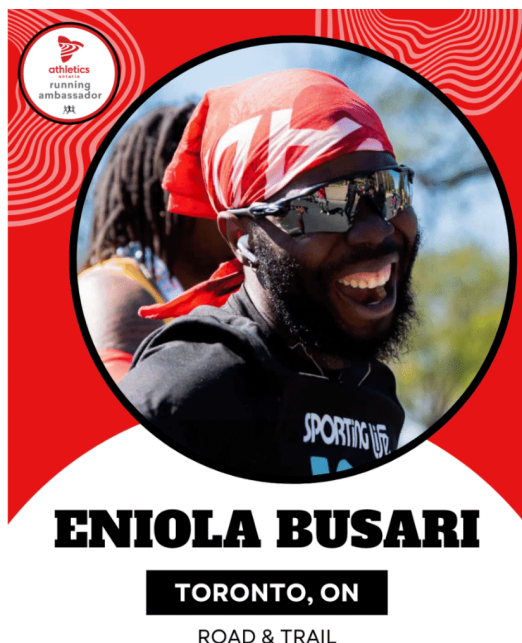




## Athletics Ontario Running Ambassadors

Athletics Ontario's Road & Trail Running Division is proud to announce this year's roster of AO Running Ambassadors! The 2025-2026 cohort reflects the strength, diversity and growth of road and trail running in Ontario. These 12 dynamic community leaders will serve with passion and positivity, inspiring fellow runners and motivating aspiring athletes to lace up and get moving. Through meaningfully engaging their communities, providing valuable insights, and sharing their own journeys, our ambassadors continue AO's mission of making running safe, fun and accessible for all in Ontario – **For you. For all. For LIFE!**

## Meet the 2025-2026 AO Running Ambassadors!



### Eniola 'Eni' Busari

**IG Handle:** [@Eni\\_busari](#)

**City:** Toronto

**Specialty:** Road & Trail

**Bio:** Eni took up running 5 years ago during the COVID pandemic as a way to stay active. He has since embraced the sport, toeing upwards of a dozen start lines annually. Most importantly, he has discovered camaraderie. A captain with [ME VERSUS ME](#) and a member of the first ultra relay with [Team Ultra Black](#), Eni is passionate about helping to get more people of colour into the sport, and sharing the joy of running with his community!

### Dekel Chui

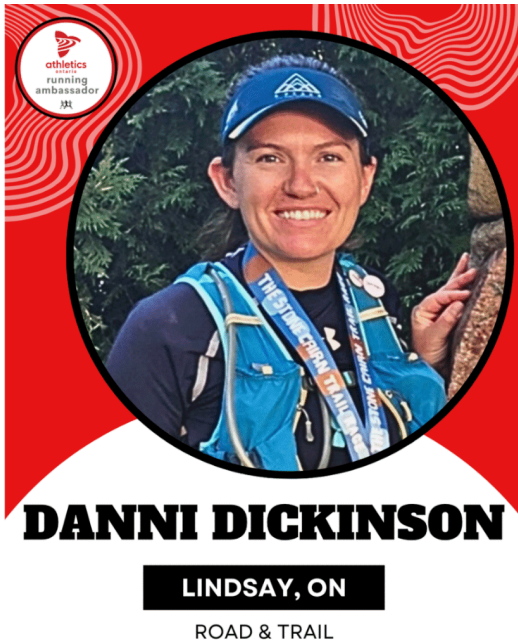
**IG Handle:** [@dekelchui](#)

**City:** Toronto

**Specialty:** Road

**Bio:** After a hiatus from running, Dekel rediscovered his love for the sport in style – he is part of a team that holds two Guinness World Records, for Fastest Marathon and Fastest Half-marathon in a Five-Person Costume (dressed as a Streetcar). Dekel loves racing and pacing throughout Toronto, as well as serving on the Board of Directors for [RunTOBeer](#). The proud Torontonian strives to make the running community more accessible and welcoming to all paces and abilities. "Running has given me friendships, resilience, and mental strength, and I want to help others find that too."





**DANNI DICKINSON**

**LINDSAY, ON**

ROAD & TRAIL

## Danni Dickinson

**IG Handle:** [@danni.d12](https://www.instagram.com/danni.d12)

**City:** Lindsay, ON

**Specialty:** Road & Trail

**Bio:** Danni started running regularly in 2022, registering for her first race as a way of honouring her late father. Over the last 3 years she and her family have served as volunteers for [Green New Adventures](#) and [5 Peaks \(Ontario East\)](#). Danni believes that it is important to showcase runners of all makes, sizes, abilities and speeds. She's especially passionate about showing young girls that they can be strong, run far and be proud of themselves, no matter what!

