

Acton preps for annual Terry Fox Run Sept. 17

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.

On Sunday, September 18, the 31st annual Acton Terry Fox Run takes place, rain or shine, at Acton High School. Participants can arrive any time between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. to walk, run or cycle some or all of the 25 laps around the beautiful rubberized high school track. The official opening ceremonies will take place at 8 a.m. with Acton’s Citizen of the year Dorothy Rognvaldson in attendance to cut the ribbon, along with the newly crowned Miss Acton Fall Fair and Johnny “Lord” Acton, who is visiting our community from England. Pledge forms are available at all banks, Sobey’s, Acton Home Hardware, Giant Tiger, Leathertown Lumber and many other locations around town. A food booth will again be on site with all products donated so that money raised will go directly to the event, and Terry Fox t-shirts

and hoodies will be available to purchase.

Following the start of the run, at around 8:30 a.m., an official Terry Fox head shaving event will be taking place, with Councillor Clark Sommerville and Julie Iantorno graciously submitting their heads to the cause. Clark’s hair looks like he has had a fight with his barber, and Julie has been growing her hair to have her pony tail donated to the Angel Hair Group for wigs. Donations can be made on site or at Prosperity One Credit Union, and anyone else interested in joining the head shaving event can contact Jon, at 519-853-2015.

In this week’s article, I wanted to touch on the form and function of the Terry Fox Foundation. The single mission of the Terry Fox Foundation is to fund innovative cancer research. It is an independent

organization, is not associated with the Canadian Cancer Society or any other cancer fundraising national organization, and is one of the largest non-governmental funders of cancer research in the country. The Foundation employs 33 full time staff in 10 offices located across the country. They support over 9,000 Terry Fox Runs each year which are all volunteer led and organized. Every run is non-competitive and has no entry fee, no minimum pledge and no sponsorship. Eighty-five cents of every dollar raised goes to cancer research, and to date the Terry Fox Foundation has raised over \$550 million for cancer research worldwide. Each year, as there continue to be more and more important charitable events centered around supporter participation such as running, walking, cycling, etc., it is gratifying



BEE’S BEST: Mom Logan and daughter Teresa Smerek were busy at last Thursday’s Acton Farmers’ Market selling the unpasteurized honey produced at their rural Acton property. – Marie Shadbolt photo

to know that The Terry Fox Run is acknowledged as the grandfather of this method of fundraising and continues at the forefront regarding accountability, transparency and the percentage of funds raised that go to the cause.

To date the Foundation has funded 1,180 cancer research projects, focused on many different types of cancers, with current multi-year studies that include lung, ovarian, colorectal, pancreatic, oral, liver, oncolytic viruses and many more. In 2011, the Foundation will invest an estimated \$27.5-million in 3 key areas of cancer research:

\$15.6-million will fund discovery research – fundamental science, cure oriented bio-medical; \$10.5-million transitional research –moving discoveries from the laboratory to the clinic more quickly to impact patients –“lab bench to bedside” approach; \$1.4-million will fund the training of the future leaders in cancer research. The Foundation is justifiably proud of the accomplishments made by past and present Terry Fox researchers who work tirelessly in pursuit of Terry’s dream of finding a cure for cancer. You can read the inspiring stories of some of those researchers by

visiting online – terryfox.org/research.

Terry Fox would certainly be proud of the form, function and success of the Foundation that bears his name. It continues to adhere to his wishes that there should be no commercialization of the event and all monies raised should go towards finding treatment and cures for all types of cancers so that no one should have to go through the heartache and despair that he witnessed during his treatment so many years go.

Please join us on Sunday, September 18 to help continue Terry’s dream.

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