

Acton's successful Terry Fox Run

The Marathon of Hope continues



With the firm belief that cancer can be beaten, Acton residents walked, jogged and rode around the track at Acton High School on Sunday in the 32nd annual Acton Terry Fox Run.

The 170 participants raised \$23,000 in donations and pledges, putting the 32 year total to \$724,912 – all happy in the knowledge that 84 per cent of money raised in Terry Fox Runs in 25 countries across the world will be used as Terry wished, for cancer research.

Acton Run organizer Jon Hurst welcomed Acton's Citizen of the Year Julie Conroy and Miss Acton Kailey Donaldson and her court to help cut the ribbon to officially open the Acton event. He noted that the Acton Run was always a pace-setter – the first to have T-shirts, hats and lawns signs to publicize the event.

Hurst had some show-and-tell items for the small crowd at the 8 a.m. kick off – a replica of the shirt worn by Terry Fox on his Marathon of Hope, one of Acton's early T-shirts, one from China and another from Cuba. "So Terry is known around the world for a very good reason, we all know why – for what he did and what he accomplished," Hurst said as he thanked the participants



MARATHON OF HOPE: Almost everyone who took part in Acton's 32nd Terry Fox Run had been touched by cancer in some way – and all wanted to continue the fundraising efforts of hero Terry Fox including, from top: Acton's Liz Holmes, Marci Paterson and Moses, and Nancy Thompson. – *Frances Learment photos*



OFFICIAL OPENING: Acton's Citizen of the Year Julie Conroy and the newly crowned Miss Acton, Kailey Donaldson, cut the ribbon to officially kick-off the 32nd Acton Terry Fox Run on Sunday morning at the Acton High School track. – *Frances Learment photo*

for their involvement.

Most of the participants had been touched by cancer in some way – themselves, their family or friends – and all said they wanted to take part to do something positive and make a difference. For Acton's George Henderson, it was run number 32. "I do this to support Terry Fox and his goals. Also, to support (organizer) Jon (Hurst) and his efforts to help fight this disease," Henderson said before he rode off on his bicycle for the first few laps. He then ran some laps and finished the 25 laps on his bike.

Acton's Marci Paterson, who with her service dog Moses, set out at a quick pace, had several reasons for taking part in the annual fundraiser. "He's a tracking dog, so he needs to keep fit. The Terry Fox Foundation donates 84

per cent (of proceeds) to research, and Jon (Hurst) has worked so hard over the years to make this a success – it is the least I can do," Paterson said.

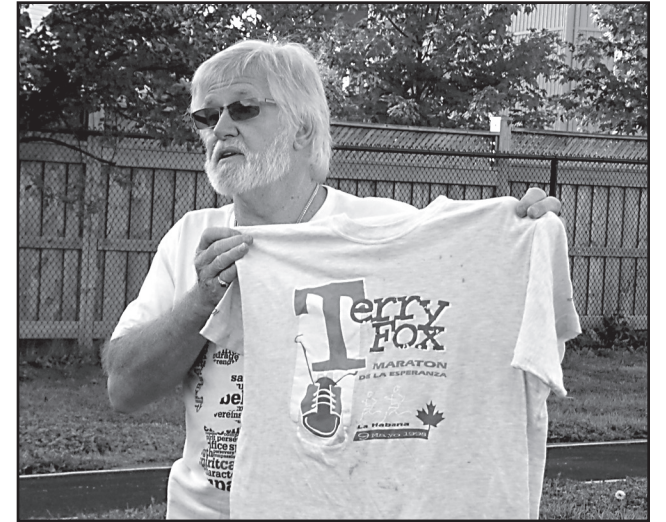
Acton resident Liz Holmes' reasons for taking part in the annual event for the past nine years are personal. "Cancer affects all of us. I lost my mum and my father-in-law to cancer, as well as numerous other aunts and uncles. As a young child, my first experience with cancer was when I was 12 years old and lost a school mate, so it is right there," Holmes said.

Sunday's Run was the 22nd time that Acton resident Nancy Thompson took part in the continuation of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope. "This is my 20th year as part of a group with Prosperity One Credit Union. I just love

Terry's story and I figure if he could attempt to do it, it wouldn't kill me to get out here once a year and do it," Thompson said.

On Tuesday Hurst said although the amount pledged is down slightly from last year, that was

mainly due to the fact that there were not any advance fundraisers, like the head-shaving events that have raised additional money in past years. "We are maintaining awareness and that's what's important," Hurst said.



WORLD-WIDE EVENTS: With 50 Terry Fox Runs world-wide, Acton Run chairman, Acton Councillor Jon Hurst said Terry's efforts and message have spread around the globe. He displayed T-shirts from several sites, including this one from Cuba. – *Frances Learment photo*

Drones fight war on drugs

Halton police seized \$744,000 worth of field-grown marijuana using an unmanned drone – an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, or UAV – last week.

Police said the drone found 774 plants in farmer's fields in the north end of Milton and Halton Hills. After being spotted, the information

was relayed to officers on the ground who then moved in and pulled up the plants, which were then destroyed.

Police have used the drone since 2009 – not only for spotting pot plants, but also at crime scenes, crash investigations and for search and rescue operations.

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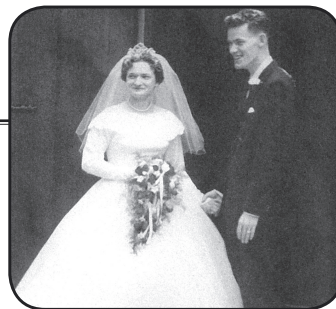
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Saturday September 22, 2012

Church Service: 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Get together in parish hall from 2:00pm till 4:00pm