## Aristotle Domingo

**IG Handle:** [@amputo](https://www.instagram.com/amputo)

**City:** Toronto, ON

**Specialty:** Road

**Bio:** Aristotle is an athlete, actor and advocate. He is also a double below-the-knee amputee. Aristotle underwent his first low leg amputation in 2017 and his second in 2019. He says that although it's hard to believe, limb loss changed his life for the better. Aristotle is the founder of the [Amputee Coalition of Toronto](#), which has a mission of "supporting, advocating and empowering amputees in the Toronto and GTA area through social events & peer visitation program". He was recognized as the 2021 ParaSport Ontario Ambassador of the Year.



**ARISTOTLE DOMINGO**

**TORONTO, ON**

ROAD



**ERIN DOUCETTE**

**TORONTO, ON**

TRAIL

## Erin Doucette

**IG Handles:** [@a\\_girl\\_called\\_ernie](#), [@the.trail.collective](#)

**City:** Toronto

**Specialty:** Trail

**Bio:** Erin is a founding member of the Trail Collective (TC), which aims to improve inclusion in the sport of trail running by offering free, high-quality trail running clinics and events. TC encourages those who are new to the sport to get on trails and take up space. Erin is also a lead with Toronto Trail Runners (TTR). Through her work, she strives to make meaningful connections and support other runners and events that weave social justice and inclusion frameworks in their initiatives. "Providing opportunities for folks to build community, build capacity, and feel that they belong in the sport is the goal!"

## Mark Jakob Jobst

**IG Handle:** [@markjakobjobst](#)

**City:** Sault Ste. Marie ON

**Specialty:** Road & Trail

**Bio:** Mark is a recent graduate of Algoma University, where he was a member of the [Cross-Country Running](#) and [Nordic Ski](#) Teams. The former varsity athlete is still very active in the school's athletic culture, coaching in several capacities: he is an Assistant Cross-Country Running Coach, and the Team Manager & Assistant Coach of the Nordic Ski Team. He is also a Community Coach for XC Running & Endurance Track Events at his high school, [Korah Collegiate](#). Mark serves in a mentorship role as an Alumni of Algoma University, providing athletes with guidance in balancing academics while showing a commitment to and love for competition. If you ask Mark why he does what he does, he'll tell you that he has a strong desire to reciprocate the advocacy and support that he received from his past coaches. Proud to call Sault Ste. Marie his hometown, Mark works diligently to promote recruitment, development and retention of high school and varsity athletes, as well as community runners in the Northern Ontario city.



**MARK JAKOB JOBST**

**SAULT STE. MARIE, ON**

ROAD & TRAIL





## DEANNA KELLY

ST. THOMAS / LONDON, ON

ROAD & TRAIL

## Deanna Kelly

**IG Handle:** [@deannapkelly](https://www.instagram.com/deannapkelly)

**City:** St. Thomas / London, ON

**Specialty:** Road & Trail

**Bio:** After being diagnosed with a degenerative nervous system disease two years ago, Deanna took up running to feel empowered in her own body. The mother of two also wanted to show her young daughters that they are capable of anything they set their mind to. She has since completed more than 5 half marathons, 3 marathons, and 3 ultras, and has 9 races on the calendar for 2025! Deanna says "as a teacher and elementary running coach I strive to teach the younger generation the importance of daily activity and how wonderful an outlet running can be".

## Michelle Leduc

**IG Handle:** [@little.duker](https://www.instagram.com/little.duker) [@russellrunclub](https://www.instagram.com/russellrunclub)

