



**Media Release  
Attention News Editors**

#100 Delta Gray Building  
11738 Kingsway  
Edmonton, AB T5G0X5

Phone: (780) 455-2200  
Toll Free: (800) 252 7553  
Fax: (780) 452 8946

For Immediate Release

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Great Granddaughter of Legendary Métis to Recreate Historic Run**

Edmonton, AB (*July 16, 2008*) – Shannon Loutitt will follow in her great grandfather's footsteps as she starts out on Billy Loutit's legendary 100 Mile Run on July 18th, 2008.

Runners and walkers are welcome to join Loutitt starting at the St. Albert Running Room and anywhere along Hwy. 2 where it is safe to do so. The first 50 miles will be on Hwy. 2 while the last 50 miles will be run on the original Athabasca Landing trails Billy ran over 100 years ago.

"I haven't run anything near this distance yet and never anticipated doing so, but I've made the decision to honour this amazing man the only way I know," said Loutitt of her hero.

In 1904, Loutitt's great grandfather Billy Loutit, a Métis mail-runner for the Hudson's Bay Company was dispatched from Athabasca to Edmonton, seeking emergency assistance against the great flood as it threatened to destroy the village. By completing this 100 Mile Journey on foot in just 16 hours, he became a hero. By completing it an hour quicker than a second messenger on horseback, he became a legend.

Upon learning of her ancestor's legendary trek, Shannon embarked on her own journey of personal and historical self discovery. Training as runner since 2004, she competed in the Billy Loutit Dispatch Triathlon, placing third in her first year. In addition to participating in a number of other races, her highest achievement so far has been her participation in the 2007 Boston Marathon.

"At 32 years of age hearing Billy's story was enough to get me off my seat and get moving, I belong to something like that and as I go along I learn so much about myself and learn a whole new life, it's a huge gift from my great grandfather," Said Loutitt.

Now, Billy's great granddaughter will pay tribute to his spirit by making a return journey from Edmonton back to Athabasca.

Starting with a brief ceremony at Billy Loutitt's grave in Edmonton and a public gathering at the Alberta Legislative Bandshell, Shannon will embark on this journey from the Hudson's Bay Trading Post Memorial on the legislative grounds. At 10:30 am, from this location her great grandfather had dispatched to in 1904, she will rerun the 100 miles north to Athabasca Landing, in under 24 hours, to bring his spirit home.

"A journey that really began four years ago is about to be embarked upon," said Shannon. "With almost a year of physical, mental and spiritual training along with the remarkable support of so many, my great grandfather's spirit will journey home after 100 years of waiting."

For further information on Shannon Loutitt and the journey, visit <http://www.thenewmessenger.ca/billyloutitrun>.

**Interview Contact:**

Shannon Loutitt  
Tel: (306) 933-9729  
Fax: (306) 382-4977  
Cell: (306) 612-1992  
email: [skloutitt@shaw.ca](mailto:skloutitt@shaw.ca)