

Acton Terry Fox Run raises \$30,000 to keep the dream alive

'Terry Fox is my hero' Acton Run participant said as he rode for a cure

It was impossible to find anyone at the Acton Terry Fox Run on Sunday who had not been touched by cancer – survivors, friends and relatives of survivors, and those that know the Cancer Can Be Beaten rode, walked, jogged and were pushed in strollers around 25 laps of the track at Acton High School, raising \$30,000, and topping the \$1-million mark for the Acton and Georgetown Terry Fox Runs.

For Acton's Bill Matthews, Sunday was his 25th Terry Fox Run. "Cancer touches everybody – it took my dad, my nephew is a survivor and Terry Fox is my hero," Matthews said, as he was the first to sign up for the Acton event. His first Run was in Kirkland Lake in 1998 when he collected \$1,500 from work mates on a job site.

For Acton Mom Liz Holmes and her six-year-old son Adam, the Terry Fox Run is a tradition.

"Adam's first Run as a baby in a stroller seven years ago," Holmes said, adding her first Run was eight years ago, the year after her mother died of cancer. "We're here today because my Mom, and my father-in-law passed away from cancer, plus we've had friends and other relatives touched by cancer," Holmes said.

In his welcome to the crowd, Run organizer Jon Hurst thanked the crowd that gathered at the Acton High school track at 8 a.m., for their help in the fight against cancer – he noted this is the first Run since the recent death of Terry Fox's mother, Betty Fox, who was instrumental in the Terry Fox Foundation.

The crowd included special guests, Acton Citizen of the Year, Dorothy Rognvaldson who shared the official ribbon-cutting ceremonies with Lord Johnny Acton of England. "You are the people who made Acton so successful over the

years as we continue Terry's dream," Hurst said. "We've made a lot of headway (against cancer), but we have a long way to go before we can find not only a cure, but advanced treatments that help cancer survivors."

After the official start of the Run, Regional/Acton Councillor Clark Somerville had his pink-dyed hair shorn, and Julie Iantorno of Milton had her 15-inch ponytail cut to donate for wigs for cancer patients. They raised \$4,555 for the Terry Fox Foundation.

On Tuesday, Hurst said they did "particularly well" in Acton, where there were 250 run participants and volunteers, up from approximately 180 last year. He said the Acton run raised \$30,000, and the head shaving/hair cutting fundraising total was \$4,455.

Combined with the \$24,500 raised by the Georgetown Run, the 31-year total raised for the Terry Fox Foundation is one million, ten thousand dollars.



THE DREAM LIVES: Acton's Citizen of the Year, Dorothy Rognvaldson (centre) was joined by Miss Acton Jessica Watson and her court, and (right) Lady Lucinda and Lord Johnny Acton, of England, to officially open the Acton Terry Fox Run on Sunday at the Acton High School track. The run raised \$30,000, and put the cumulative fundraising total for Acton and Georgetown over the \$1-million mark. – Frances Niblock photos



Bill Matthews

Liz and Adam Holmes



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