



Champion COMMUNITY Page

Young cancer survivor set to ride for cure

By FANNIE SUNSHINE
The Champion

Steven Anderson wasn't supposed to be able to ride a bicycle.

At the tender age of three, the toddler was diagnosed with Medullablastoma, a form of brain cancer.

For the next year-and-a-half, Steven underwent weekly chemotherapy and 60 radiation treatments at Hamilton's McMaster Hospital.

Two apricot-sized tumors were removed from the base of his skull.

Come December, Steven will be a 10-year cancer survivor.

Each year, Terry Fox Run organizers in Milton look for a cancer survivor to act as Terry's Teammate.

This year, Steven will become the first teenager to take the post.

"I thought about it and then I agreed (to be Terry's Teammate) because I've had cancer and I hope no one else will have cancer," the soft-spoken 14-year-old said, adding this will be his first time participating in the run.

Steven will ride his bike alongside his Ottawa-based special needs worker. As Terry's Teammate, he's also been given the honour of starting the run with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"When he was going through the radiation treatments he had to wear a mask and all you could see were his eyes and nose," Steven's father Peter Anderson recalled. "Sesame Street music was played during the treatments to try to get Steven to focus on something else."

Recently Steven began to learn about Terry Fox, who was diagnosed with osteogenic sarcoma (bone cancer) and eventually had his right leg amputated six inches above the knee in 1977.

In 1980, at the age of 22, Mr. Fox decided to run across Canada in hopes of raising funds for cancer awareness. His journey was called the Marathon of Hope.

Terry Fox died in 1981 after cancer resurfaced in his lungs.

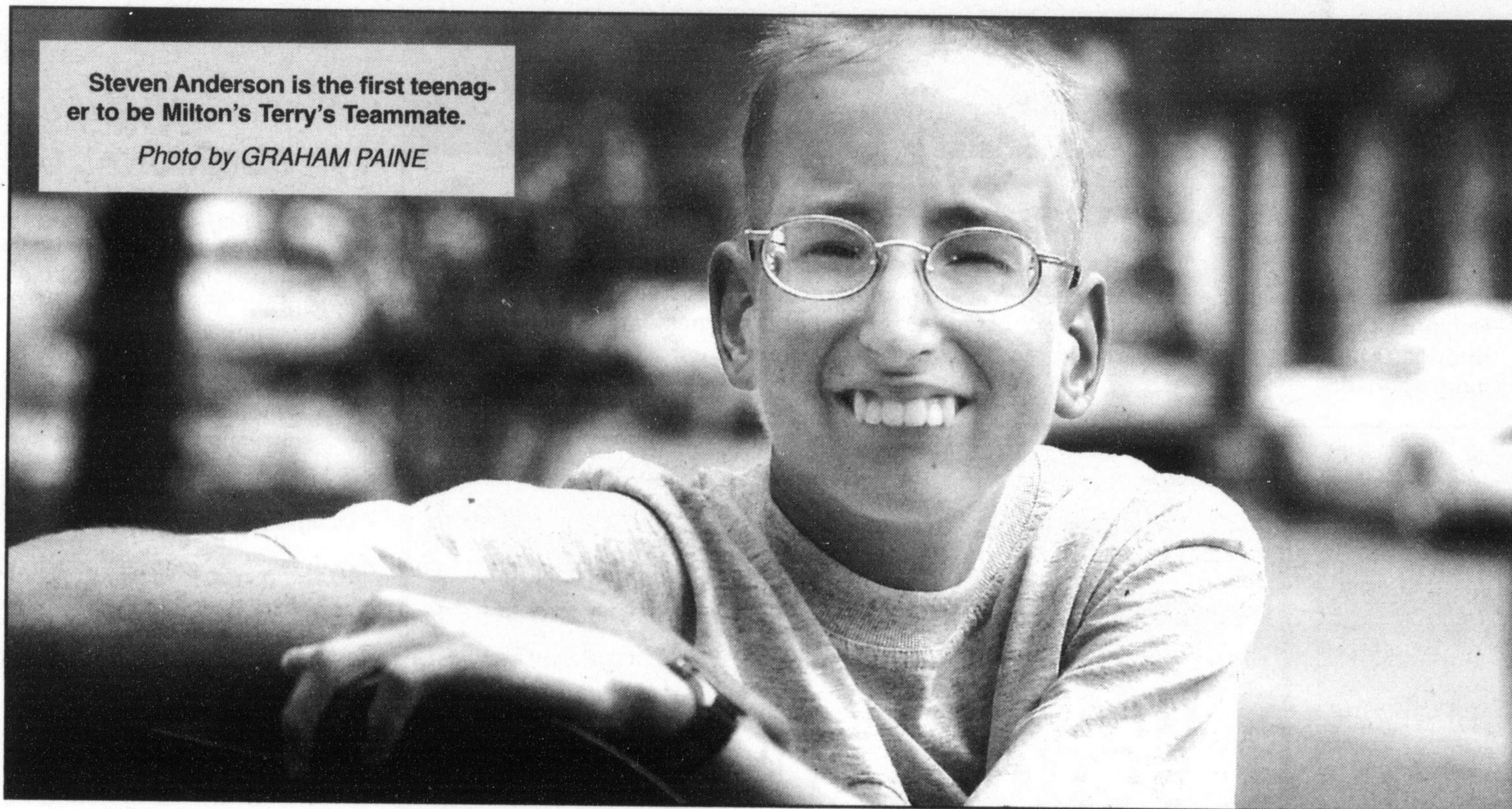
So far, Steven has collected \$200 in pledges.

