

WILD FIRE

ALEX DIOCHON

THE STORY OF TOM LONGBOAT





THE BOSTON MARATHON, APRIL 19, 1907



THAT'S
A NEW
RECORD!



LONGBOAT
DIDN'T BREAK
THE OLD ONE.*
HE
SMASHED
IT!

I'LL SAY.
BY FIVE
WHOLE
MINUTES.

UNBELIEVABLE.



HE'LL BE
IN HIS HOTEL
HAVING DINNER
BY THE TIME
THE REST OF THE
FELLOWS GET
HERE.

*ANOTHER CANADIAN, JACK CAFFERY, SET THE OLD RECORD IN 1901.



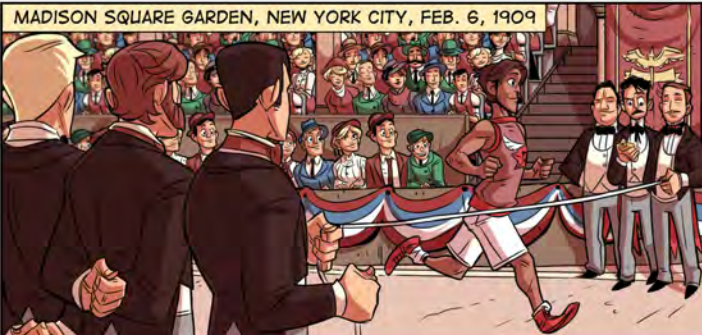
CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR
ACHIEVEMENT,
YOUNG MAN. YOU
MADE CANADA
PROUD.

EMERSON
COATSWORTH,
MAYOR

OLYMPIC MARATHON, LONDON, JULY 24, 1908



MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, NEW YORK CITY, FEB. 6, 1909







TOM LONGBOAT WAS THE GREATEST LONG-DISTANCE RUNNER IN THE YEARS BEFORE THE FIRST WORLD WAR. RUNNING WAS Hugely Popular With The Public, Who Crowded Events To See Him. Newspapers Printed All Kinds Of Stories About Tom Longboat, Some Of Them Made-Up, And Many Of Them Filled With Casual Racism And Insults Because He Was Indigenous. He Gave Up A Career That Was Making Him Lots Of Money In Order To Serve In The First World War As A Dispatch Runner, A Difficult And Dangerous Job Where He Ran Messages From Place To Place. He Died In 1949 Back Home On The Six Nations Reserve Where He Was Born. In 1979, Toronto Named A Street After Him. There Is Also A Tom Longboat Junior Public School In The City. Canada Post Put Him On A Stamp In 1999, With His Record-Breaking Boston Marathon Time Stamped Across It. He Was Named To The Canadian Sports Hall Of Fame In 1955. And In 2008, Ontario Declared That From Then On, June 4 Would Be Known As Tom Longboat Day.

