

Fred Fox in Stouffville for Terry Fox Run next month

'He'd be proud people picked up the challenge'

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One dollar per person. That is what Terry Fox hoped to raise during his Marathon of Hope.

Since 1980, \$600 million has been raised in Terry Fox's honour.

Last year, Whitchurch-Stouffville's 38,000 residents raised more than \$150,000, that's roughly \$4 per person towards cancer research.

"He would be so proud Canadians and people around the world picked up that challenge and are doing what they can," said Fred Fox, Terry's older brother.

Fred will be in Stouffville to kick off the town's annual run, Sept. 15. This will be his first visit to the community.

Cuba is the second largest country, behind Canada, in terms of participation with more than 100 million people, according to Fred.

On April 12 1980, Terry embarked on his marathon a day by dipping his right leg into the Atlantic Ocean near St. John's, Newfoundland.

His goal was to raise awareness of and money for cancer research.

'In retrospect ... if you only knew ... I wish I had, if I'd know, I would have tried to take a leave of absence and join Terry.'

Fred, 15 months older than Terry, knew his younger brother was running but didn't think much about it. After all, Terry was always athletic, despite having his right leg amputated below the knee. Terry had run 5,300 km to train for the Marathon of Hope.

When Terry told Fred, 23 at the time, of his cross-country plan "as a brother I said that's great, good on you".

Fred was unable to take time off work to help with the crusade, so Terry's friend, Doug Alward, became his driver, cook and all-around helper, until Terry and Fred's younger brother, Darrell, took over.

Like the rest of the country, Fred watched Terry's journey unfold through the media.

It wasn't until Terry made his way to Toronto was he able to meet up with his brother-turned-Canadian hero. It was also when he first appreciated what his younger brother was doing.

"In retrospect ... if you only knew ... I wish I had, if I'd known, I would have tried to take a leave of absence and join Terry," Fred said.

After 143 days and 5,373 km, Terry had to give up on his Marathon of Hope after learning cancer had returned and spread to his lungs.

He died June 28, 1981.

Three months later, the first-ever Terry Fox run was held.

Like thousands of other Canadians across the country, Fred and his family participated.

In 1987, the Terry Fox Foundation formed and in 1994 Fred joined the venture, which had and continues to have one goal - to find a cure for cancer.

"Terry wouldn't want anything else," Fred said.

In 1977, when Terry had his leg amputated, he was told he had a 20 to 30-per cent chance of survival. Today, according to Fred, osteosarcoma has a survival rate in the low 80 per cent range and amputation may not be needed.

Stouffville has participated in 32 of the 33 annual Terry Fox Runs. The community only missed the first year.

During the past three decades, the number of participants and amount of money raised has increased.

Between the community run and school event, Whitchurch-Stouffville residents contributed \$172,341 to the Terry Fox Foundation last year.

Part of what makes the annual Terry Fox Run so successful is that it is not timed, therefore, there are no winners or losers, there is no entry fee or minimum donation required.

"Terry always asked people to give what they could and we ask the same and Stouffville has answered in a very big way with over \$150,000 raised last year," said Sandy Schell Kennedy, chairperson of the Whitchurch-Stouffville event.

This year's community run goal is \$155,000.

"We don't go backwards, we go forwards," Mrs. Schell Kennedy said.

The local organizers also want to attract 100 new families and fill the field south of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.

As a way of attracting new participants, for the second year in a row, the Stouffville Multicultural Association has, for free, translated the brochure into other languages: French, Korean, Portuguese and Tamil.

"We want to be known as a welcoming event," Mrs. Schell Kennedy said.

Along with people of all ages, ethnicities and physical capabilities, the 2K, 5K and 10K routes will be filled with participants wearing red shirts. They are cancer survivors.

"That's a beautiful site because that gives our participants great hope" in terms of advancement in research and finding a cure, Mrs. Schell Kennedy said.

There are roughly already 70 cancer survivors participating.

To register as a cancer survivor, contact Sally Sandiford at 905-640-5528.

For more information on the Terry Fox Run, go to www.facebook.com/StouffvilleTerryFox or @TerryFoxRunners



TERRY FOX FOUNDATION PHOTOS

Fred Fox with his brother Terry during a playful break from the Marathon of Hope in 1980 in Wawa, Ont.



Fred Fox on the Confederation Bridge in the Maritimes during the 2010 Terry Fox Run.

TERRY'S NAME LIVES ON

Terry Fox has become immortalized across the country. There are about 30 roads and streets named after him, including the Terry Fox Courage Highway near Thunder Bay, which is also near where there is a large statue of him. The statue is located near where Terry ended his run.

There are a number statues, including one in Ottawa - the Terry Fox monument. Ottawa also has the Terry Fox

Fountain of Hope.

There are about 14 schools named after him, along with a number of facilities, including Vancouver's Terry Fox Research Institute.

Vancouver is also home to a series of bronze sculptures of Terry Fox in motion, running towards the Pacific Ocean, designed by Douglas Coupland.

A section of the Canadian Rockies in the Selwyn range was named Mount Terry Fox. The area around it is Mount Terry Fox Provincial Park.