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Walter's 48 hundred mile walk

Walter Telford

by Susan MacDonald
 Special to the News

When Walter Telford, the oldest person to ever attempt to walk across Canada, arrived in Nipigon on a wet, cold Saturday evening, there was no fanfare awaiting him - just the kindness of some people that he had never met before that night.

The 73-year-old native of Scotland had left Victoria, B.C., August 6, en route to Newfoundland, in aid of cystic fibrosis.

A local couple, Henry and Amy Roy who own the Nipigon Inn Hotel, were quick to take the wee Scotsman in, opening their doors and their hearts to him. Their own son, Robert, is a victim of the disease.

Mr. Telford said, when interviewed by the News, that he would never be able to undertake the marathon walk, if not for the kindness of people such as the Roys. Although he has a number of sponsors who supply him with runners, clothing and publicity, he travels alone and has little but his own pension to rely upon.

This may be Mr. Telford's longest run to date, but it's not his first; that was 66 years ago, when he was only seven years old. And there have been many marathons in between. His travels have taken him across most of the United Kingdom, Europe, and even Japan - all for charity.

His most successful run, in terms of money raised, was in Great Britain, where he collected 21,000 pounds (\$42,000.00 Canadian) for relatives of members of the Queen's Own Highlanders who had been killed when the Irish Republican Army bombed Lord Mountbatten's ship in 1979.

Asked why he was now attempting to raise money for cystic fibrosis, Mr. Telford replied: "I thought it was a needy charity." He had emigrated to Canada earlier this year, to be

near his daughter and her family in Dresden, Ontario.

He has a second reason for coming to Canada, though. He is trying to locate his 76-year-old brother, Jack Telford, whom he has seen only once since Jack emigrated to Canada in 1927.

At only 5'4" and 142 pounds, the diminutive marathoner walks at a speed of about four and one-half miles an hour, completing approximately 35 miles each day. He travels light, carrying only a small plastic case containing his diary, passport, a change of clothes, shaving gear, and a couple of newspaper clippings explaining who he is.

The various police forces along the way have been invaluable in their assistance, often escorting Mr. Telford along the route, and always checking on his whereabouts.

Originally intending to complete the 4,800-mile walk from Victoria to the far coast of Newfoundland (with several detours along the way) within about 100 days, Mr. Telford has since revised his thinking. Delays occur, he said, and sometimes it's nice just to rest up for a day or two, as he did in Nipigon.

Having completed more than half of the walk, he feels that the hardest part of the trip is yet to come. It's not the terrain or the weather that makes him say that; it's his energy level.

Mr Telford left Nipigon on Monday afternoon. He hopes to arrive in Schreiber on Wednesday evening, passing through Terrace Bay the following morning.

What's next for Mr. Telford? A quiet life in a small house near his daughter, where he can write his autobiography and do some shorter runs.

"You've just got to press on when you're out there," he said. "I'm definitely going to make it all the way. I won't fail."

Donations to the cystic fibrosis fund, on behalf of Mr. Telford's marathon, may be made through any Kinsmen Club.



The 1988 Annual Underserved Area Recruitment Tour was held this year from October 17th to the 21st. Betty Anne Klassen, Marg Phillips, and Clem Fewer represented The McCausland Hospital at five Southern Ontario Cities

Regional togetherness

This group of dedicated professionals is made up of Recreation Directors, Co-ordinators and Programers from Red Rock, Nipigon, Geraldton, Nakina, Longlac, Manitouwadge, Marathon, Terrace Bay and Schreiber.

"The North Shore Directors" as they are more commonly known have a number of goals and objectives that they are continually striving to achieve. Some of these goals include programming regional events that are intended to strengthen the "regional togetherness"; to provide leadership and development for various community programs both on an individual, community and regional basis; to provide a unified regional voice for the concerns affecting the quality

and quantity of recreation services available to our communities; to assist it's members in professional development, individual problems and situations and to offer advice and direction to one another.

The "association" accomplishes these goals by meeting at various times throughout the year to discuss the issues and concerns or to supervise a number of "regional" programs. A great number of programs and opportunities would not be available to a number of communities if not for the regional planning of the North Shore Directors, the endorsement and support of the town councils, the financial support of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and the hard work of the various communi-

ty groups involved. The National Coaching Certification Program, the National Referee Certification Program, numerous fitness workshops and many others would not be available to a number of residents if they were not offered, advertised, financed and supported on a regional basis. Joint-Use agreements and facility development, regional program planning, cost sharing and professional development are just a few of the examples of the commitment and effort that the North Shore communities have put towards Regional Development in the past.

The public is reminded that when they see these types of programs being hosted in their com-

Continued on page 8

CONGRATULATIONS!

The winners of the Terrace Bay/Schreiber News Halloween Contest were:
Erin Callaghan and Marvin Fulton
 Please pick up your prizes at The News Office

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Pet travels

How to prepare your pet for a trip or vacation

Page 7

Letters to editor

What you think is wrong: Your own opinion

Page 5

Winterize your car

Prepare your vehicle for winter travel

Page 9

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