



Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon  
264 The Esplanade / Toronto, ON M5A 4J6  
416.944.2765 / STWM.ca

## Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon Ten to Watch - Men

### **Philemon Rono (Kenya)**

Nicknamed 'Baby Police' for his youthful appearance, the 27-year-old Rono arrives in Toronto looking for his third consecutive Toronto Waterfront title. A year ago he set the Canadian All Comers' and Course Record with his 2:06:52. He knows the field is even stronger this year but remains confident he can go faster. He trains alongside Stephen Kiprotich and world record holder Eliud Kipchoge.

### **Stephen Kiprotich (Uganda)**

Kiprotich became a Ugandan national hero when he won the 2012 Olympic marathon, becoming only that country's second Olympic champion in history. A year later he won the 2013 IAAF World Championship marathon in Moscow's searing heat. But for all his outstanding performances he wants to reduce his personal best time (2:06:33). He trains in Kenya with current Olympic champion and world record holder Eliud Kipchoge and Philemon Rono. Despite his remarkable record, he is still only 29.

### **Jake Robertson (New Zealand)**

Along with his twin brother Zane, Robertson moved to Kenya after high school in New Zealand, determined to train with the world's best distance runners. Twelve years of altitude living and training has paid off. In March, the 28-year-old made his marathon debut setting a New Zealand record of 2:08:26 in Otsu, Japan. Victories in major US road races this year indicate he is fit - he equaled his Half Marathon personal best (60:01) in winning the Houston Half in January then won both Beach to Beacon 10k and Crescent City 10k (27:28 New Zealand Record). He says if the pace goes out at 2:05, he is ready. He is engaged to marry his Kenyan girlfriend, Magdalene Masai.

### **Cam Levins (Canada)**

After winning the 2012 NCAA 5000m/10000m double for Southern Utah University and representing Canada at the London Olympics, Levins joined the Nike Oregon Project and had a mixed few years. One of his highlights was a then Canadian 10,000m record of 27:07.51. A year ago, he reunited with his university coach, Eric Houle, to prepare for the marathon. This past March he ran 62:15 at the IAAF World Half Marathon Championships in Valencia, indicating he is finally recovered from foot surgery. More recently, he finished 3rd at the Philadelphia Half Marathon. At 29, he believes he can be a world-class marathoner. Toronto Waterfront marks his marathon debut.

### Reid Coolsaet (Canada)

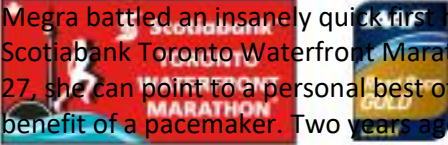
A two-time Canadian Olympian, Coolsaet has been one of the most consistent marathoners this country has ever produced. His 2:10:28 at the 2015 Berlin Marathon was the nearest anyone has come to Jerome Drayton's 43-year-old Canadian record (2:10:09) and on two other occasions he has dipped under 2:11:00. At 39 years of age he wants to prove he still has it in his legs to challenge the world's best. In 2011 he finished 3rd at Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront, marking a significant breakthrough.



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### Ten to Watch - Women

**Marta Megra (Ethiopia)**



Megra battled an insanely quick first half and stomach problems in the latter stages of the 2017 Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon, but she outlasted a strong field to be crowned champion. At 27, she can point to a personal best of 2:24:08 which she set in the Paris Marathon in April - without the benefit of a pacemaker. Two years ago she ran 2:24:43 to finish 2nd in the Xiamen (China) Marathon indicating she is capable now of running nearer the Toronto Waterfront course record (2:22:43). Among her training partners are Amane Beriso (who will line up against her October 21<sup>st</sup>) and two-time Toronto champion, Shure Demise.

### **Amane Beriso (Ethiopia)**

On paper, Beriso is the fastest woman to ever line up at Toronto Waterfront with her 2:20:48 recorded at the 2016 Dubai Marathon. She followed that up with another superb performance at the 2017 Prague Marathon where she finished 2nd in 2:22:15. Earlier this month the 27-year-old reported that her training has been going so well she believes the Toronto course record is within reach. Despite having twice run faster than the record, she is a relative novice at the distance. Dubai was in fact her debut. She trains with Marta Megra.

### **Mimi Belete (Bahrain)**

Belete made her marathon debut only this year, finishing 3rd in Hamburg. Most encouraging for her and her coach was that she achieved 2:26:06 despite a hamstring injury which plagued her for much of the race. Coach Getaneh was shocked that she was able to finish. Born in Ethiopia, she left the East African nation as a teenager seeking asylum in Belgium. In 2009 she was invited to run for Bahrain. With personal best 1500m/5000m times of 4:00.08 and 14:54.71 it is inevitable that she will find great success in the marathon. At 30 she comes to Toronto fully fit and seeking victory.

### **Jess Trengove (Australia)**

The first world-class Australian athlete to line up at Toronto Waterfront, Trengove has a pair of Commonwealth Games Marathon bronze medals in her trophy case (2014 Glasgow and 2018 Gold Coast). Earlier this year the 31-year-old recorded her personal best time of 2:26:31 at the Gold Coast Marathon. For the past few months she has based herself in Holland. On September 23rd she tested herself at the Dam to Damloop 10 mile race finishing a credible 8th in a time of 54:14.

### **Krista DuChene (Canada)**

DuChene stunned many observers when she finished 3rd at the 2018 Boston Marathon this past April at the age of 41. Conditions were dreadful, (rain, cold and wind) but she prevailed. It was not her first time on the podium of a major marathon. She was 3rd at the 2015 Rotterdam Marathon also. She competed for Canada at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. Her personal best time (2:28:32) was recorded at the 2013 Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon.