

Terry Fox was "ordinary" mom Betty says

By DONNA KEIL,
Herald Staff

The audience at Acton High School was clearly moved as Betty Fox spoke Friday about the super-human determination of her son Terry on his cross-Canada run in 1980.

But the mother of the famous cancer-victim, his leg amputated six inches above the knee in 1977, said Terry was "not a hero."

"Terry was a very ordinary young man," said the runner's mother, this year's honorary chairperson of the ninth annual Terry Fox Run. The run will be held this Sunday, at 450 run sites across Ontario, including at Acton and Georgetown.

"Anybody can do what Terry did. All you have to do is set your goals high, and go off and achieve them," said his mother.

Terry Fox was 18 years old when he played basketball at the varsity team for the University of British Columbia. He made the team not because of talent, but because of determination, said Mrs. Fox.

He was "stubborn, competitive and determined."

Terry noticed a pain in his right knee during basketball season. It was so severe one day that he had to come home and go to the doctor.

But he was undaunted by what might be a crushing experience for many young men.

"I remember Terry saying, 'I've always tried hard and now I'll have to try harder than ever before,'" his mother said.

After seeing the young people who had cancer being treated with chemotherapy - a treatment that causes loss of hair - Terry "wanted

to do something to stop the hurting," Mrs. Fox said.

In October 1970, Terry turned to the Canadian Cancer Society to support his marathon run across the country.

"I'm not a dreamer, and I'm not saying this will initiate any kind of definitive answer or cure to cancer, but I believe in miracles, I have to," the runner said.

"People knew there was someone out there doing a run, and they knew he only had one leg. But they had no idea of why he was doing it," Mrs. Fox said.

The Terry Fox Run has raised \$75 million for cancer research since 1980.

The Marathon of Hope has a dual

purpose, Mrs. Fox said. "Terry's run has not only helped raise money for research, but it has also sounded the alarm for cancer."

Cancer is the number two killer in Canada, second only to heart disease. Excluding skin cancer, just over one in three Canadians will develop cancer during his or her life.

Lung cancer is the number one cause of cancer death in males, taking 9,300 lives in an estimated 11,200 cases of lung cancer last year, the Canadian Cancer Society says.

Breast cancer is the number one cause of fatal cancer in women. There were 11,500 new cases last

year, with a predicted 4,600 resulting in death, the Canadian Cancer Society says.

"Although lung cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women, it will surpass breast cancer and stay number one among women in the future unless tomorrow's women do not start smoking."

Terry Fox was forced to stop his cross-Canada run near Thunder Bay on Sept. 1, 1980 because the cancer from his leg had spread to his lungs. He died in June 1981, one month short of his 23rd birthday.

For more information on the Terry Fox Run Sept. 17, call the Ontario Terry Fox Run office at 1-800-386-1200 or 924-8252.

Teen mothers can go back to school

Milton Community and Information Services will open a government-funded service this month to give high school diplomas to teen mothers in Acton and Milton.

TEAM (Teen Education and Motherhood) will operate on a Ministry of Health grant of \$15,000. The program is scheduled to begin in late September.

Teenage mothers will get group lessons at the Milton social services centre two days a week in conjunction with the Halton Board of Education. Their children will be watched and transportation will be provided from Acton.

Executive Director of Milton Community and Social Services Wendy Martin, said the program is designed to help teenage mothers finish high school. There will be 10 teens when the program begins.

"I hope it will break a cycle where it's a stigma for them to have a child when they're unwed," Mrs. Martin said. "There will be child care support while the mother is taking courses toward a diploma."

Teenage mothers will be referred by local sources. Referrals could come from the public health department, hospitals in the area and from the Halton Board of Education.

The program is "absolutely brand new," Mrs. Martin said. It springs from "a need that's surfaced in society for a lot of groups."

There are similar programs throughout the Region, including an Open Door program in Georgetown.

Anyone interested in more information on the service can call Kathy Mills of the Cherish Parent-Child Centre at 876-4365.



Betty Fox, the mother of Terry Fox, who ran over 5,000 kilometres on one leg to raise money for cancer research in 1980, was at Acton High School Friday to raise the flag for the ninth annual Terry Fox Run this

Sunday. Left to right are Acton Terry Fox Run organizer John Hurst, Ontario organizer Breeda McClew, Betty Fox, and Halton Board of Education trustee Arlene Bruce. (Herald photo)

Terry Fox runs held in Georgetown, Acton

Continued from Page 1

Deeley, wife of organizer Martin Deeley.

As is the case in Acton, Georgetown entrants can "walk, you can jog, or you can cycle," she said.

Hot dogs and hamburgers will be sold at Gordon Alcott Arena on Guelph Street where the Terry Fox Run begins Sunday. Proceeds will go toward the Terry Fox Run. T-shirts will also be sold at the event.

The route will follow Guelph Street to Mountainview Road and Armstrong Avenue, and then back to Guelph Street for a return to the arena. Twice around that route is 10 km.

The run will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will finish at 4 p.m.

Participants at the Acton run can pick up Toronto Blue Jay sun visors and coffee mugs, while they last. There will be an all-

participant draw to win autographed Blue Jay baseballs, a dinner for two at Jack Tanner's Table, or hockey sticks signed by former Toronto Maple Leaf Darryl Sittler.

The first Terry Fox Run in 1980 was a cross-country attempt by the one-legged runner to raise money for cancer research and raise public awareness about the disease.

Except for skin cancer, just over one in three Canadians will get some form of cancer in his or her lifetime, according to the Canadian Cancer Society. Terry Fox's motto was "somewhere the hur-

ting must stop."

In the last nine years, the Terry Fox Run has generated nearly \$75 million for cancer research. The money is administered by the National Cancer Institute of Canada and is used for cancer research.

Pledge sheets for the Terry Fox Run are available at Canada Post offices, Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) outlets, and Scotiabank branches, as well as some local variety stores.

For information on Sunday's

Terry Fox Run, call Breeda McClew at 924-2252. For run times across Ontario call 1-800-387-1200.

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An Open Meeting of the Georgetown & District Memorial Hospital Board of Directors will take place on
SEPTEMBER 28, 1989 at 4:15 p.m.

in the hospital board room. The agenda will be posted by 9:00 a.m. the day of the meeting in the administration offices.

Those wishing to address the board must forward a request in writing, by September 22, 1989, to:

The Chairman, Board of Directors
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