**City:** Russell, ON

**Specialty:** Road & Trail

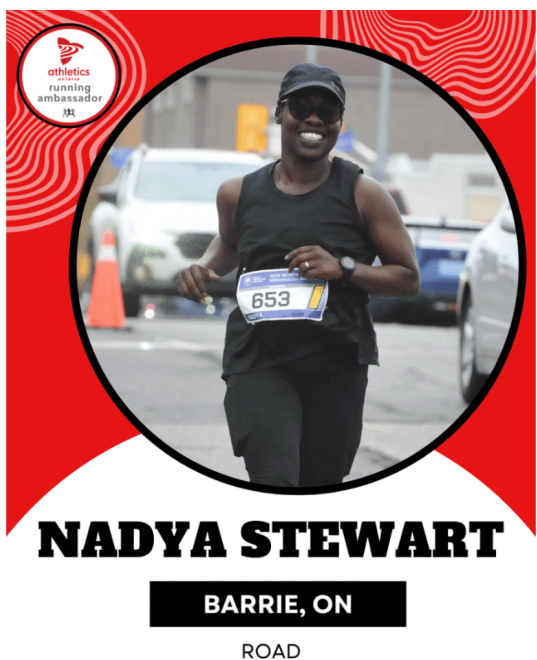
**Bio:** For Michelle, what started 30 years ago with a 20-minute run "to see why people did it" has evolved into numerous FKT's, a (former) Canadian 100-Mile Record, and a love of multi-day adventure runs. Michelle loves sharing her passion with her community: she is the Head Coach and Founder of [Russell Run Club](https://www.instagram.com/russellrunclub), which is 90+ members strong! Their focus is on providing a safe and supportive environment that is open to all ages and abilities. Michelle also works closely with youth volunteers, helping to develop them into future leaders.



## MICHELLE LEDUC

RUSSELL, ON

ROAD & TRAIL



**NADYA STEWART**

**BARRIE, ON**

ROAD

## Nadya Stewart

**IG Handle:** [@nadyaruns](https://www.instagram.com/nadyaruns)

**City:** Barrie, ON

**Specialty:** Road

**Bio:** Nadya has been running on and off since 2011, but found her love for the sport again in 2019 after the birth of her first child. She has since found big community in the running scene in Simcoe County, and has served as an ambassador for several races and causes. "Running intimidates people but once they realize there is a space for them, it makes it that much more accessible," says Nadya. "I want to show people that even if they have never run a marathon or world major, there is a place for them in the running world."

## Denoja Uthayakumar

**IG Handle:** [@denoja224](https://www.instagram.com/denoja224)

**City:** Scarborough, ON

**Specialty:** Road & Trail

**Bio:** Denoja is a proud South Asian Eelam Tamil woman, a childhood thyroid cancer survivor, and a body positivity and mental health advocate. Following the ethos that representation matters, she pulls from the many facets of her identity to show up for and support others with love and positivity. Through her activism and leadership, Denoja is on a journey to create more inclusive spaces where all bodies can feel the magic, empowerment, and celebration of the love for running.



**DENOJA UTHAYAKUMAR**

**SCARBOROUGH, ON**

ROAD & TRAIL



**KERI WONG**

MARKHAM, ON

ROAD

## Keri Wong

**IG Handle:** [@bitesandstrides](#)

**City:** Markham, ON

**Specialty:** Road

**Bio:** Keri is on a mission to pay-it-forward: she wants to offer others the support she received when shifting from being a solo runner in 2017, to the social and consistent athlete she is today. Whether she's racing or pacing others, she strives to be a friendly and welcoming presence. Keri is a 2025 Canada Running Series (CRS) Community Team member, and a co-lead of Learn to Run programs and weekly community runs at [Kardia](#) (Toronto).

## John Shep (Lead Ambassador)

**IG Handle:** [@athleticsont](#)

**City:** Markham, ON

**Specialty:** Trail

**Bio:** John Shep is a teacher, ultrarunner, and host of the [Athletics Ontario Running Podcast](#), which explores the diverse stories of Ontario's Road and Trail runners. John aims to give voice to the underrepresented members of our community and bring these stories to the masses, and was the recipient of the 2022 Athletics Ontario Media Award for this work. As a runner, he has completed seven 100-mile races, including being the first of two to finish the Ontario Triple Crown of 100s in 2024 (Sulphur Springs Trail Race, Tally in the Valley and Haliburton Forest Trail Race).

John is a third-generation volunteer in Athletics. His grandfather, Peter Manning, was a sprint and relay coach from the 1970's to 1990's at the Olympic and Commonwealth Games levels. His mom, Helen Manning, dragged John to Para-athletics events at the ripe age of six to post results and work the track clock. She is more importantly the current Chair of Athletics Canada and a former President of the Canadian Paralympic Committee.



**JOHN SHEP**

MARKHAM, ON

ROAD & TRAIL

## **PAST AMBASSADORS**

We thank the 7 athletes who served as Athletics Ontario Road & Trail Ambassadors in the inaugural season (2023-2024). In their roles, these ambassadors represented the running community with integrity, and made a significant impact in the sport that we all love so much.

- **Shannon Caulfield (Toronto)**
- **Geoff Gamble (St Catharines)**
- **Sasha Gollish (Toronto)**
- **Kim Krezonoski (Toronto)**
- **Vincent Kuber (Hamilton)**
- **Adriano Padoin-Castillo (Ottawa)**
- **Lisa Sun (North York)**