

OPINION

Terry Fox Run – the dream continues

When Terry Fox hop-scotched his way along Hwy. 7 through Georgetown two decades ago, he couldn't have known the profound effect he would have on Canadians. Fighting cancer, to which he had already lost a leg, he was unaware the disease was insidiously eating away at him again.

He pursued his goal, a Canada-wide marathon on one leg and an artificial one, with a grit and perseverance that left us not only full of admiration for him, but also with a commitment to continue his fight against the scourge that would eventually cost him his life.

Most of us have had someone close to us either stricken with cancer or who have succumbed to it. So when Terry Fox thumbed his nose at his condition and continued that grueling one-legged hippity-hop run across the Canadian Shield, our admiration knew no bounds. He became a symbol of the fight against cancer.

We remember him annually with the Terry Fox Run, this year on Sunday, Sept. 22. The run has been a tremendous fundraiser in the fight against cancer. Millions of dollars have been raised to aid research but somehow the annual Run has not caught on in Georgetown as it has in other communities.

It isn't because the people here are not generous. They are, contributing tens of thousands of dollars to charities annually. Yet, somehow, outside of a few who have kept the dream alive, the Terry Fox Run has not captured our imagination.

In fact, as with some other years, it almost expired, but thanks to volunteer Bonnie Covert, it will continue again this year.

Neighboring Acton, with Jon Hurst, grandson of longtime Georgetown residents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hale, along with other enthusiasts including John Hoare, son of Reg, a former Georgetown, has made the Acton Run a handsome fundraiser. Last year they raised over \$25,000 with the enthusiasm they have engendered.

Jon and his colleagues have generously agreed to assist Bonnie Covert in her efforts to organize this year's Run. Bonnie told this newspaper that "it just felt right" to take on the task of organizing the Terry Fox run, following the death of her brother to cancer last summer. He was a big Terry Fox admirer, she confides, so "this was something I just had to do."

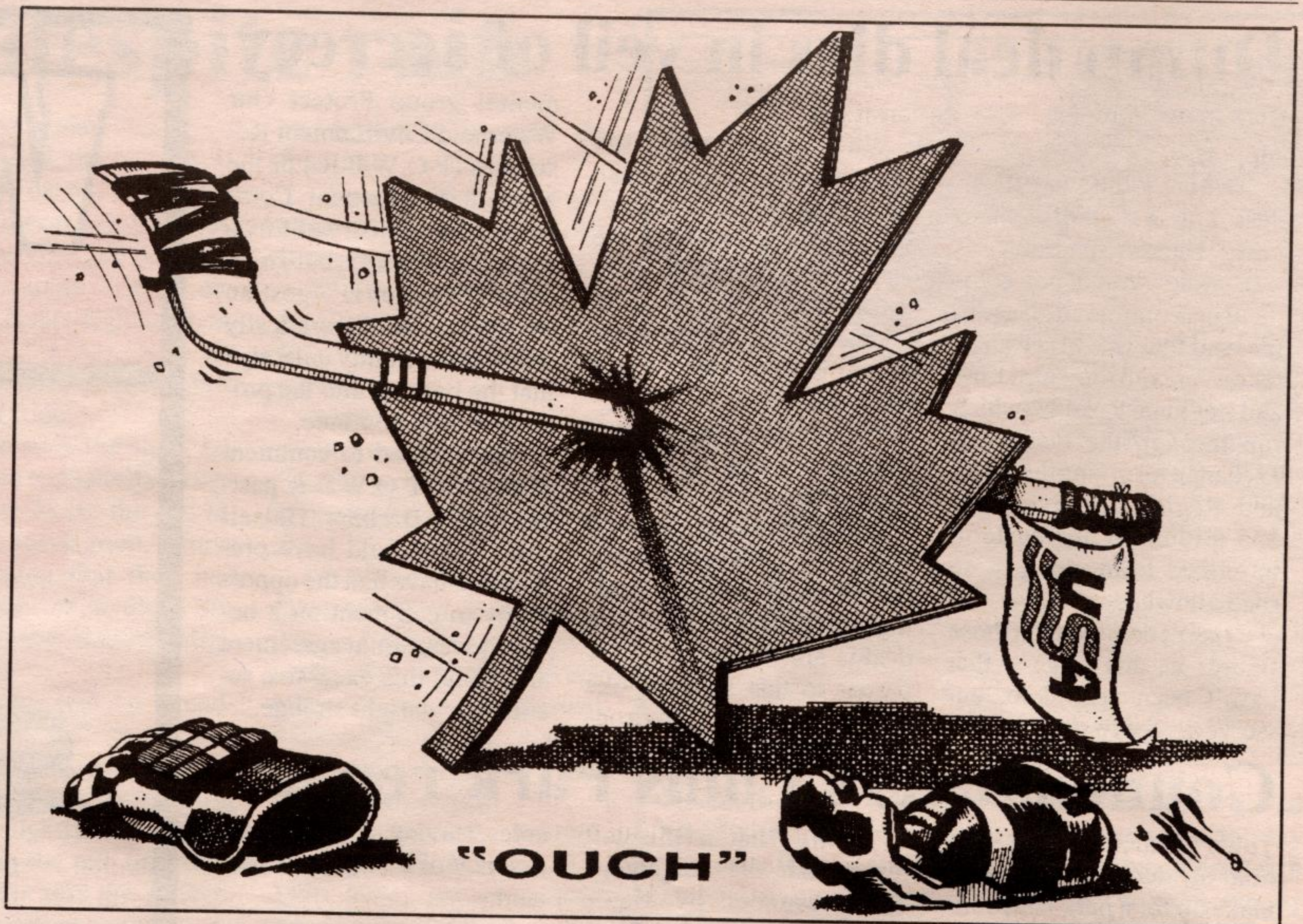
It left her with only 10 days to organize the Run at the Community Park at Georgetown South (Argyll Road and Eighth Line) but her enthusiasm for the task has been infectious so she is hoping for lots of help. If Bonnie had not volunteered it's likely the run would have been lost to apathy. We salute her and the others from town and country who are acting on their best impulses.

