

Mount Desert Island Marathon



MOUNT DESERT ISLAND MARATHON  
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[WWW.MDIMARATHON.ORG](http://WWW.MDIMARATHON.ORG)

September 14, 2007

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**OLYMPIC MARATHON CHAMPION TO APPEAR AT  
2007 MOUNT DESERT ISLAND MARATHON**

**September 14, 2007, Mount Desert Island, ME** - The Mount Desert Island Marathon based in Bar Harbor, Maine, and hosted by Crow Athletics running club, is pleased to announce that 1984 Olympic Marathon Champion, Joan Benoit Samuelson, will appear at 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the popular event to be held in October.

The annual marathon has recently been named the *Runner's World* magazine 'October Race of the Month' and will be contested on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The award-winning scenic route runs between Bar Harbor and Southwest Harbor, passing through several towns and villages on Mount Desert Island.

Joan Benoit Samuelson will speak at the annual Pre-Race Pasta Dinner to be held at Mt. Desert Island High School on Saturday evening, October 13<sup>th</sup>. The benefit dinner is from 5:30pm to 7:30pm with Ms. Samuelson speaking at approximately 6:30pm. The function is a charity, fund raising event in support of the music programs at Mt. Desert Island High School. (*As of press time, Ms. Samuelson is not scheduled to run the race.*)

Tickets for the dinner are extremely limited and available only by advance reservation. Visit the MDI Marathon website for more information or to purchase tickets, [mdimarathon.org](http://mdimarathon.org).

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Joan Benoit Samuelson, (5/16/1957) a native of Cape Elizabeth, Maine and graduate of Bowdoin College will forever be remembered for her dominating performance in the inaugural women's Olympic marathon at the 1984 Games, held in Los Angeles, CA. Remarkably, Ms. Samuelson had qualified at the U.S. Olympic trials less than 3 weeks after arthroscopic knee surgery, winning the race.

Ms. Samuelson is a two-time Boston Marathon champion, former world and American record holder for the marathon. She won the Sullivan Award, honoring America's top amateur athlete in 1985. Ms. Samuelson has been inducted into the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame, the National Distance Running Hall of Fame, International Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame, The Boys and Girls Club National Hall of Fame and the International Women's Sports Foundation Hall of Fame.

Ms. Samuelson and husband, Scott, live in Freeport, Maine, with their two children where she continues her running career and works as a Nike consultant. She is a frequent speaker at running, health and fitness events around the world. She founded the popular Beach to Beacon 10k in Cape Elizabeth Maine. She is the author of an autobiography, *Running Tide* (Knopf) and *Joan Samuelson's Running for Women* (Rodale Press).

Joan Benoit Samuelson has qualified to compete at the United States Olympic Marathon Trials to be held in Boston on April 20, 2008. The top 3 finishers will earn a place on the US Olympic team at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

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