

New Yorker seeks Winnipeg cold for North Pole Marathon training

Meeting Winnipegger on Mt. Everest convinces runner to visit

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Winnipeg – Before meeting Winnipeggers Joel Semeniuk and Rod Giesbrecht while climbing to base camp on Mt. Everest, New Yorker Tom Djurdjevich knew little about the Canadian city beyond the fact that it used to have an NHL hockey team. **By the end of their climb, however, Djurdjevich resolved to visit the Peg, and the world's longest skating trail, to train for his next extreme challenge**—running in the [North Pole Marathon](#). All three men are IT consultants and met climbing Everest as part of a tech industry networking trek.

“Joel mentioned that temperatures in Winnipeg regularly dive to -30 C during the winter,” explains Djurdjevich. **“He suggested that running in Winnipeg on the Assiniboine River in January would be the perfect training ground for the North Pole and I accepted the invitation.”** **The coldest temperature the 38-year-old has endured while running is zero degrees Celsius** during the 2005 Antarctica Marathon.

Djurdjevich enjoys pushing himself to the limit and has run **13 marathons on all seven continents**. In part, his motivation comes from a quest to raise funds for cancer research. Djurdjevich has friends battling cancer and has lost friends to the disease as well. Over the past few years, he has personally raised over \$10,000 in support of research at New York's [Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre](#).

Semeniuk, and business partner Rod Giesbrecht, were so impressed with Djurdjevich's drive, that their company, [Imagninet Resource Corp.](#), is sponsoring part of the training trip to Winnipeg as a show of support. Semeniuk states, “Tom is an amazing person with a heart of gold. I admire that he makes sure his adventures have a positive residual effect. We also feel good about promoting Winnipeg's extreme cold as an advantage in this case.”

The North Pole Marathon is a significant challenge. Participants run 26.2 miles along uneven terrain from a drifting North Pole camp. **There is a circular route of 4.2 km, which must be repeated ten times.** Temperatures during April, when the event is held, range from -10 to -40 C factoring in wind chill. Participants must first fly to Spitsbergen, a Norwegian island, before embarking on a 2 1/2 hour flight to an international North Pole Camp called Barneo.

Djurdjevich is psyched for his visit to Winnipeg and to training alongside the world's longest skating trail at The Forks. **“I've seen some pictures of it and it looks awesome,”** he states, **“I'm looking forward meeting more Winnipeggers, embracing the cold and maybe catching some Hockey Night in Canada.”**

Individuals who would like to support this new Winnipeg fan with his cause can visit his fundraising webpage at <http://tinyurl.com/northpolemarathon>.

Djurdjevich will be in Winnipeg from the afternoon of January 16 to the morning of the 19th. He will undertake his training at The Forks River Trail departing from the lobby at Inn at the Forks at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday (January 17).



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