We especially congratulate them because one caller to this office is suggesting that volunteer organizations in the Georgetown and Limehouse area are suffering from a lack of volunteers. Too many parents, he says, use sports as a babysitting service and offer little help to keep them going. He uses the Terry Fox Run as an example of something that nearly never happened because of apathy.

There's more than a grain of truth in his remarks. A lot of volunteer work gets left to those who do it year after year. Invariably they get tired of the criticism and the lack of help, and the attrition rate amongst them is high.

So how can we spark a resurgence of interest in worthwhile volunteerism in the face of so many other interests and dawn to dusk commitments to other things. A big start might be a commitment to help Bonnie Covert at this year's Terry Fox Run. If you are interested just call her at 877-5626. And why not inquire if your local sports organizations need any help. Most of them do.

You'll be glad you did.



Your LETTERS

The right to work

To the Editor,
Our hearts must go out to these young adults (do not call them kids – they are not kids) who only have swimming pools, parks, ball dia-

monds, soccer fields, etc., for their amusement, and because of that feel they are free – or it is even their right – to play on their skateboards whenever they like.

There is another activity that some of them at least, with a little searching, could indulge in: it's called WORK!

This, however, would probably be completely foreign to them and, gosh gee, it might even infringe on their constitutional rights!!

Name withheld by request.

Jr. B Bulldogs have successful season

To the Editor,
On behalf of the Georgetown OLA Jr. B Bulldogs Lacrosse, 1996 Tier II champs, executive and coaching staff, we wish to say 'Thank You Georgetown,' for your support in our second season in town.

To our sweater sponsors, program advertisers, fans, press, arena staff and everyone who donated gift certificates and prizes, a very big

Thank You.

Without each and everyone of you, we would not have had such a successful season.

Last but not least to our own '53 G'N'G's for starting our season off with such enthusiasm in town.

Our General Meeting will be held Oct. 6, at 1 pm at the Knolcrest Centre, Unit 38B, 360 Guelph Street, Georgetown.

*Mike Hancock, Ruth Craig,
Janice Kouyoumian,
Georgetown*

Ashamed of Council

To the Editor,
I am ashamed, so very ashamed of our Town Council.

Council was approached by Mike Foley and John Spencer on behalf of numerous homeowners in the Kingsmill area. These homeowners wanted Law Development's Phase

3 project stopped and park land created for the neighborhood.

Council gave the go ahead for the developer and ignored the pleas of the community.

Let me slap myself as I thank Council members for such a dedicated representation.

*Donald Goodman,
Wiley Circle*

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THE GEORGETOWN GEMINI reserves the right to edit letters for libel, slander, style, length and accuracy.

While the above guidelines must be followed for consideration, **THE GEMINI** will respect the anonymity of the author if specifically requested.

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