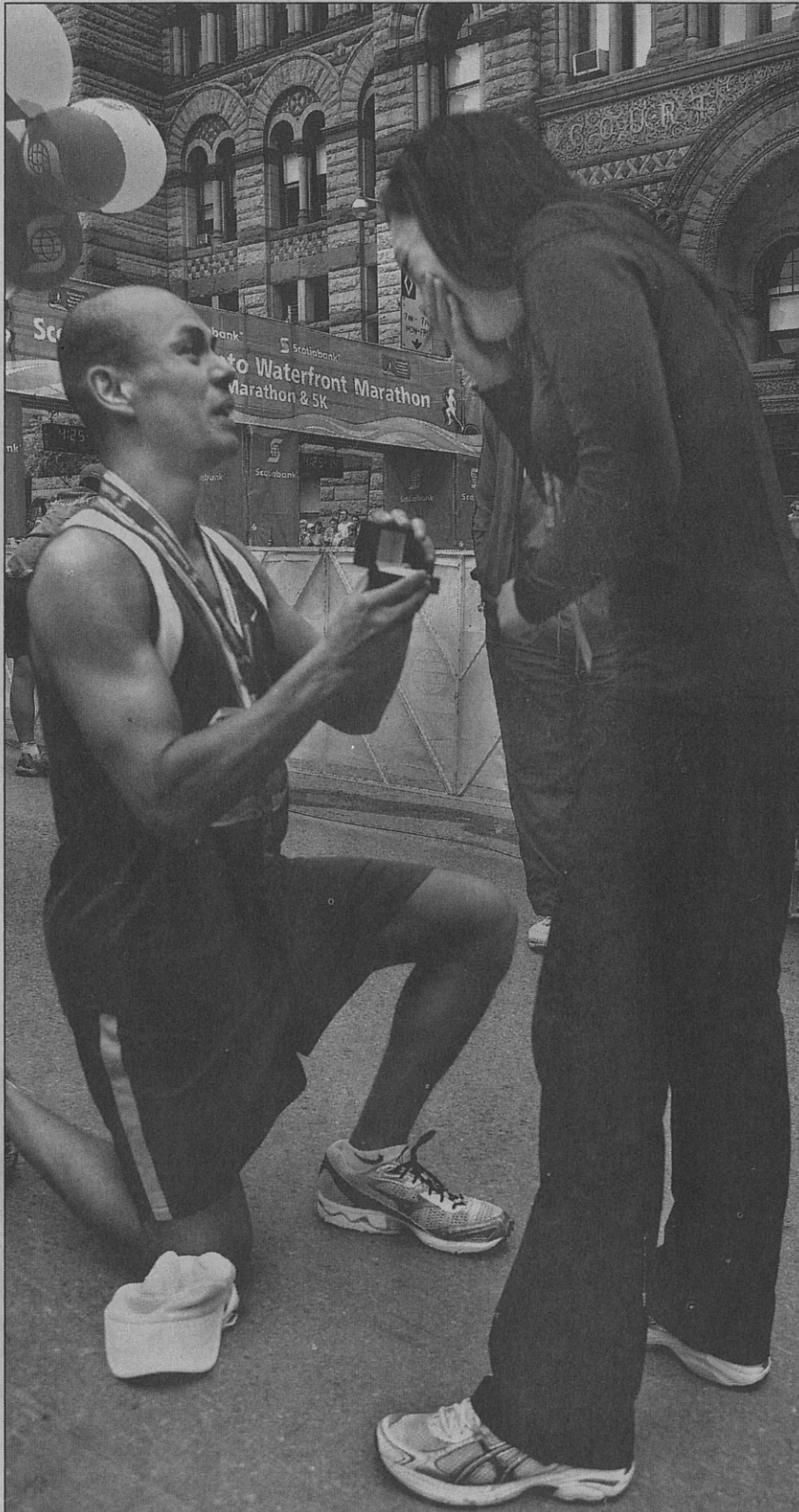


# Man pops question post-marathon, now has a partner for the long run



**JIM WILKES**  
STAFF REPORTER

When Ronnie Garcia dropped to one knee to propose to girlfriend Therese Tongco after yesterday's Toronto Waterfront Marathon, the song blaring over the finish line speakers was Queen's *Another One Bites the Dust*.

But the lovebirds shut out the hard rock tune to deal with the question at hand:

"Will you marry me?" he screamed.

"Are you crazy? Here?" she said, claspng a hand to her mouth. "Of course. Yes."

Tongco, 26, of Unionville, and Garcia, 33, from Markham, have been together for six years and had talked of marriage, but she never imagined he'd pop the question after a race.

"When we first started dating, we had running in common," Garcia said. "We always train together. I knew she would be happy if I asked her."

They think they'll get married next year, maybe even after next year's race.

This year? He ran the full marathon; she did the half. Both ran personal best times.

## More pictures

See a photo gallery of the marathon at [thestar.com/photos](http://thestar.com/photos)

JIM WILKES/TORONTO STAR

Ronnie Garcia, 33, of Markham proposes to a shocked Therese Tongco, 26, of Unionville near old city hall after finishing the Toronto Waterfront Marathon.

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