

# Acton prepares for Terry Fox Run

*The late Betty Fox had a "soft spot" for Acton*

Each year Acton area residents pound the track behind Acton High School – walking, jogging, wheeling – raising money for cancer research with pledges for the Terry Fox Run. The success of Acton's event is due in part to a dedicated group who want the phrase "Cancer Can Be Beaten" to be more than just a marketing slogan.

In a series of articles in the coming weeks, Acton Run organizer Jon Hurst will lead us in a little hero worship – celebrating Acton's part in the Terry Fox "Marathon of Hope" and subsequent fundraising efforts.

By Jon Hurst

The beautiful summer of 2011 is almost behind us, and as we reluctantly prepare to bid it adieu, our thoughts turn to kids returning to school, the Acton Fall Fair and the upcoming Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research. Acton's 31st annual Terry Fox Run takes place Sunday, September 18, at Acton High School like run sites across Ontario, Canada and around the world. Acton has proudly participated every year since the inception of the event, raising \$674,413 for past and present Terry Fox researchers who have made, and continue to make, exciting treatment discoveries as they pursue Terry's dream of finding a cure for cancer.

Several weeks ago, Can-

adians across the country were saddened to learn of the serious illness and subsequent passing of another great Canadian, and Terry's biggest supporter, his mother Betty Fox. Halton Hills residents had the opportunity and honour to meet Betty on three separate occasions during the many years she spent travelling across Canada and abroad, as she selflessly shared Terry's story and dream. Every event was an emotional roller coaster for her, as she endured the constant re-surfacing pain of having lost a son to cancer, as well as the pride that swelled up within her as she saw and felt first hand the love and support for her son and his efforts. Her first trip to Acton and Georgetown was September 8, 1989, when she arrived in Acton to speak to student as-

semblies at Acton High School, McKenzie-Smith School and St. Joseph's School. A luncheon followed, hosted by Jack Tanner's Table, where Betty met Terry Fox volunteers and presented certificates of appreciation to long time supporters. She then visited the Canadian Cancer Society offices in Georgetown, and concluded the day with an address to the students at Georgetown High School.

In August of 1990, Betty and her husband Rolly Fox, re-traced Terry's Marathon of Hope route from St. John's to Thunder Bay, stopping in communities along the way to thank the people they would meet who had helped Terry with his quest. They travelled through Acton and attended a luncheon, hosted by then Mayor Russ Miller, at the Civic Centre where many supporters and dignitaries were given the opportunity to meet them. One of the speakers was then Region of Halton Chair Peter Pomeroy, who told Betty and Rolly that meeting Terry ten years earlier as Mayor of Halton Hills, was the most significant experience of his life.



**ANNIVERSARY TOUR:** A flag-raising at the Halton Hills Civic Centre was one of the local stops for Terry Fox's parents, Rolly and Betty Fox, who in 1990 marked the 10th anniversary of their son's aborted Marathon of Hope by retracing his route. On hand were, from left: Cynthia Green, Halton Chair Peter Pomeroy, John Hurst, Betty and Rolly Fox and Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller. – Submitted photo

On her third visit in 1999, Betty arrived in Acton following a breakfast meeting in Brampton and stopped in at Prosperity One Credit Union to meet and thank staff member for their exceptional support and contributions to Terry's cause. She then proceeded to the Acton Legion for a luncheon event where she met participants, thanked Acton and Georgetown for their support of Terry's dream, and presented certificates to long time volunteers from the Acton and Georgetown runs. Before leaving Acton she helped install the sign entering Acton

on Highway 25 South, which shows Terry's silhouette and says "Acton, A Proud Terry Fox Run Community."

Most recently, I am sure most Canadians remember seeing Betty and Rolly on television as they participated in the opening ceremonies for both the Olympic and Para Olympic Games.

I was through Betty's selfless efforts, determination and involvement that the Terry Fox Run has consistently adhered to Terry's wishes that the event not be commercialized in any way, and no one should profit from their involvement. Because of our longstanding

commitment to Terry's cause and our support to him during his Marathon of Hope through our community, I believe that Betty had a special fondness for Halton Hills. Her passing was unrelated to cancer, and during her illness she was able to truly appreciate and take pride in both the enormity of her son's legacy and the love for her and Terry which was shown through messages to her from adoring Canadians. Betty often said that Terry was just an ordinary person, but the fact is both Terry and Betty were extraordinary Canadian heroes.

## ARE YOU THE NEXT MISS ACTON FALL FAIR?

The Acton Agricultural Society is now accepting entries for the  
**2011 Miss Acton Fall Fair Pageant**  
Friday, September 16, 2011, at 8:00 p.m.  
at the

**Dufferin Rural Heritage Community Centre**  
in Prospect Park.

If you are between the ages of 16 and 22, attend Acton High School or live in Acton, Limehouse, Ballinafad or Rockwood areas, you are invited to be a Contestant!!!

More information is available at Blooms Away Flower Shop, [www.actonfair.ca](http://www.actonfair.ca) or Email: [missactonfallfair@hotmail.com](mailto:missactonfallfair@hotmail.com)

CONTESTANTS MUST BE AVAILABLE WED. & THURS @ 7 p.m.  
Deadline for entries is 9 p.m., Friday, September 9, 2011

## REGISTER NOW for the ACTON FALL FAIR 2010 PARADE

**September 17<sup>th</sup>** 11am line up on ACTON BLVD and 12 noon start proceeding along Mill St.

We are looking for  
FLOAT ENTRIES,  
BANDS, GROUPS etc.

This year's theme is  
**ONTARIO  
FRUITS**

*The Fruits Of Our Labour*

Prizes in 5 categories,  
including:  
**BEST DECORATED  
BIKES & TRICYCLES**  
and **BEST FLOAT!**

For reservations/information please contact  
Jim Warrington - 519-853-3707

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