



Herb Garbutt/Torstar

When the race he was training for was cancelled, Francis Boyer took on a new project. Inspired by ultra-marathoner Rickey Gates, Boyer set out to run every street in Georgetown, Glen Williams, Norval and Stewarttown.

ROADS SCHOLAR SETS OUT TO JOG EVERY STREET IN TOWN

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It's 1 p.m. and Francis Boyer arrives right on time, jogging up to the corner on Princess Anne Drive.

At a time everyone is being encouraged to stay at home, Boyer has found a unique way to get to know his town better. And apparently, learn exactly how long it takes to get anywhere using his own two feet.

Boyer has plotted 35 routes that will allow him to run every street in Georgetown, Glen Williams, Stewarttown and Norval over the coming months. By the time he fin-

ishes his last route, he will have covered more than 400 kilometres of local streets.

It's interesting to watch Boyer run his routes. He'll turn and disappear down a street, only to re-emerge from the cul-de-sac a few minutes later and continue on.

His adventure was inspired by ultra-marathoner Rickey Gates, who ran every street in San Francisco.

Boyer's runs this spring were originally intended as training for The Rugged Raccoon, a nighttime trail run near St. Mary's, Ont., in May. When that was cancelled, he needed a reason to keep running.

"I found I was running

all the same routes," Boyer said. "One day while running, I was listening to a podcast and heard about Gates."

Having moved to Georgetown two years ago, he decided he could get to know the town better by taking on a similar project locally.

"You see some different sides of the town," the 27-year-old said "There's a lot of variety, it's not all flat lands. It's been quite enjoyable and I've still got a fair bit left."

He is looking forward to the routes that will take him through Stewarttown and Glen Williams, places he has not spent much time. But he's saving those

for when the weather is better.

His routes range from five to 22 kilometres, giving him options each day. He saves the longer routes for the weekends, but on average, he runs about 12 kilometres a day. And so far, he's been able to outrun any of the skunks he's encountered on his early-morning runs.

"It's a fun challenge for the summer," he said. "Especially with all that is going on; it's a chance to go out and clear your mind."

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