

# Georgetown student recognized for Terry Fox Run efforts

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When Canadian icon Terry Fox embarked on his Marathon of Hope back in 1980, the chances of survival for people with the type of cancer he had was 20 per cent.

Today, thanks to advances in research and treatments, that survival rate is up to about 80 per cent and most of those cases don't require amputation, as Fox had to endure.

The annual Terry Fox Run has generated more than \$750 million for cancer research since its inception and schools across Canada and abroad have played a large role in generating those funds.

Grade 7 Centennial Middle School student Evelyn Waters was recently recognized by the Terry Fox Foundation for her fundraising efforts and spreading awareness about the disease, which was diag-

nosed in her father Steve two years ago.

The Ballinafad resident is battling Neuroendocrine Tumour Syndrome (NETS), which affects just one in 750,000 Canadians.

In October 2015, while her father was at Sunnybrook Hospital undergoing open heart surgery to replace two valves, Evelyn was participating in George Kennedy Public School's Terry Fox Run and contributed \$820 to the school's total of \$2,300 raised.

Preferring not to be "centred out" for her fundraising efforts, said mom Sherry, Evelyn was nonetheless honoured by the Terry Fox Foundation with a thank-you letter and gifts, including books and a DVD chronicling the life of the B.C. native.

"I'm the beneficiary of a clinical trial study and with some of the research and development that's going on, Terry's outcome might have been different if those



Eamonn Maher/photo

From left, Steve Waters accompanies 12-year-old daughter Evelyn as she presented Terry Fox Run School Ambassador Arsh Bains with a cheque for the amount of money the school raised during its recent fundraising campaign. At right is Centennial principal Joyce Jermyn. Evelyn raised approximately one third of the school's total donation.

treatments were available back in that time period," said Steve.

"I'm going into a second round of a new phase of

treatment on Halloween and it's thanks to the research dollars that makes a big difference in bettering people's lives."

There is no cure for NETS at the moment, but Waters has been told by doctors that his current treatments should provide

him with a "life improvement" of six-to-eight years.

To celebrate his 46th birthday, Waters entered the 5K run at the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon as a member of Team Zebra, which united to raise funds for NETS research. He set a goal of reaching the \$3,000 mark and ended up collecting \$3,685, while the team of 20 runners and walkers raised close to \$24,000.

"I was out hiking on the Bruce Trail a couple of weeks ago when I thought, 'I'm lucky that I can do this.' That's the biggest gift because you think back to where I was in hospital two years ago. Looking at what Evelyn's done - not only raising funds but also raising awareness for cancer research - I thought I should do the 5K."

Centennial also received a letter of appreciation from the Terry Fox Foundation for having raised more than \$9,000 over the years.

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