

Peter Kelly plans to tackle 10k run

By MICHAEL LIGHTSTONE City Hall Reporter

During successive election campaigns, Peter Kelly has followed the politically astute footsteps of Halifax city hall leaders from yesteryear.

But next month, the mayor plans to run in another type of race — the kind that can lead to tired feet, aching muscles, a sore back and psychological second-guessing.

Kelly intends to join thousands of participants at one of the events during the annual Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon weekend in metro.

He said Saturday he's been training for a 10-kilometre run — his first — since late December or early January and simply wants to see what the race-day experience is like.

"But to me, it's not a race," said Kelly, who is not a jogger. "For me, at this stage, (the run) would be a challenge."

The 53-year-old mayor said he wants to discover how far he can push himself. He said he has been training two to three times a week, either early in the morning or late at night.

Before Kelly made it clear he's entering the 10-kilometre run, The Chronicle Herald asked if he was training for the full marathon.

"Are you crazy?" he said.

The mayor's quest to run around part of metro comes almost two years after he was hospitalized with an intestinal infection. In 2008, severe abdominal pain forced him to leave city hall before a council meeting to seek help at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre.

Since then, he said, he has not had to return to the hospital for treatment of the ailment.

Kelly said he has been training on his own and plans to run on his own during the Blue Nose race, without any jogging friends or associates. He said he plans to start slowly and keep a steady pace until the end.

If all goes well, the mayor said, he hopes to enter a road race in Dartmouth during Natal Day festivities in early August. "We'll see how (the Blue Nose) goes," he said. "One step at a time."

The Blue Nose Marathon weekend is May 21-23.

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