

Jaan Roos



From the early '80s to 1992, Jaan Roos set 17 Canadian Masters records in M45 and M50; on the outdoor track, the indoor track and the road; and at distances from 3000m to 50K. **The oldest of these records dates back to 1982.** During those years he also set a Canadian Open record for the 2 hour racewalk. This unparalleled achievement in Canadian Masters Racewalking is accompanied by 3 gold medal performances in WAVA meets in 1983 and 1989, including 2 first overall wins while racing in the M45 category. It was a work-related injury in 1979 that led Jaan to switch from distance running to racewalking. While still at the peak of his competitive career he also began coaching racewalking, helping athletes from beginners to the Olympian level. Other contributions to the racewalk community include starting the Ontario Racewalkers Association; organizing racewalk events including an age-graded meet that now takes place on Toronto Island; and, since 2006, serving as a judge at open and masters racewalking meets. As for his coaching, his goal is to help the next tier of athletes to “improve those of my records that are still standing”. At present those athletes have 17 records to aim for. And there may be more, if Jaan is able to continue his career as an M75 racewalker, thanks to knee replacement surgery in 2011.

For his many accomplishments and contributions we congratulate Jaan, and welcome him into the Canadian Masters Athletics Hall of Fame.