

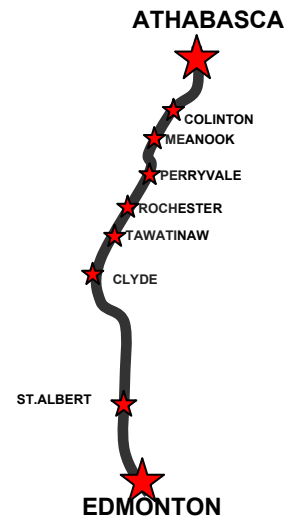
THE 100 MILE JOURNEY to Bring a Hero's Spirit Home

FRIDAY, JULY 18TH, 2008

**- The Start -
EDMONTON LEGISLATIVE
GROUNDS**

**- The Finish -
ATHABASCA, ALBERTA**

Goal: UNDER 24 HOURS



In Athabasca's 1904 flood, Metis Hudson Bay Company mailrunner named Billy Loutitt ran from Athabasca to Edmonton with an important message, or dispatch, of the town's emergency. Billy made the 100 mile journey in a mere 16 hours - an hour quicker than another messenger sent on horseback. **Billy's spirit will return to Athabasca as his heroic steps are retraced by his great-granddaughter Shannon Loutitt, of SASKATOON, SK.**

9 AM - SEND OFF CEREMONY - EDMONTON LEGISLATIVE BAND SHELL

PRESENTATIONS BY:

Audrey Poitras, President Metis Nation of Alberta
Senator Lillian Dyck – of Saskatchewan
David Forbes, Sask. Member of Legislative Assembly
Billy Loutitt, Grandson & Loutitt Family Representative

Hudson Bay Company Representatives
Shannon Loutitt, Great-granddaughter & 100 mile Runner
 Metis Fiddlers - TBA
 Drummer & Singer - Anna-Leah King

SPECIAL ATTENDANCE BY:

Chief Tammy Cook-Searson – of Saskatchewan
Colleen Powell, Mayor of Athabasca
 Loutitt Descendents from Across Canada & USA

Ray Zahab - World Renown Canadian Ultra-Marathoner
Linda Wagar – Famed Author of Canadian Marathon Stories

Other Special Guests expected to be in attendance

10:30am - SHANNON LOUTITT BEGINS 100 MILE JOURNEY (from Legislative Grounds)

12:00PM - Shannon's ETA at RED WILLOW PARK (located across from St. Albert Running Room)

Ray Zahab, Linda Wagar & other runners/walkers from across Canada will join Shannon starting from this location.

First 50 miles on Trans Canada & Highway 2. Last 50 miles on Original Athabasca Landing trail Billy Loutitt ran.
 For ETA's at various checkpoints and communities on the way go to www.thenewmessenger.ca.

**For further information or to schedule interview please call
 Wanda Babichuk at (306)222-1860 or email wandajbabichuk@hotmail.com**