"We talked it over with Steven and he said he wanted to be part of the run, so we allowed him to do this," said Joyce Anderson, Steven's mother.

"We let him watch movies about Terry Fox so he knew what this run was about and he said he would like to help raise money for cancer research."

The treatment Steven went through years ago has left his right side stronger than his left, his parents explained.

"He used to be left handed and now he's right



Steven Anderson is the first teenager to be Milton's Terry's Teammate.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

handed," Mr. Anderson said, laughing. "He lost a lot of the body's radio control."

But even though he might not have full ability with his left arm, that hasn't stopped the teenager from earning a blue belt in jiu-jitsu and learning how to play the piano.

Not bad for someone who doctors expected never to be able to walk.

"The doctors didn't think Steven would be able to ride a bike without training wheels," Mr. Anderson said, adding his son taught himself how to ride without the extra support three years ago. "That's why he wants to ride his bike in the race."

Except for yearly check-ups and an MRI scan every three years, Steven is living the life of a typical teenager. He even spends two weeks of the summer at Camp Trillium, an overnight camp for cancer survivors and their families.

"This shows you can really do something (riding his bike) even when people said you couldn't do something," he said.

Kim Thomas, who annually organizes the local Terry Fox Run with her husband Craig, said she met Steven's parents in 1991 when she and her husband belonged to Parents of Children With Cancer, a support group for families. Their daughter Jennifer had suffered from Leukemia and was Terry's Teammate in 1993.

"We asked Steven and parents if he wanted to be Terry's Teammate this year," she said. "We

wanted someone who could help others. It's really a selfless act."

In contrast to first-time participant Steven, Sparky Maloney has yet to miss the Terry Fox Run.

The 74-year-old, who resides at Allendale long-term-care facility, made sure he participated in every Terry Fox Run since 1980.

"He started to run with his son just before the Terry Fox Run (began)," said his wife Catherine. "He felt better when he ran."

Over 20 years, Mr. Maloney participated in 30 races throughout Canada, including marathons in Toronto.

"Last year was the first time he had to use a wheelchair in the Terry Fox Run," Ms Maloney said, adding her husband suffers from Lou Gehrig's disease.

Asking if the reason Mr. Maloney participated religiously in the runs was due to a history of cancer in the family, Ms Maloney shook her head.

"It was because of his love of running and because he thought he could do something to help the cause. No matter where he was in September, he made sure to attend Terry's run."

Participating in the Terry Fox Run was a family affair for the Maloneys.

Mr. Maloney's brother, Mickey, also ran in every race since 1980. He passed away in May. If he's up to it come September, Mr.

Maloney's son agreed to push his dad in his wheelchair during the Terry Fox Run in Milton.

"I know it would upset him if he missed the race," Ms Maloney said. "I'm so proud of him. My neighbours call me and say they can still see Sparky running by."

Last year, the Terry Fox Run in Milton raised \$39,165, placing the town in the top 20 contributors in Ontario.

The goal for this year is to raise \$40,000.

The run will take place September 16 on the grounds of E.C. Drury High School from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The run will feature two routes, one for walkers, runners and persons in wheelchairs and one for bikers and rollerbladders.

The walking course will wind its way around the woods on the school grounds. To complete the 10-km distance, participants will have to travel four times around the course.

For those who choose to bike or blade, participants will have to travel six times around the route to complete the 10-km distance.

Eighty-nine cents of every dollar raised from the run will go toward cancer research.

Pledge forms are available at local banks and drug stores. Terry Fox wear will be available for sale at the Farmers' Market this Saturday and September 8, and on run day.

For more information, call (905) 878-1206 or visit www.terryfoxrun.org.

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COGECO 14 Programming Schedule - Aug. 28th - Sept. 3rd, 2001.

Tuesday, Aug. 28th	Wednesday, Aug. 29th	Thursday, Aug. 30th	Monday, Sept. 3rd
9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In! - Early Week Edition	9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In! - Early Week Edition	9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In! - Early Week Edition	9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In! - Late Week Edition
5pm, 6pm Plugged In! - Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm Plugged In! - Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Late Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Early Week Edition
5:30pm Osler Health Connection	5:30pm Quick & Easy Ways to Healthy Eating	5:30pm The Issue Is...	5:30pm Quick & Easy Ways to Healthy Eating
6:30pm Fergus Highland Games Tattoo	6:30pm The Hadfield Brother's Concert	6:30pm Money Week	6:30pm Money Week
		7:00pm Osler Health Connection	7:00pm The issue is...

Feature this week: Fergus Highland Games Tattoo, Tuesday 6:30 pm