

MacInnes, Jim

Plans to stilt the 10 kilometres *Intell Sept 13/94 p. 1*

## MacInnes likely to be tallest participant at Terry Fox Run

*Bel - Brvg (collection)*



Jim MacInnes is able to stride over fences in a single bound with his stilts.

Story and photo by Chris Malette

The Intelligencer

Jim MacInnes has been striding purposefully through Belleville each morning and evening.

At over seven feet tall, wearing his articulated stilts, he draws more than a few stares as he makes his way to and from work at Merrit Waite Costume Rentals.

The part-time clown and entertainment specialist is in training for more than just balance at kids' parties and store openings.

MacInnes, 26, plans to trundle 10 kilometres in the Terry Fox Run, Sunday, and says he doesn't know if he can go the distance.

"I did the Waterfront Festival parade (in July) and that was, what, five or six kilometres."

MacInnes is a member of Clowns of America and it was at a convention of clowns in St. Louis that he saw the Florida-built stilts called Bigfoot — a hinged pair of leg extensions that provide surprising dexterity to the wearer.

"They're custom-fit and have a pair of my own shoes attached to them," said MacInnes, turning pirouettes to show how nimble he can be atop his appendages.

He believes there are only a handful of clowns and circus performers using the custom-made stilts in Ontario. For more details on run, see page 10.

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