

Terry Fox Run returns for 37th annual event

On Sunday, Sept. 17, the 37th annual Terry Fox Run will take place in Georgetown at the Gellert Centre, and in Acton at Acton District High School.

In Georgetown, the run takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., where participants can walk, run, or wheel a one-kilometre "Fun Run" or a five-kilometre loop. Available on site will be Domino's Pizza, Terra Cotta Cookies, and a raffle and silent auction featuring products and services from over 30 local businesses.

In Acton, residents can arrive any time between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. where they can walk, run or cycle some, or all, of the 25 laps around the high school track. Official opening ceremonies will take place at 8 a.m. with the Acton Citizen of the Year, Keith Black, in attendance to cut the ribbon, along with the newly-crowned Miss Acton Fall Fair.

A food booth will be on

site, with all food donated by local businesses. All proceeds will be donated directly to the cause. Terry Fox T-shirts will be for sale, and Halton Hills firefighters will be stopping by in the morning with a fire truck kids can venture into.

The single mission of the Terry Fox Foundation, as Terry himself insisted, is to fund innovative cancer research, and here is the reason why: when Terry was receiving his chemotherapy treatments in the cancer clinic following the amputation of his leg, he was devastated by the pain and suffering he saw around him. So many patients losing their fight against cancer, because in those days, the stark statistics were that two-thirds of cancer patients would pass from the disease. Those experiences made Terry stronger and more compassionate, as well as motivated him.

He believed he was one of the lucky ones who



Toronto Star file photo

The Terry Fox Run will take place on Sept. 17.

would survive cancer and he wanted to do all he could to advance cancer research, knowing it was the key to better patient outcomes and less suffering for them and their families.

Terry decided to run across Canada, and began intensive training, not only to prove to himself that he

could do it, but to physically prepare for the challenge ahead. Once he and his friend, Doug Alward, discussed details and the timing of what would become the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope, Terry visited the British Columbia/Yukon division of the Canadian Cancer Society to tell them

of his plan to raise \$1 million for research, and he requested their support.

And so began the epic journey, from St. John's, N.L., to Thunder Bay, an event that is so fondly remembered by all who were fortunate enough to see him in person and by all Canadians who followed his progress through the media.

As he ran, day after day, in all weather conditions and battling traffic, Terry's grit and determination and courage instilled in us all a sense of pride and appreciation. We were proud of Terry and we were proud of our country, Terry's Canada, our Canada. Who would have believed that anyone, let alone an amputee, could run a marathon a day, every day, for 143 days, covering 3,339 miles.

On Sept. 1, 1980, Terry ran his last miles, and at a heartbreaking news conference, he shared the devastating news that his can-

cer had returned and he was flying home for treatment. It seemed unfair, but Terry said, "I don't feel this is unfair. That's the thing about cancer. I'm not the only one. It happens all the time, to other people. I'm not special. This just intensifies what I did, it gives it more meaning, it'll inspire people more."

The initial fundraising target was \$1 million, and during the run, it increased to \$10 million. At one point, Terry had thought that if everyone in Canada gave one dollar, it would raise \$22 million for cancer research. Before he died, his family told him on June 28, 1981, donations to the Marathon of Hope reached \$23.4 million: more than Terry had ever hoped for.

After his death, Terry passed the torch to Canadians. Today, 37 years later, over \$750 million has been raised in Terry's name, with all funds dedicated to research, as he wished.



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**Our Advertising
WORKED!**



Working with our advertising rep, Kelli, to get our ads in the paper in a timely basis has been great! We are a busy, small business and she keeps us on track. Also, she is really great in letting us know when there are local events coming up that we might like to partner with in terms of our advertising. Kelli comes up with ideas for ads that we had not thought of, which we really appreciate.

The weekly ads we do in the newspaper have helped our business especially for the summer camps! Each of our 4 weeks were filled almost before the Summer started which hadn't happened before. We have had people say they have seen our ads in the paper and have come in to meet us and check things out.

It's important to advertise in the local paper as it builds community and supports all local businesses.

Happy Sewing!
Linda and Anna

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