

# OPINION

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## Editorial

### Terry Fox Run helps thousands

This Sunday, Stouffville residents can do their part to remember a true Canadian hero while helping in the fight against cancer.

Since its inception more than 25 years ago, the Terry Fox Run has raised hundreds of millions of dollars toward cancer research and treatment.

While virtually every community in Canada, along with thousands of schools, holds a Terry Fox Run, the event has also become an international success story. In 2005, the 25th anniversary of the beginning of Fox's Marathon of Hope across Canada, some 4,000 runs were held in his honour internationally.

It's a wonderful legacy that this young man from British Columbia has left, not only for Canadians, but for the world.

Today, in our world of instant Internet access and 24-hour information, it's hard to grasp the loneliness a 20-year-old Terry Fox must have felt as he dipped his artificial right leg in the Atlantic Ocean in April 1980 and began to run across Canada toward home.

He started his run in near anonymity, but by the late spring and early summer, he was a national hero. He was running an average of 26 miles a day, dealing with immense pain and severe weather. Yet, he kept going.

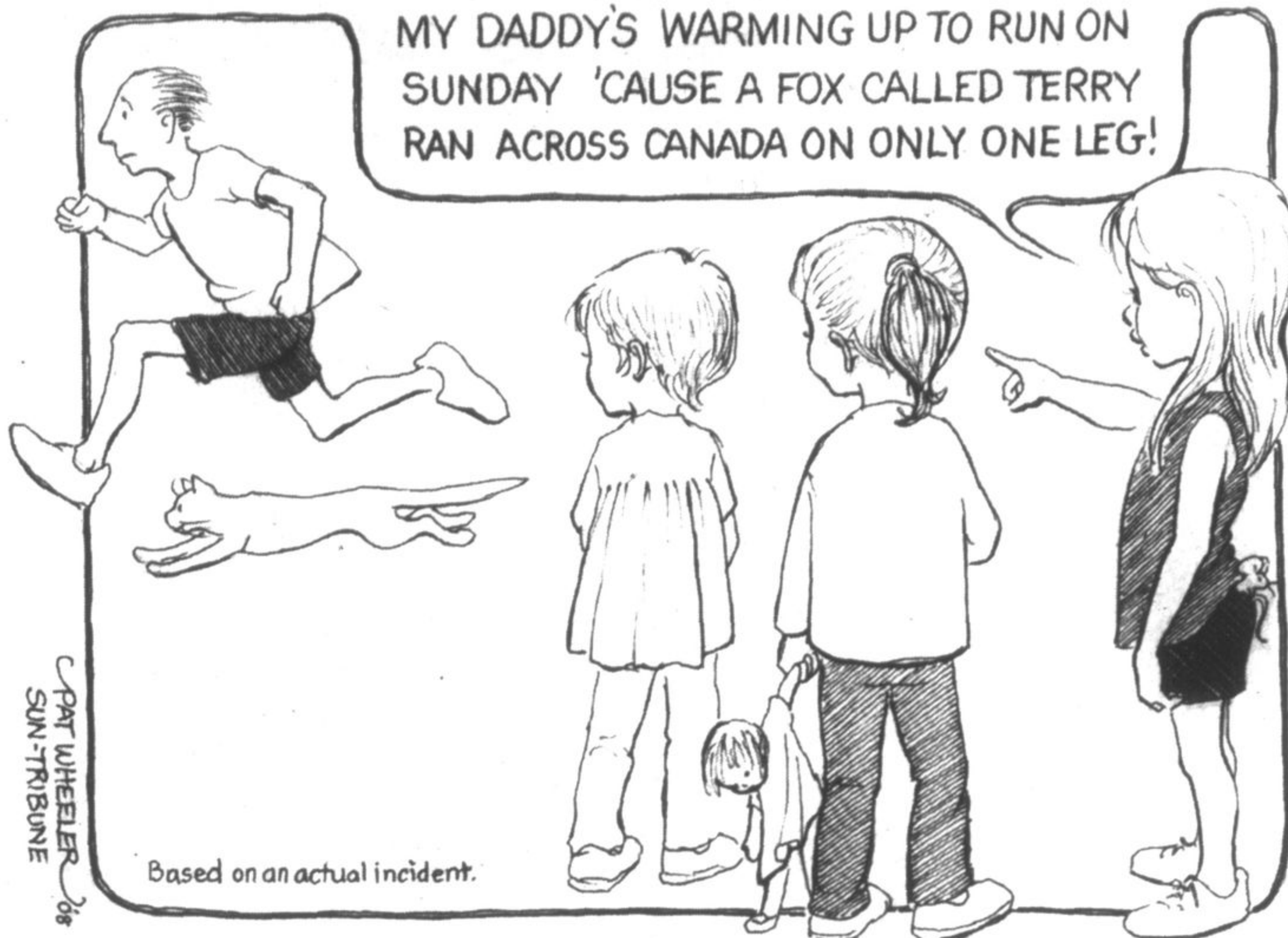
Sadly, on Sept. 1, 1980 — after 143 days — Fox had to end his quest just outside of Thunder Bay, Ont., as cancer had spread to his lungs. He had run 3,339 miles through some of the toughest terrain in Canada and along some of its loneliest roads. Along the way, he became an inspiration to millions of people.

