

OPINION

Inspiring act of heroism

Marathon of Hope lives on at Sunday's Terry Fox Run

With the fifth anniversary of 9/11 in our thoughts this week, so too are the heroic efforts of firefighters, police officers and ordinary citizens from that fateful day.

Unlike our American friends, Canadians are sometimes a little too reserved and humble when it comes to remembering and celebrating its heroes.

This weekend, one of Canada's most inspiring acts of heroism — the Marathon of Hope — will be remembered for having captivated an entire nation and much of the world for 143 days back in 1980.

On April 12 that year, 21-year-old Terrance (Terry) Stanley Fox dipped his artificial leg into the icy north Atlantic water off St. John's, Nfld.

Three years earlier Terry had been diagnosed with a malignant tumour in his right leg that resulted in an amputation above the knee.

Determined to beat the disease, Terry envisioned running across Canada in support of cancer research. For four and a half months, he averaged a gruelling 42 km (26 miles) each day, taking him through six provinces.

On September 1, outside Thunder Bay, Ont., his dream was halted by the spread of cancer to his lungs.

"When I started this run, I said that if we all gave one dollar, we'd have \$22 million for cancer research, and I don't care man, there's no reason that isn't possible," he had said.

Terry Fox died June 28, 1981.

Since his remarkable act of heroism, the Marathon of Hope has generated more than \$400 million in Canada and around the world in the name of Terry Fox.

In Milton, this Sunday's Terry Fox Run will be held at E.C. Drury High School from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

While we can't all aspire to be heroes, we can still do our part by joining this year's event, or sponsoring someone who is participating.

Pledges can be made on-line at www.terryfoxrun.org.

As Fox himself once said, "If you've given a dollar, you are part of the Marathon of Hope."



ReadersWrite

Send your letters to miltoned@haltonsearch.com or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

Timing of Furik's comments on development rather convenient

DEAR EDITOR:

I just want to let you and your readers know that I'm appalled at Councillor Ron Furik's notice of motion presented at council August 28 regarding Milton's traffic chaos.

I have news for Furik and company. The blame for Milton's traffic chaos is on the last two municipal and regional councils, for their lack of foresight in approving 28 subdivisions over the last

six years without adequate roads and transit to accommodate them.

Furik's notice of motion is to ask staff how to slow down Milton's growth. That sounds like a deathbed repentance to me, when council has been told repeatedly at meetings and through letters to the editor over the last two years that there's a big problem.

Maybe the fact that there's an election...
• see ELECTION on page A7

Upfront

Here's hoping for better service at our arena concessions

The one good thing about this year's rebuilding IceHawks is that there's plenty of room for improvement. Unfortunately, the same can be said about the service at our local arena concessions.

When Mr. Vending Inc. was first awarded a three-year contract last fall to operate the food stands at our three Milton arenas, I'll admit my skepticism over the North York-based company's ability to match the quality of service of long-time operator Scooter's Snack Service was somewhat biased.

After all, I and countless Miltonians had come to think of Scott Anders and his crew in high regard for providing us in the sports community with a level of service that quite frankly was head and shoulders above anything we'd ever enjoyed prior to his takeover in 1998. I certainly didn't believe a sizable out-of-town company could measure up.

It's 12 months later and I've got to say that my initial pessimism was certainly well-founded. Outside of peak periods, our concession stands have been open rather sporadically over the past year. The prices of many food items rose — in some cases significantly — and in my opinion the quality of service often left something to be desired.

I've had numerous like-minded comments uttered my way since last September.

At the risk of simplifying the matter, I think this goes back to having an out-of-town operator, who I still believe can't possibly have the same connection and commitment to the community as Anders did.

Now I realize that money is the primary consideration when awarding any contract,

and that Anders — by his own admission — simply couldn't compete with Mr. Vending

when it came to guaranteed revenue for the Town. But I have to wonder if Mr. Vending's substantially-higher bid was based on unrealistic projections, and if Anders' proven track record for quality service and willingness to give back to the community perhaps should have been more of a factor at decision time.

With a recent change in management and Memorial Arena's food stand expected to re-open for tonight's IceHawks game, perhaps it's time we critics give Mr. Vending a second chance. But unless there's a dramatic improvement, I think the Town should re-consider giving these types of contracts to out-of-town companies.



Steve LeBlanc

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