a unique opportunity to celebrate its history, enhance its identification with the Boston Marathon, and add to the revitalization of downtown by providing a permanent home for the George V. Brown bronze sculpture, “The Starter,” on the Town Common. Brown was born in Hopkinton in 1880, lived on Hayden Rowe Street, and graduated from Hopkinton High School. He left a legacy of innovation and success on the regional sports scene. He joined the Boston Athletic Association in 1900 and was its athletic director for 20 years. He was the starter of the Boston Marathon from 1905 until 1937. It was under his tenure when the race was lengthened to Olympic distance that the start line was moved to Hopkinton. He left his imprint on many sports: manager of the American track and field teams in five Olympics, a member of the US Hockey Hall of Fame and the International Hockey Hall of Fame, he brought the hockey program to Boston University and was its first athletic director from 1918 to 1925, he served as manager of the Boston Arena from 1921 to 1937 and the Boston Garden from 1934 to 1937.

Marathon Week Concert Program – The HAA underwrote and helped organize the 2nd annual Boston Marathon Kickoff Concert with the MetroWest Symphony orchestra on April 13th. In the High School Auditorium. The concert featured a world premier of Chris Florio’s “Nenikekamen” a multi-media piece depicting Greek soldier Pheidippides legendary run from Marathon to Athens with news of the astounding victory over the Persian army. The bronze sculpture of George V. Brown was unveiled to the public at this event.

Greek Flame of the Marathon – Several years ago the HAA worked with the Board of Selectmen and others in Hopkinton to establish a formal Sister City relationship with Marathon, Greece. In 2008, the HAA brought 8 Greek runners to stay with Hopkinton families and participate in the race and activities. Special events were held featuring the runners, the Mayor of Marathon, and representatives from the Greek Embassy. Working with the local Girl Scouts, a teach-in was held at the Middle School. Significantly, the City of Marathon presented Hopkinton with the "Marathon Flame" an eternal flame which burns in Marathon, Greece and now has a permanent home in Hopkinton and joins HAA’s bronze sculpture titled "The Spirit of the Marathon" by artist Mico Kaufman, which depicts Stylianos Kyriakides the winner of the 1946 Boston Marathon as part of our homage to our Sister City.

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PO Box 820
Hopkinton, MA 01748

Run Around Hopkinton Relay – Members of the Hopkinton Running Club and the HAA organized a ‘first-ever’ marathon distance relay event held in May. The race benefited the Pan-Mass Challenge in support of Dana Farber cancer research. The HAA provided funding and support.

Other Local Support – The HAA once again sponsored an art contest for school children in the towns of Ashland and Hopkinton; The HAA entered a team in the Hopkinton Education Foundation/PTA “Spelling Bee”; Working with Friends of the Common, the HAA has provided financial and administrative support for the renovation of the Veterans Memorial Gazebo and other work on the Town Common; The HAA brought together “Team Hopkinton” a group of runners who individually will run the Boston Marathon to raise money for charity in support of the many beneficiaries of the HAA’s grantmaking program described below.

2008 Grants Given

The HAA annually considers grant requests in support of its mission statement: “To support local area community building and social programs through innovative and strategic investment in community infrastructure and programs, often with a focus on health, recreation, and civic image.” In 2008, the following grants were made:

\$4,000	Special Olympics – part of \$20,000 five-year commitment to Hopkinton Special Olympics
\$2,300	East Coast Jumbos – special needs youth hockey
\$5,900	Pan Mass Challenge – in support of the “Run Around Hopkinton Relay” race benefitting Dana Farber Cancer research
\$5,000	The Angel Fund – In support of the Timlin Race in Hopkinton, dedicated to supporting ALS neuromuscular Research
\$10,000	Hopkinton Public Schools for its bleacher project – part of a ten-year commitment
\$1,050	Donation of clothing to Marathon, Greece
\$1,400	Donation of clothing to school in Kenya
\$4,250	Donation of clothing to lesser developed countries through World Vision organization
\$755	Running machine for Middle School wellness program
\$500	Post-prom committee for youth activities
\$500	Dana Farber – for cancer research
\$300	Girls Scouts “Woman of the Year” event
\$150	Hopkinton Education Foundation

2009 Looking Forward

Events and programs the HAA is working on for 2009 include the following:

- A permanent home for the bronze sculpture “The Starter” of son of Hopkinton, George V. Brown
- Boston Marathon kick-off event – “Honoring American Runners”
- “Sun Up to the Gun” – photo exhibit showing pre-race activities in Hopkinton. Originally shown at the New England Sports Museum and also shown at the City of Marathon, Greece “Museum of the Marathon” sponsored by the HAA.
- The “Marathon Fitness Challenge” for grade school students
- Working with feasibility consultants to conceptualize a “Marathon Hall of Fame” or museum in Hopkinton
- Launching a major initiative with our sister city Marathon, Greece related to the 2010 Boston Marathon
- Continuing our assistance with the “Friends of the Common” on the renovation and restoration of the Common.
- Our annual grant-making program to worthy groups

And many more...stay tuned!