On June 28, 1981, Terry Fox died at age 22. Huge strides have been made in cancer research and treatment over the past 28 years and the enormous contribution of the Terry Fox Foundation has played an important part in these developments. Cancers, including Fox's, that were life-threatening a quarter century ago, are now much more treatable.

However, the disease still takes a deadly toll and more needs to be done.

Taking part in the Markham-Unionville Terry Fox Run (starting Sunday at 9 a.m. at Toogood Pond in old Unionville) will pay tribute to Fox's courage and what has become an important part of Canadian history. It will also help support, morally and financially, local people and their families waging their own courageous battles against cancer.

If you haven't gathered pledges, you can simply make a donation, big or small, on the day of the event. Organizers are challenging the community to raise \$50,000 locally and with your help should be able to achieve that goal.



### Off The Top

with Jim Mason  
**Thanks for election nobody wanted, Harper**

The autumn of 2008 had such promise.

It was all there for the taking.

After the Summer of Rain, that was preceded by our Winter of Snow, we were due.

For an Indian summer of record proportions. For sunny days. For a vibrant colour show on those trees not dismantled in the name of urban growth.

For those cool, not cold, evenings stretching into November.

There would be walks through the Stouffville Reservoir, the new trails in south Stouffville and the York Regional Forest, followed by homemade soup and stew. (Some would prepare it, others would consume.)

TV would feature the pennant races segueing right into the World Series playoffs. For others, there's football, be it three-down, American or European. And if all else fails, there is always Seinfeld, on 17 times a night at last count and still poignant 10 years after ending its run.

Then, that grinch who stole September, Stephen Harper, dashed our plans, with a Sunday drive across Ottawa to visit the Governor General Sunday.

Yes, the worst kept secret is out. The election nobody wanted is here.

Sure, there are issues in this country. There are always things to upset the back bench, just as they rile the coffee gangs at The Fickle Pickle and Tim Hortons and GO train riders.

Layoffs in the manufacturing segment are hitting too close to home.

More of our soldiers were killed on the other side of the world.

But, was it enough for an election call?

When we talk fall colour this year it will be of the oranges, reds, greens and blues in those blasphemous election signs.

Thanks, Mr. Prime Minister.

See you Oct. 14.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune.

## Letters to the Editor

### Lake residents deserve more from town

Re: *Tempers flare over site for lake park, Sept. 6*

Anyone attending the meeting would have observed that I did not specifically direct the comment "you're an idiot" to Councillor Phil Bannon. But, if the shoe fits wear it.

My frustration stems from the fact we are 17 months into a process that was supposed to be driven by residents' wishes. But to quote Mr. Bannon, "Town staff will decide to move ahead with whatever site they think is the proper site to move ahead with."

I was under the impression this was a democratic process not dictated to by the councillor and town staff, none of whom live at Musselman's Lake, but by local residents. Is this a case of smoke and mirrors?

A park at Glendale Beach would bring our community together and more residents would come out and see everything our community has to offer.

Mayor Emmerson's statement that "no site has been included or excluded" seems to conflict with staff's recommendation. Is this political double talk?

Public safety does not seem to have been a problem for the existing shoreline parkette at the east end of the lake. There has been no drowning or near drownings at this location or Glendale Beach, unlike Cedar Beach Park which had two drownings last year and a near drowning this year.

Town staff, at public meetings, ignored residents Mark Carroll and Ralph Toninger's recommendations about naturalizing the shoreline to

### HAVE YOUR SAY, WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

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discourage fishing and swimming. Mr. Toninger is aware of many excellent examples of very successful shoreline parks. As a senior manager of environment projects, his knowledge would be a great asset in making another very successful shoreline park which we all deserve and could be proud of as lake residents.

Last year, I compiled a list of property assessments for our community and the town's portion of the tax revenue was more than \$500,000 per year. I believe it is time attention is paid to our community and its' residents who have, for years, supported this town through tax dollars and received very little in return.

We constantly read in The Sun-Tribune about splash pads and parks within a five-minute walk of Stouffville residents. It appears this council is bending over backwards to accommodate new arrivals at the expense of long-term residents.

I expect and hope another meeting would take place before a site was picked. If a shoreline site was selected it would provide a benefit to Musselman's Lake and the entire town.

**BOB JAMES**  
 MUSSELMAN'S LAKE

### LETTERS POLICY

The Sun-Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The Sun-Tribune reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space.

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A York Region Media Group community newspaper. The Sun-Tribune, published every Thursday and Saturday, is a division of the Metroland Media Group Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. Metroland is comprised of 100 community publications across Ontario. The York Region Newspaper Group includes The Liberal, serving Richmond Hill and Thornhill, Vaughan Citizen, The Era-Banner (Newmarket/Aurora), Markham Economist & Sun, Georgina Advocate, York Region Business Times, North of the City, [yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com) and York Region Printing.