

# Betty Fox remembers Terry's heroic effort

In an emotion-filled speech Betty Fox recounted how she and her husband Rolly are driving the exact route the couple's son Terry walked, to mark the 10th anniversary of his Marathon of Hope, during a reception held by the Georgetown and Acton Cancer Societies for the Foxes at the Halton Hills Civic Centre Friday.

The trip isn't a celebration of their son's attempt to walk across Canada to raise money for cancer research, stressed Mrs. Fox. Instead it's the couple's way of thanking the people who helped Terry during his quest.



Betty Fox

"If Terry didn't have the support of the people I don't think he could have made it as far as he did," Mrs. Fox told an audience that included representatives from the local cancer societies, Mayor Russ Miller, Halton Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy and several Halton Hills councillors.

Like their son 10 years ago, the Foxes started their journey in St. John's, Newfoundland on July 14 and will end it Sept. 1 in Thunder Bay, the day and place Terry was forced to stop his run because the cancer that had taken his right leg in 1977 had spread to his lungs.

Mrs. Fox described the tour as being "filled with emotion with up and down days." This happens to be a down day, she added

apologetically.

The couple said they spent a lot of time in Newfoundland meeting with the people that took Terry in during his run. "They showed us what bed he slept in when he stayed at their homes. Ironically they could remember what meal Terry had."

"The highways Terry travelled have been the hard part," said Mrs. Fox. Terry used mainly secondary highways where there are no paved shoulders, many curves and uneven surfaces. "We're trying to sort out how he could have run the equivalent of a marathon a day and also attended all of the receptions," Mrs. Fox told the audience.

"He did it," said Mrs. Fox, "because he was so focused in his cause to raise money for cancer research."

During the reception, Mayor Miller spoke in recognition of the run as well as commending the local cancer societies' fundraising efforts. "Fundraising is the only way we will be able to rid ourselves of this dreaded disease," said Mayor Miller.

Regional Chairman Pomeroy also spoke during the reception saying that meeting Terry as Mayor of Halton Hills 10 years ago, "has been the most significant experience of my life," and that includes the Canadian and other national political leaders he has met.

Claudette Smith, who worked with the Georgetown Cancer Society when Terry visited Halton Hills described Terry as being "totally committed to the run." But at the same time he was someone very real, she said.

"When you looked into his eyes and shook his hand you felt like you were touching a hero but also someone who was very fragile," Mrs. Smith told the audience.

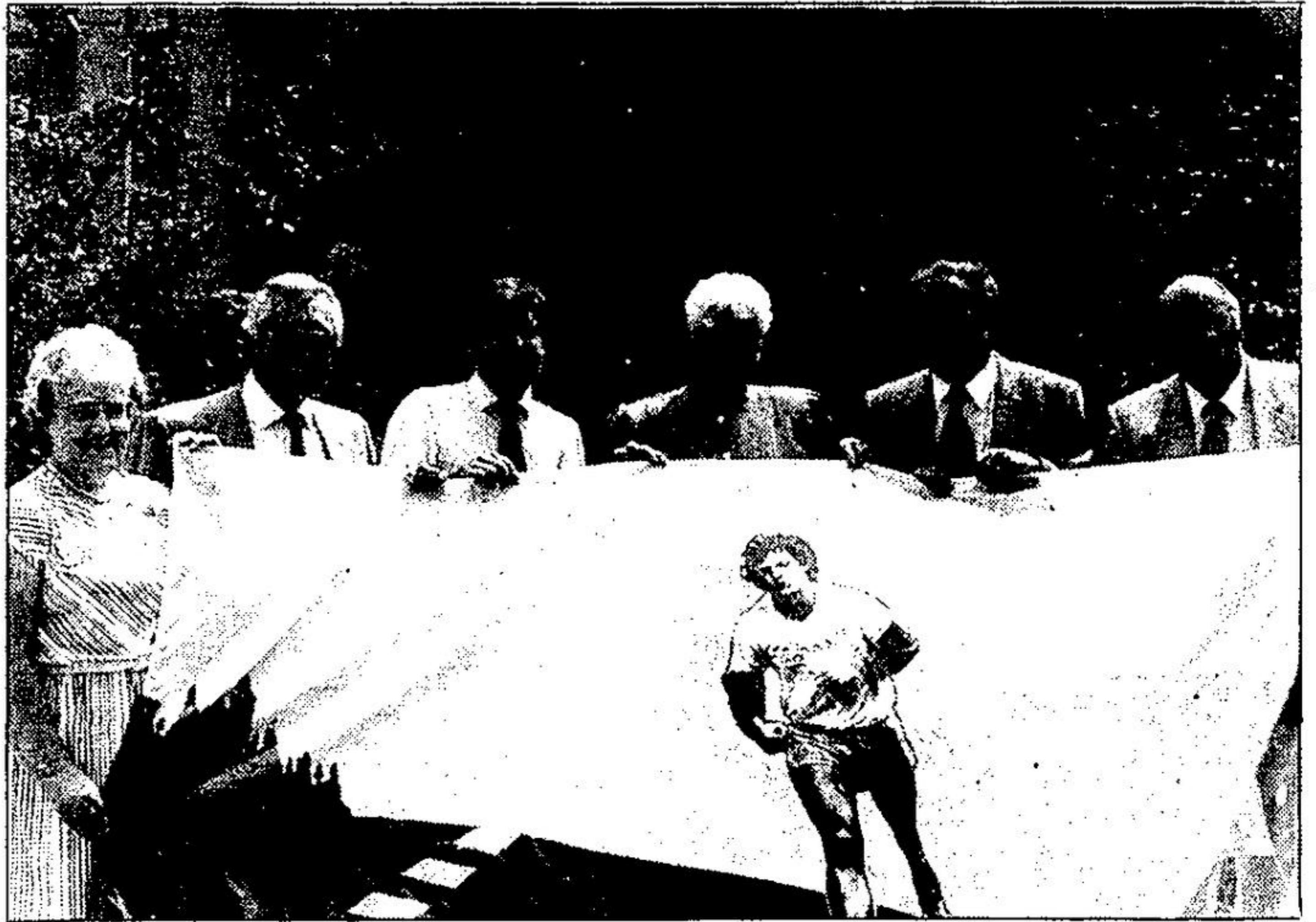
In closing her speech Mrs. Fox recounted how Terry said if he could finish the race he would but if

he couldn't he didn't want one person to finish it for him. Instead he wanted all Canadians to contribute

to the cause.

The Georgetown Terry Fox Run will be held at the Fairgrounds

Sept. 16, while the Acton run will be held at the Acton High School the same day.



Rolly and Betty Fox, (second and third from the right), visited Georgetown Friday as part of the couple's tour of the exact route their son Terry ran 10 years ago to raise money for cancer research. The couple is driving the route in recognition of Terry's heroic effort and to thank those people who helped

Terry during his Marathon of Hope run. The Foxes were on hand to help local politicians and cancer society officials raise the Marathon of Hope flag. They are, from left to right, Cynthia Green, Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy, Jon Hurst and Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller. (Herald photo)

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