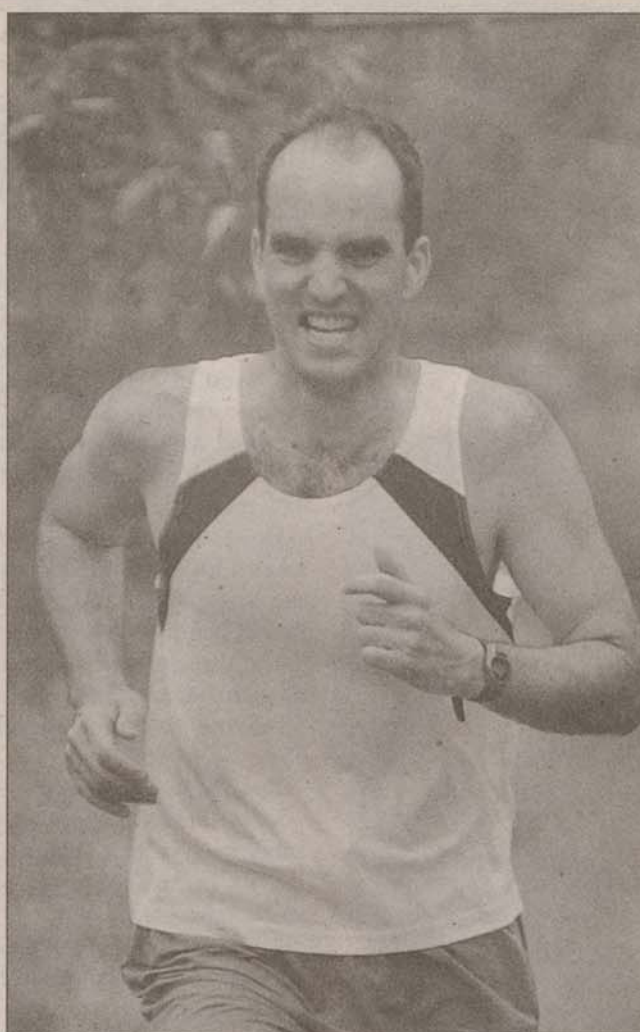


Team Howat members, husband Dan Howat and wife Tory Howat, celebrate their efforts with a victory kiss, at the end of the race at Rails End Gallery in Haliburton.



Local resident Markus Carl shows his determination during the final steps of the 5.4 km leg of the relay run along the rail trail.



Chris Petrow finishes the anchor leg strongly, giving his young team fourth place in the 10-team field. Petrow had the youngest average-age team at 16 years.

Rail Trail Relay features marvellous men and kissing couples

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

The 2nd annual Haliburton County Rail Trail Relay 2005 ended with a close finish, leaving a Haliburton team with third place on Saturday, Aug. 20.

The local team Emily and the Marvellous Men (Markus Carl, Steve Ferracuti, Blake Paton, Mke Darlington, and Emily Turner) finished strongly, but

missed knocking off perennial favourites, the ORATOC, team by less than two minutes, completing the 36 km course with a time of 2:31:02.21.

The ORATOC team (Robert Moore, William Cook, Darrell Senyk, Mark Smith, Bronwen Moore, and Jennifer Knowles) from Toronto reclaimed their trail race title.

The husband and wife (Dan and Tory Howat) Team Howat was narrowly edged

out of first place by only six seconds.

Team Howat took the top finishing female team since Tory ran three legs.

The team with the lowest average-age was HEAT (Alex Monk-Cray, Sean Keaney, Evan Kernohan, Drew Paul, Keaton Gadway, and Chris Petrow). This team, with an average age of 16, finished fourth at 2:32:11.36.

The oldest average-age team was Team

60 Something, with a time of 62.75.

Team Turtle Troupe (Jessica Bishop, Christine Bishop, Dave Bishop, Val Bishop, Yves Ameline, Jim Hopkins, and Trudy Pogue) earned the distinction of having the largest age span at 62 years — Ameline is 69 and Christine is seven.

Chris Young captured the special award for his solo effort, completing the 36 km course in 3:08:13.44, finishing seventh.